

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **TORONTO GRACE HOSPITAL CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL WITH GOVERNOR GENERAL AND 100 GRACE BABIES**

- WHO:** Her Excellency The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Salvation Army Commissioner Christine MacMillan, Toronto Grace staff and patients and 100 Grace babies born at the hospital.
- WHAT:** A celebration of Toronto Grace Hospital's centennial will take place on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Governor General will speak at 12 noon to pay tribute to the hospital that was once Toronto's main maternity hospital and now is Toronto's most respected palliative care facility.
- WHERE:** Toronto Grace Hospital - 650 Church Street, Parking Lot – SW Corner Church & Bloor  
Enter from Bloor Street - the Church Street entrance is closed.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, September 13th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Speeches: 12 noon – 12:45 p.m.
- WHY:** This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Salvation Army Toronto Grace Hospital, a 119 bed facility providing palliative care to patients in their last days. Located in the heart of the city, this landmark has ministered its care to patients with grace and dignity for the past 100 years.

From the hospital's earliest days as a rescue home, to becoming a maternity hospital and now providing care to the most vulnerable, it is a Toronto landmark. As the first palliative care department to be established in Ontario in 1979, we continue to be leaders in our field.

We will be honouring staff and volunteers who have provided care to Torontonians for the past century. The celebration will acknowledge the thousands of babies born at Toronto Grace. This will be the culmination of a cross-country search for Toronto Grace Babies. We expect 100 Grace Babies to attend representing each year of the hospital's existence.

Displays will be set up showcasing the work of the hospital and its employees through photos, newspaper articles and memorabilia. Of interest will be:

- A 1919 hospital budget showing \$10,937 for the year with a \$2,500 contribution from the provincial government, compared to the 2005 budget of \$18 million.
- Hospital newspaper articles announcing a baby born in a taxi cab, another born on the then Church Street streetcar, the maternity ward so crowded with babies they were sleeping in dressing tables, and the announcement of the first loudspeaker system in 1959.

The day will acknowledge 100 years of care to Torontonians and will ring in the next century of service.

For further information, contact Bruce Chown, 416-925-2251, ext. 283.

## **TORONTO GRACE HOSPITAL – SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION**

On Tuesday, September 13th, Toronto Grace Hospital will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. This day-long event will feature a tribute to the thousands of men and women who worked at the hospital as doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, administrators and to the many volunteers who have provided so many hours of care.

In addition, the celebration will acknowledge the thousands of babies born at the Grace. This celebration will be the culmination of a cross-country search for Toronto Grace Babies. We plan to have at least 100 Grace Babies in attendance to honour each year of the hospital's existence and the many individuals and families who can trace their roots back to the Grace.

Until 1961 the hospital had its own School of Nursing and many of the alumnae still keep in touch with the Grace. On September 13<sup>th</sup> we will pay tribute to the many fine nurses produced through the program with a special ceremony.

As a part of The Salvation Army, the hospital will pay tribute to the prominent role the Army has played in the hospital's history. There will be exhibits to acknowledge the work and commitment of this extraordinary institution. Through pictures, newspaper stories and memorabilia, the role of The Salvation Army in Toronto will be told.

Displays will be set up for those who worked at the hospital, from those in environmental services to the occupational therapists and social workers, from those who worked in the kitchen serving meals, to those who provided care at the bedside.

There will be an area for former and current medical staff, and volunteers who have contributed their time and talents to help the Grace, our patients and their families. Over the years these dedicated people have provided an extraordinary service with their gifts...

There will be an area for children's activities, including clowns and magicians. There will be musical entertainment, ranging from choirs, to instrumental soloists, to Salvation Army brass musicians, throughout the day.

Food and refreshments will be served to all participants and, yes, there will be a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday cake complete with candles.

Invitations have been sent to past and current employees, volunteers, donors, the Salvation Army, community members, and other health care professionals. We expect the media to attend.

The day will be an entertaining and fun-filled event celebrating the first one hundred years of Toronto Grace and ringing in the next hundred years of compassionate care.