



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Residents have said “yes, please,” to a CT Scanner Close to Home – Patients of the Middlesex Hospital Alliance Benefit From Fundraising Success: \$2.5 Million CT Scanner Campaign Goal Reached!

Wait times for CT scans drastically reduced since arrival of new scanner

Strathroy, ON-Outstanding community support along with significant corporate contributions have helped Four Counties Health Services (FCHS) Foundation and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital (SMGH) Foundation to surpass their \$2.5 million fundraising goal for a new CT Scanner. Both the public and business community generously responded to the appeal for new diagnostic imaging technology to serve patients.

“We are astounded at the response of residents in support of this important service. That definitely says that people absolutely want this service close to home,” said Campaign Co-Chair George Sinker. “It’s all a result of the community support from residents who came out and helped to raise funds. It’s not easy to organize a campaign, the success can also be attributed to our excellent partnership with Four Counties Health Services Foundation.”

“It was the team that did it,” added Don Weekes, Campaign Co-Chair FCHS Foundation. “I am an enormous admirer of what has been accomplished in just over a year and a half and very proud of our success.”

Both Foundations would like to thank all volunteers and the CT scanner campaign teams from Newbury, Strathroy, and across the region for their efforts. Fundraisers helped by collecting donations from residents, community groups, corporate donors, and special events to raise money for the CT scanner.

“We are extremely grateful to the Foundations and the many residents, businesses and organizations who have supported the campaign that made possible the purchase of this important medical equipment,” said Yvonne Lambert, [Past MHA Board Chair](#). “This generous support will improve patient care and directly benefit the community.”

All donations collected have funded much needed key resources to help the Middlesex Hospital Alliance to treat people, more quickly and more effectively. These resources

include new digital mammography and ultrasound machines in addition to the CT scanner.

Patients using the MHA CT Scanner have already been directly benefiting from the funds raised by this campaign as the equipment was purchased and installed in May 2007. Over 5700 scans have since been performed. This service has dramatically reduced Wait Times in south-western Ontario with an average wait time of just 10 days for a CT scan – the lowest in the region while the provincial average wait time sits at 47 days.

“We are delighted to have this opportunity to thank everyone for their support, but just because we have reached our \$2.5 million goal, we aren’t stopping our work,” said Marigay Wilkins, FCHS Foundation Board Chair. “We still need everyone’s help to keep fundraising for technology and emerging programs.”

Over the next few years, FCHS Foundation must raise \$250,000 yearly, while SMGH Foundation must raise more than \$1 million annually, in order to fully fund pressing new equipment and technological needs required to best support medical professionals at the Middlesex Hospital Alliance.

“Technology now changes at such a rapid pace that it will take all of us working together in order to ensure every medical advantage is available close to home,” says Lorna Campbell, newly elected Chair, SMGH Foundation. “The Hospital Alliance has an ambitious vision for the future and we need everyone’s support to make that happen.”

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For more information, contact:

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Wait times information is available on the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Wait Times web site and downloadable at:

<http://www.waittimes.net/waittimes/en/default.aspx?adv=0>

About Four Counties Health Services Foundation

The Four Counties Health Services Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization working to strengthen Four Counties Health Services' ability to provide the highest quality of care to patients in the Four Counties area.

About Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation

Through community philanthropy, Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation supports patient care as a charitable organization dedicated to raising funds for the delivery of quality health care to the people of Strathroy and surrounding communities. The SMGH Foundation was incorporated as a registered charity in 1989 with the objective to encourage, manage and receive donations that support the needs of the hospital. The Foundation conducts a full complement of philanthropic programs, including an annual campaign, memorial gifts, special events, capital campaigns and planned giving.

About the Middlesex Hospital Alliance

The Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) is an alliance between Four Counties Health Services (FCHS) in

Newbury, Ontario and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital (SMGH) in Strathroy, Ontario. Since 1999, the MHA allows both hospitals the opportunity to build on shared resources and expertise in order to provide the highest level of services possible to the surrounding communities. As an alliance, FCHS and SMGH work together to recruit, train, invest, and retain health care human resources, maximize new technologies and information systems, and to coordinate quality health service delivery through primary and secondary care and joint access to tertiary care.

Facts About Computed Tomography (CT) Scanning

- Computed Tomography (CT) is an essential tool for diagnosis treatment and follow up of illness. It is gradually replacing other imaging procedures.
- As of April 2005, Ontario had 100 CT scanners in hospitals and four CT scanners in independent health facilities.
- On November 17 2004, The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced its strategy that focused on reducing wait times in five areas by improving access to health care facilities.

These include:

1. MRI/CT scans and procedures
2. Hip and knee total joint replacement
3. Selected cancer surgery
4. Selected cardiac services and procedures
5. Cataract surgery

How the CT Scanner Works

- CT scanners use radiation to create images of the body • CT scan images are generated by a computer that analyses information from a series of detectors and a radiation source that rotate around a patient at high speed.
- The images generated are in the form of cross sections or “slices”. These cross sections of the body yield incredible details of anatomy • CT images obtained at SMGH are interpreted by 13 trained radiologists both on-site and in London at St. Joseph's Health Centre.

CT Scans Save lives

CT scans are a tremendous asset in the diagnosis of serious illnesses and injuries including:

- Many types of cancer, including cancers of the lungs, pancreas, liver, kidneys and brain
- Injuries and diseases of the abdominal organs

- Internal bleeding, brain damage and skull fractures in patients with head injuries
- Blood clots or bleeding within the brain shortly after a patient exhibits symptoms of stroke