

For immediate release

## **Generations of Asian women reliant on family-oriented Mount Saint Joseph Hospital for screening mammograms**

### **Success of fundraising campaign for digital mammography vital to community health**

**Vancouver, Oct. 26, 2011** – Tapestry Foundation’s recently launched fundraising effort for an urgently needed \$650,000 digital screening mammography machine for Mount Saint Joseph Hospital (MSJ) is vital to the unique population it serves – a predominantly Asian demographic highly reliant on this small, family-oriented community hospital for care and basic services.

Of the 7,500 patients for whom MSJ provides screening mammograms annually as part of the BC Cancer Agency’s Screening Mammography Program, the majority of them are Chinese women. Many come from multiple generations of Chinese families who have been going to MSJ for years as result of the attentive, culturally sensitive and compassionate care they receive.

“We often see two or three generations of Chinese families going to MSJ because of this high level of care and the comfort level it brings. They may be dealing with language issues so an unfamiliar facility may be inhibitive,” said Dr. Richard Lee, a MSJ radiologist.

There have been unfortunate disruptions in screening mammography service at MSJ over the past three years due to equipment failure. The original screening mammography machine is no longer working. Screening mammograms are temporarily being done with a digital mammography designated for diagnostic purposes. A loss of service or access to the only remaining mammography machine would create further disruptions for patients and the hospital.

“There is a risk that patients may stop getting regular mammograms because they may not be comfortable going somewhere else less familiar or convenient for them. We know that screening mammography participation increases when there are more machines available. And yet no other single imaging machine has the same impact of a screening mammography unit because it touches every household every year. Everyone has a mother or sister or other loved one who depends on it for their health. It is one of the least expensive machines yet has such substantial efficacy in saving lives,” said Dr. Lee.

“The need for screening mammograms at MSJ continues 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.

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. The focus of the discussion will be on breast cancer in older women, and the latest screening and diagnostic tools and treatment options.

“The older the person, the higher the risk of developing breast cancer. Chief among all the risk factors for breast cancer is age. It is even ahead of hormones and lifestyle issues,” added Dr. Lee.

To find out how you can make a donation to the Tapestry Foundation for Health Care toward the purchase of the digital mammography, 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.

-30-

**Contact:** Michele Penz,  
Calico Communications for Tapestry Foundation for Health Care  
Tel: 778.888.2249      Email: [calicocomm@telus.net](mailto:calicocomm@telus.net)