

## Release #1 (Leaside)

### For Immediate Release:

#### ROTARY TORONTO-LEASIDE ADDRESSES GROWING GTA HOSPICE NEED

##### Fundraising to focus on State of the Art new Hospice for West Park Campus

**(Toronto: August 17, 2018)** Torontonians may soon begin to find relief from a chronic shortage of residential hospice beds, thanks to a new focus and commitment from the **Rotary Club of Toronto-Leaside**.

The Club announced today that plans to build **The Toronto Commandery Hospice at Concetta Conforzi Place** (TCH) will be its new focus for fundraising in 2018, and the Club will lead promotion of public awareness for the critical and immediate need for more hospice care in the GTA.

Consider these facts:

- Less than 1 in 10 Canadians facing life-threatening illness receive adequate end of life care
- Toronto is facing a chronic shortage of beds in Toronto. In 2017 Toronto had 10 adult residential beds, the same number as Leamington Ontario, with a population of 28,000! In comparison Calgary has seven hospices, with over 100 beds.
- Toronto needs to address this immediately, especially in light of the aging population; end of life dignity, support for families, and help for communities must be a priority.
- Hospice beds are an excellent investment: residential hospice beds are on average \$460 per day in contrast to \$1,100 for a hospital bed.

The new Hospice, to be located on the **West Park Health Care Centre Campus** in Northwest Toronto, will bring to the GTA a world flagship model integrating a 10-bed residential hospice care with a range of services including respite and bereavement care, home care, and community supports. It will integrate the best current thinking and approaches from around the world, as well as evolving an Ontario Centre of Excellence in Hospice Care serving the GTA and beyond.

“We are thrilled to be working with the Rotary Club of Toronto-Leaside to address this vital need and help under-served families,” says Philip A. Russel, Managing Director of Integracare and Chair of the Campaign. “We are grateful for Rotary Leaside as they commit to helping us

with our drive to raise \$10-million and make Toronto a leading excellence hub in this critically important field.”

TCH will be a part of a new non-hospital complex at West Park, integrated into the hospital’s new overall redevelopment plans. The complex as a whole will broaden the continuum of care available on the campus with housing and related services for seniors and people with disabilities.

“The opportunity to locate on a state of the art hospital site, embedded in a complex with services including supportive housing, hospice, and doctor’s offices, makes this too perfect an opportunity for Toronto to pass up,” said Jennifer Valliere, President of Rotary Leaside. “The stars are aligned for a great leap forward in Hospice Care in the GTA. We at Rotary Leaside are stepping up to help make this happen and calling on the whole community to make this a top priority.”

**The Toronto Commandery Hospice** will be among the most forward-thinking facilities of its kind in the world, and offer an option to individuals and their families who -- for whatever reason -- cannot die at home but do not wish to spend their last days in hospital. A residential hospice, it will provide a home-like setting where a skilled, palliative care team provides compassionate care, as well as providing services which extend throughout the community, and opportunities for research, program development, and the training of a new generation of specialists.

The focus of hospice care is comfort rather than cure with a holistic approach to care where end of life is affirmed as a natural process and quality of life is a priority. Support, comfort, pain management and dignity are maintained.

Join Toronto-Leaside Rotary in supporting hospice care in our community.

For more information or to make a gift, please contact (name):

For media interviews, please contact (name):

<http://www.ttch.org>

<https://www.torontoleasiderotary.com/>

<https://www.westpark.org/CampusDevelopment/AboutCampusDevelopment/NonHospitalDevelopment>