

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP "CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT"

(THUNDER BAY, ON, APRIL 22, 2008) On Tuesday, April 22, 2008, St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) celebrated International Earth Day by kicking off its *Greening Healthcare Program*. SJCG is committed to making better environmental choices and wants share this information with staff, clients, volunteers, and visitors. Displays have been set up this week at five of SJCG's sites throughout the city to inform and invite staff to understand the impact of our efforts and to make positive changes for the environment.

SJCG is committed to minimize the adverse environmental and human impact on the environment by encouraging and adopting resource conservation, pollution prevention principles and effective environmental management systems without compromising client safety and care.

Goals for the organization include educating and training for staff, developing work plans and audits to measure and manage general waste, reduce energy consumption, using energy efficient technology in new building and renovations, and providing individuals with greener choices for every day living at work and at home.

"The *Greening Healthcare Program* fits well with our Strategic Plan in terms of being a good corporate citizen in our community," says Tracy Buckler, President and CEO. "Not only do we strive to meet the healthcare needs of the people we serve, we also have a responsibility to do what we can to preserve the environment. St. Joseph's Care Group supports the work of the individuals and community partners that are taking steps to reduce the environmental impact."

Benny Birch, well known in the community for its annual Birthday Party in support of Bethammi Nursing Home, is honoured to be the mascot for SJCG's *Greening Healthcare* efforts.

With Earth Day events occurring all over the world, St. Joseph's Care Group is proud to be making a difference by "Caring for Our Environment".

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For more information contact:

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**St. Joseph's Hospital • St. Joseph's Heritage • Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital • Hogarth Riverview Manor • Balmoral Centre
St. Joseph's Health Centre • Behavioural Sciences Centre • Diabetes Health Thunder Bay • Sister Margaret Smith Centre**

St. Joseph's Care Group is accredited with the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation and provides services in complex care, rehabilitation, mental health and addictions, long-term care and supportive housing. As well, community programs are provided at Frank Murphy Community Centre. SJCG has approximately 1700 employees, over 400 volunteers with an annual operating budget of \$115M and is the fifth largest employer in Thunder Bay. To learn more about SJCG, visit the web site at www.sjcg.net.