

For immediate release

Breast cancer and brides inspire wedding dress fundraising event **Designer Sandra Sung sings praises for Mount Saint Joseph Hospital**

Vancouver, June 21, 2011 – Internationally renowned Vancouver designer Sandra Sung – who has outfitted celebrities, Miss World Canada, and brides all over the world – is retiring from her retail business and donating proceeds from the sales of her wedding dress inventory to the Tapestry Foundation for Health Care. The funds will support the Rapid Access Breast Clinic at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital.

“I’ve been very lucky and, thanks to the success of the business, I am able to semi-retire. I wondered if I could do something to give back to the community as I’ve gotten so much from it,” said Sandra Sung. “I’ve heard so many good things about Mount Saint Joseph Hospital and their Rapid Access Breast Clinic. I already design dresses for women. This is another thing I can do for women that is also good for society”.

Sung’s success story is a testimony to the power of the “Canadian Dream”. She emigrated from Taiwan to Vancouver in 1974 with her husband and one-year-old daughter and only \$500 in her pocket. She sought work in Chinatown only to discover no one could understand her as she spoke Mandarin, and Cantonese was the predominant language. She learned to speak English and Cantonese and worked as a waitress but knew there was a bigger plan for her.

As a child in Taiwan, she lived across the street from a church and, every weekend, she was transfixed as a happy groom and bride emerged through the doors. When she returned to Taiwan for a visit after some time in Vancouver, she asked her mother and aunt what she could pursue as a vocation. Her mother, who worked in the garment business, counseled her to go into fashion.

Since Sung had always loved weddings, she decided to focus on that, opening her wedding dress shop in 1986. However, she disliked the dresses she sold that were supplied by other makers. “They were too showy – too much. I wondered why there wasn’t more choice.” said Sung.

She began designing and selling her own dresses, starting with one dress and then two and gradually designing more and more of her styles of “Timeless Elegance”. In 1997, she received a call from Eaton’s which wanted to exclusively carry her designs.

“I realized, ooh, this is very serious,” said Sung. Soon her dresses were being sold in Eaton’s stores in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. After Eaton’s closed, she continued to sell in other outlets in New York and across the United States, and in her own store at 863 Hamilton Street – the site of this week’s Tapestry Foundation for Health Care closeout sale fundraising event.

“We are thrilled to be working with talented Canadian designer Sandra Sung in this fundraising event. Sandra’s beautiful one-of-a-kind designs will not only help Vancouver women realize their wedding day dreams, they will also help many Vancouver women receive the fast and responsive breast cancer diagnosis and treatment they need and deserve through the Mount Saint Joseph Hospital Rapid Access Breast Clinic,” said Tapestry Foundation for Health Care CEO Ann Corrigan.

The fundraising closeout sale takes place at **Sandra Sung Bridal at 863 Hamilton Street in Vancouver.**
Friday, June 24, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, June 25, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The sale will involve a complete liquidation of stock including wedding dresses, accessories, fabric, furniture, hangers, mannequins, etc. Sales will be assisted by volunteers from Tapestry Foundation for Health Care. For more information about the fundraising sale and/or to find out how you can make a

donation to the Tapestry Foundation for Health Care to support the Rapid Access Breast Clinic, call 604.877.8335 or visit www.tapestryfoundation.ca.

About Sandra Sung

With her creative, elegant, classic and romantic “Timeless Elegance” concept, Sandra Sung designs bridal gowns of non-traditional and natural beauty. In 2000, she was the recipient of the BC New Canadian Entrepreneurs Award. From 2006 to 2007, she was invited as a judge for Miss Universe Vancouver and Sunshine Nation talent contest. In 2009, she was the first woman in 20 years to receive the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Taiwan Festival. In 2010 and 2011, she was invited as the official evening gown designer and judge for Miss World Canada.

About Mount Saint Joseph Hospital’s Rapid Access Breast Clinic

B.C.’s first comprehensive one-stop rapid-access breast cancer diagnostic clinic at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital (MSJ) is based on the European best-practice model, serving as a single point of intake where diagnostic testing for breast cancer is co-ordinated and organized. Its goal is to provide a diagnosis to patients within 21 calendar days, following the European standard target.

The clinic’s multidisciplinary team is composed of a clinical director, breast surgeons, breast radiologists, a breast pathologist, nurse navigator, nurse practitioner and general practitioner. For all patients, a “triple assessment” is conducted, starting with a diagnostic mammogram and/or diagnostic ultrasound, followed by a physical examination by a breast specialist, and then an ultrasound-guided or stereotactic core biopsy.

If a patient receives a positive diagnosis, the clinic prepares a coordinated care plan, organizing direct referrals for surgery and other breast services (radiation and chemotherapy), avoiding the need for the patient to go back to their family physician for the referral. The clinic also coordinates further diagnostics (such as breast MRI), surgical bookings, medical oncology consults, radiation oncology consults, and BC Cancer Agency consults and provides direct referrals to MSJ’s breast reconstruction program, providing immediate or post-surgical breast reconstruction by a plastic surgeon.

About Tapestry Foundation for Health Care

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.

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