

For immediate release

Life-saving digital mammography tops Angel Campaign wish list
Technology to benefit women of Asian descent and others with hard-to-detect breast cancer

Vancouver, Nov. 27, 2007 – A digital mammography machine for Mount Saint Joseph Hospital -- which may prove effective in detecting breast cancer for the high proportion of Asian women treated there -- tops the wish list for this year's Angel Campaign.

"Asian women have high density breast tissue which makes early detection of breast cancer difficult," said Dr. Richard Lee, a radiologist at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital. "Researchers from the University of North Carolina have found that digital mammography is effective in detecting cancer in women with high density breast tissue."

Approximately 70 per cent of the diagnostic mammography exams at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital are performed on Asian women.

Digital mammography may have a substantial impact on early detection of breast cancer and other breast abnormalities in these cases because it allows the radiologist to carefully review images of the breast from various perspectives, including tomography or "slice imaging" to provide clearer images of cancer in early stages of development.

"This year's Angel Campaign will be devoted to a number of initiatives, including raising \$750,000 to purchase the much-needed digital mammography machine for Mount Saint Joseph Hospital. This technology will set new standards of care for early detection and diagnosis of breast cancer for Asian and other women receiving services at Mount Saint Joseph," said Ann Corrigan, CEO of Tapestry Foundation for Health Care.

Digital mammography means faster service and less discomfort and radiation exposure for Asian and other women who undergo diagnostic mammograms at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital. This ultimately leads to more effective diagnosis and shorter wait times for the diagnostic procedure.

Every year, more than 7,500 screening mammograms and 5,000 diagnostic mammograms are conducted at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital.

The Tapestry Foundation launches the Angel Campaign this Thursday to raise money for specialized medical equipment, programs and eldercare research at Brock Fahrni Pavilion, Holy Family Hospital, Marion Hospice, Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, St. Vincent's Campus of Care, St. Vincent's Hospital Langara, and Youville Residence. Tapestry Foundation was established last spring from the legacy of three fundraising organizations – St. Vincent's Hospital, Holy Family and Mount Saint Joseph's Hospital Foundations.

Funds raised by this year's Angel Campaign will also support the following initiatives:

- Renovations to kitchen spaces at Brock Fahrni Pavilion and Holy Family Hospital, allowing the 192 residents personalized meal planning and opportunities for sharing;
- Wheelchairs urgently needed at Marion Hospice to transfer patients within and outside of the facility, offering them independence as well as opportunities for private moments with loved ones;
- Special lifts at St. Vincent's Hospital Langara and Youville Residence to provide mobility and independence to the 90 per cent of residents who depend on them;
- Home entertainment and sound systems to bring enjoyment to future residents of St. Vincent's Campus of Care, opening in 2008.

Tapestry Foundation for Health Care supports patient and resident care at seven of eight Providence Health Care facilities including: Brock Fahrni Pavilion; Holy Family Hospital; Marion Hospice; Mount Saint Joseph Hospital; St. Vincent's Campus of Care; St. Vincent's Hospital Langara; and Youville Residence. These sites offer seniors' care, hospital and hospice care, and physical rehabilitation services within the Vancouver community. The Foundation supports these sites by raising funds for medical equipment, programs, services and research in the field of elder care.

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