



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

inspiring strength, dignity and compassion

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NHH joins groups from Cobourg, Toronto and Kingston to send shipment of used hospital equipment and other items to Jamaica

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Thursday, June 12, 2008 – Representatives from an informal association of people from Cobourg, Toronto, Kingston and Collingwood, Ontario have joined forces to arrange a shipment of used goods—mostly for use in hospitals—to St. Joseph's Hospital, in Kingston, Jamaica. The shipment left Northumberland this week and is scheduled to reach Jamaica on June 22.

Food For The Poor, a relief organization in Jamaica, will handle the shipping and delivery of the donated goods to St. Joseph's Hospital. "We have the logistics in place to make sure that assistance gets to the right hands," said Angel Aloma, Executive Director of Food For The Poor in Coconut Creek, Florida.

The donation of used items, totalling approximately \$135,000 in value, stemmed from relationships made when several Canadian residents visited the desperately poor districts of the Caribbean nation in recent years. The common thread? Fabian Brown, Executive Director of St. Joseph's, and Shirley Moebus, of Cobourg.

Mrs. Moebus met Mr. Brown in 2001 when escorting the first of several student awareness trips she led with the generous support of the Rotary Club of Cobourg. Through this connection she and her husband, Dr. Bill Moebus, visited Jamaica as part of the "No Boundaries" surgical team dispatched from the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, to participate in a week-long surgical and dental clinic in the country.

At their invitation, Fabian Brown visited west Northumberland in April 2004 and, more recently, in October 2007. While in the area he spoke to several clinical teams at NHH as well as local service groups and schools about his organization and the potential to share ideas and used hospital equipment. His goal was to obtain second-hand equipment that no longer meets current standards here in Canada, or has been rendered redundant by enhancements to related systems. His efforts proved worthwhile.

Founded in 1916, St. Joseph's was almost decommissioned in 2001. Since then, Fabian Brown has worked toward making the hospital self-sufficient so that it can continue to bring health care to the destitute population of Kingston's inner-city communities.

Through his work Mr. Brown also became involved with his community's St. Patrick's Foundation, an organization that funds and staffs schools that teach fundamental literacy skills to those who cannot afford basic schooling in Jamaica. Among St. Patrick's projects are after-school programs in community centres and a long-term care seniors' home on the outskirts of Kingston which cares for those who are unable to pay.

On Tuesday, June 10, a large Rexway Transport truck sent from shipping company SeaNautica Marine arrived at the NHH loading dock to collect \$23,450 worth of equipment donated from NHH.

Assisted by a group of students from the CDCI East International Baccalaureate program and other volunteers, Shirley and Bill Moebus loaded patient beds and mattresses, ventilators, computer equipment, insulin instruments, tracheal tubes, and other items into the waiting container. In addition to the donations by NHH, the Cobourg stop also resulted in donations of children's books collected by students at the East Collegiate, used kitchenware from the Buttermilk Café, and weights from the Cobourg YMCA. Of the \$135,000 total, the value of items sent from Cobourg is estimated at close to \$30,000, including a contribution of \$4,000 from the Rotary Club of Cobourg to assist with shipping costs.

Other communities have also answered the call for support, including Collingwood General and Marine Hospital, which donated a used anaesthesia machine valued at \$20,000 and \$89,000 in surgical instruments and furniture from Hotel Dieu Hospital and Kingston General Hospital in Kingston. Contributions from Kingston, Ontario, also included children's shoes supplied by the local WalMart and soccer equipment collected by Holy Cross School.

Expressing gratitude to all those who made the donations possible, Mrs. Moebus noted that the shipment was originally planned for later in the summer. "Food For The Poor offered to expedite our donation to Jamaica this week," said Mrs. Moebus. "Thanks to their assistance, the items that would otherwise have been kept in storage until later this season are en route and will be put into use by month's end."

"The local connection with a hospital in Jamaica presented a rare opportunity, and NHH is pleased to be able to assist. Equipment we're no longer able to use at NHH will now find a new life in a part of the world that is much less fortunate than we are. We wish Mr. Brown the best of luck with his work," said NHH President and CEO, Joan Ross.

For further information, or to arrange an interview, please 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 acute care hospital delivers a broad range of core 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 comprises 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.