

For immediate release

## **Fundraising for urgently needed digital mammography focus of Tapestry Foundation's Breast Cancer Awareness Month efforts** **Tapestry Foundation also presents free public talk on breast cancer and aging**

**Vancouver, Oct. 18, 2011** – The Tapestry Foundation for Health Care is seeking public support in its urgent need to raise \$650,000 for a new digital mammography machine for breast cancer screening at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital (MSJ).

As part of the BC Cancer Agency's Screening Mammography Program, MSJ screens an average of 25 patients a day, six days a week. However, there has been a steady decline in screening over the past three years due to equipment failure. The screening mammography machine is no longer in service. Screening mammograms are temporarily being done with a digital mammography designed for diagnostic purposes.

"The need for screening mammograms at MSJ is continuing to grow. We have the human resources capacity and technical expertise to meet that demand, but need additional donor support to obtain the right equipment so we can avoid long wait lists and improve access for screening patients," said Ann Corrigan, CEO of the Tapestry Foundation for Health Care.

Burnaby realtor Rhonda Gebara, who lost a close friend to breast cancer a year ago, will be selling pink pashminas in her memory to raise money for MSJ's digital mammography.

Breast cancer -- and aging -- is also the theme of the final session of Tapestry Foundation's free public presentation series, Dialogue on Aging, which takes place Thursday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. in MSJ's Harvest Room B at 3080 Prince Edward Street in Vancouver. Guest speakers are Dr. Zina Kellow, MD, FRCPC, radiologist, women's imaging at MSJ and St. Paul's Hospital, and Dr. Ashley Davidson, MD, FRCPC, medical oncologist for BC Cancer Agency in Surrey.

"When one thinks of breast cancer screening, one usually associates it with women in their 40s and 50s who are referred for mammograms on an annual basis. But women actually become more likely to develop breast cancer as they age," said Corrigan.

"We thought that launching the digital mammography fundraising initiative and presenting the Dialogue on Aging breast cancer talk would be a fitting way to wrap up Breast Cancer Awareness Month," added Corrigan.

To find out how you can make a donation to the Tapestry Foundation for Health Care toward the purchase of the digital mammography and/or purchase a pink pashmina to support the cause, or to obtain more information about the Dialogue on Aging breast cancer presentation, call 604.877.8335 or visit [www.tapestryfoundation.ca](http://www.tapestryfoundation.ca).

### **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 16 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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