



Catholic Health Association of Ontario

Association Catholique de la Santé de l'Ontario

Communiqué

CHAO Board Visits St. Joseph's Care Group Thunder Bay



From left: Lil Bergamo, Former Chair of St. Joseph's Care Group Board; Ron Marr, President of CHAO; Robert Chambers, Past Chair of St. Joseph's Care Group Board; Tracy Buckler, CEO of St. Joseph's Care Group; Myrna Letourneau, Chair of St. Joseph's Care Group Board; Diane Moser, Chair of CHAO.

November 3, 2008. Members of the CHAO Board and staff visited the St. Joseph's Care Group in Thunder Bay as part of a continuing effort to promote member engagement and to provide an opportunity for members of the CHAO board to learn first hand about the mission and programs offered by its member organization.

The overall sense of the CHAO visitors was of admiration and pride of association. Don't ask how, just say yes" has been a guiding dictum for the Sisters of St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie through the early development years of Catholic healthcare in Thunder Bay and remains an inspiration for the staff and volunteers of today's St. Joseph's Care Group. To visit the many facilities of this astounding organization as the CHAO Board members did, is to discover visions of Ontario's finest healthcare. The Board visited four of the Care Groups nine sights in Thunder Bay, each designed to respond to the communities unmet healthcare needs, not addressed through the regions acute care hospitals.

The Care Group, serving children through to century old aged persons animates in the finest of ways compassionate, loving care for the poor and marginalized through centres of healthcare excellence. Encouraged by the Sisters, the Care Group attempts to provide seamless healthcare for all of life's seasons. Responding to mental health illnesses that require hospital care or out reach in the streets; persons at risk resulting from traumas, disorders and social depravity; the many health needs brought about by aging such as Alzheimer disease, dementia, frailty and general long term care. Creatively and imaginatively the Care Group teams bring to their work the finest contemporary wisdom of brain, human behaviour and psychiatric sciences, geriatrics and addictions researched initiatives as well as faith community based physical, mental and spiritual caring.

Each facility felt like home, a characteristic they strive to consistently provide. Visually it is evident that cultures integration and community engagement are important. From the numerous pieces of art, to the chapels, to the gathering places it is apparent that everyone is made welcome. The feel of warm hospitality can be felt from everyone you meet; the staff, volunteers, clients and visitors. It is apparent that Clients served by the St. Joseph's Care Group are part of the greater community and the greater community is part of the care group. They treat the least of there people with respect and regard; each as one of their own.

One of St. Joseph's Heritage wheelchair confined clients described her care...she said, "Everyday is a good day."

May God bless the St. Joseph's Care Group in their efforts toward making everyday a good day for the people they serve.

Regards,

Dianne Moser,
Chair, Board of Directors.

Catholic Health Care in Ontario

We care for you — body, mind and spirit.