



## **Sun Life Financial Announces \$10,000 Donation to Middlesex Hospital Alliance Diabetes Education Centre at Biz after Biz Event**

**October 25, 2007**

**(Strathroy, ONTARIO)** - Members of the Strathroy-Caradoc Chamber of Commerce gathered for the monthly Biz after Biz Chamber event on October 25<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Middlesex Hospital Alliance and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation

Guests enjoyed tours of the new CT scanner suite. Ineke Haan, Vice-Chair of the Middlesex Hospital Alliance Board of the Directors welcomed Chamber Members and spoke about the relationship between the Hospital and local economic development.

“While the presence of a hospital is important to the larger economic development of our area, we acknowledge the very important contribution our local business community makes to ensure the health of our hospital. Your support is essential in helping us to deliver the services and clinical programs we need in Strathroy,” said Haan.

The highlight of the evening was a special announcement made by Chris Das of Sun Life Financial. He announced a gift of \$10,000.00 to the Diabetes Education Programs and Services.

Alison Lenny, Co-ordinator of Diabetes Education Centre thanked Sun Life Financial for donating to help the outreach of the programs.

“As a result of Sun Life’s donation we will be able to help with program outreach, something that is very important to do is actually going to the places where people work, socialize and live to help them to better understand, manage and prevent diabetes,” said Lenny.

Managing diabetes is complicated, in the past 10 years there has been a 69% increase of diabetes in the population. Diabetes is a chronic condition that impedes the production and proper use of insulin. It can result in severe complications-limb amputation, blindness, kidney failure, heart disease and stroke. Many of these complications can lead to premature death.

So far this year the Diabetes Education Centre has hosted 81 events with an average of 22 participants at each event. In total 1786 people have participated in the diabetes education and outreach programs at the Middlesex Hospital Alliance. To learn more about the

programs, visit <http://www.mhalliance.on.ca> and click on the link to Diabetes Education Classes or Clinics.

**(Photo left to right) Kevin Hunter, Branch Manger for Strathroy and London; Chris Das, Sun Life Financial Services Representative, Alison Lenny, Diabetes Program Co-ordinator, MHA; and Yvonne Mac Rae, Dietician, Diabetes Education Centre.**

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**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 Health 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.