

For immediate release

Tapestry Foundation helps Vancouver's seniors age with grace **Funds raised improve quality of life for patients and residents, continue public education legacy**

Vancouver, June 6, 2011 – Tapestry Foundation for Health Care is helping Vancouver's senior population age with grace.

In addition to supporting seven local hospital and residential care facilities, Tapestry Foundation continues to advance education programs and services to make the aging transition a kinder, gentler one.

"Tapestry Foundation may well be one of Vancouver's best-kept secrets in terms of the vital contribution it makes in fundraising for seniors care," said Tapestry Foundation CEO Ann Corrigan. "Given the reality of a rapidly aging population, more and more Vancouverites may be relying on Tapestry Foundation-funded services in the coming years."

According to Health Canada, Canadians are enjoying longer life spans and better health than ever before. The proportion of seniors in the Canadian population is expected to double by 2025.

Tapestry Foundation celebrates BC Seniors Week with the launch of this year's free public presentation series: Dialogue on Aging. The series follows a Tapestry Foundation tradition of quality educational sessions on the latest research, issues and challenges pertinent to seniors, families and caregivers.

Dialogue on Aging provides information on a range of topics related to aging, including this Thursday's session: Thinking ahead: advance decision-making about health care. Led by Gerrit Clements – a barrister and solicitor, health law educator and consultant who is also an adjunct professor at the University of Victoria and University of Northern BC – the session will detail important changes to BC legislation that take effect Sept. 1.

"Those legislative changes will allow people to better plan for future incapacity/incapability, address what happens if they can't make their own decisions, and ensure that their decisions are carried out and their values respected," said Clements.

The presentation takes place this Thursday, June 9 at the Norman Rothstein Theatre, 950 West 41st Ave. in Vancouver. Presentation starts at 7:15 p.m. but doors open early. Registration is required online, www.tapestryfoundation.ca, or by calling, 604-877-8335.

Upcoming Dialogue on Aging presentations will feature Dr. Serge Gauthier of McGill University (Alzheimer disease: can we diagnose it earlier and modify its progression?), and Dr. Grant Gillette of Otago University in New Zealand (Culture, autonomy and aged care).

As well as presenting educational programs, Tapestry Foundation subsidizes symphony and chamber music performances at residential care facilities, giving residents a unique opportunity to hear live music – one they might not otherwise have. Tapestry Foundation recently raised funds for a renovated garden space at Brock Fahrni Pavilion, creating a tranquil and natural setting.

"Tapestry Foundation requires ongoing donations not only for public education programs to prepare people for the aging process, but also to keep improving the quality of life for seniors who currently – and in the future – make the residential care facilities home," added Corrigan.

Donations to Tapestry Foundation fund capital projects such as building solariums, renovating the hydrotherapy rehabilitation pool so it can serve more residents, and upgrading dining rooms and adjoining communal kitchens to enable families to actually cook a meal on-site with their loved one.

While admission to Dialogue on Aging is free thanks to generous sponsorship from London Drugs, Tapestry Foundation encourages donations from participants to go toward patient and residential care and future public education opportunities.

For more information about Dialogue on Aging or to find out how you can make a donation to Tapestry Foundation, call 604.877.8335 or visit www.tapestryfoundation.ca.

Tapestry Foundation for Health Care is the amalgamation of three organizations with a long history of supporting compassionate health care in Vancouver -- St. Vincent's, Holy Family and Mount Saint Joseph Hospital Foundations. It was established in 2007 as an umbrella fundraising organization to serve and support seven of eight Providence Health Care facilities including Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, Holy Family Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital Langara, St. Vincent's Campus of Care, Brock Fahrni Pavilion, Marion Hospice and Youville Residence. The Foundation supports these sites by raising funds for medical equipment, programs, services, education, and research in the field of elder care.

Through these sites, Tapestry Foundation raises funds for the diverse care needs of more than 700 seniors, and the ongoing needs for updated equipment and technology. Donations to Tapestry Foundation support purchases of medical equipment, quality of life programs and services, professional medical education, and geriatric research.

-30-

Contact: Michele Penz,
Calico Communications for Tapestry Foundation for Health Care
Tel: 778.888.2249 Email: calicocomm@telus.net