



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

inspiring strength, dignity and compassion

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Care beyond borders – Local physicians welcome donations for trek to Honduras

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Monday, December 10, 2007 – A team of local physicians will be heading to Honduras in January to provide vitally needed medical care to residents of local villages.

Dr. Paul Caldwell will lead a team of 20 medical professionals, including Dr. Diane VanDusen and Dr. Christine Simon from Cobourg. The January trip will be Dr. Caldwell's eighth working journey to Honduras; it's the second trip for Drs. VanDusen and Simon. The team will take medicines and supplies with them and spend two weeks volunteering in areas where there is very poor medical care. The trip has been planned in conjunction with Peterborough-based Friends of Honduran Children.

In 1979, while traveling to Honduras as part of a medical brigade, Peterborough oral surgeon Dr. Jim McCallum met Sister Maria Rosa and witnessed first-hand the tragic conditions that so many Honduran children face every day. Upon his return to Canada, Dr. McCallum founded Friends of Honduran Children to help Sister Maria Rosa in her tireless efforts. Twenty-six years later, Friends is a thriving non-profit, grass roots organization that is focused on delivering sustainable programs and providing the necessary aid, supplies and skills that allow Hondurans to help themselves.

"It has become a sort of New Year's tradition for many of us. It is an incredible experience being able to help people who might not otherwise have access to medical care," says Dr. Caldwell. "Previous trips would not have been possible without the generosity of staff and volunteers at Northumberland Hills Hospital as well as the citizens of Northumberland County. We had a lot of amazing support from the hospital community in previous years. I hope this year we will be able to go even further with our support," he adds.

The team is looking for donations of various kinds, including:

1. Financial donations to buy medicines and supplies in Honduras (this is the preferred form of contribution, as it benefits the local economy in Honduras and eases the challenges of transporting goods from Canada)
2. Three sturdy hockey bags (to transport medicines)
3. Eye glasses, for adults and children (reading glasses are particularly required, but prescription glasses and sunglasses are welcome too)
4. Soccer balls (of good quality) and soccer shirts
5. Vitamins (particularly pre-natal and children's)
6. Canadian Tire money (to buy soccer balls and other supplies)
7. Makeup and costume jewelry
8. School supplies such as pens and markers (no heavy objects such as paper which cannot be transported easily)

Tax receipts are available for financial donations.

Anyone interested in making a donation can contact Dr. Paul Caldwell at:

The Cobourg Clinic
44 University Avenue East
Box 86, Cobourg, Ontario K9A 4K4
Phone: 905-372-3323
Fax: 905-372-3692

For more information on Friends of Honduran Children, visit their website at <http://www.honduranchildren.com/index.html>.

For more information on Northumberland Hills Hospital, or to schedule an interview, contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or jgillard@nhh.ca.

About Northumberland Hills Hospital - The Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto. The 137-bed hospital delivers a broad range of services, including medical/surgical care, complex/long term care, rehabilitation, palliative care, obstetrical care and intensive care. NHH also sponsors a Community Mental Health Centre and an Assertive Community Treatment Team. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland is comprised of the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs over 500 people and is an active member of the Central East LHIN. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca.