

Press Release



Rock the Cradle Gala Raises \$395,120 in support of Thousands of Babies and their Parents at St. Joseph's Health Centre

TORONTO, February 28, 2011 – Over 400 people came together at the Rock the Cradle Gala on February 24 for an evening of great music, food and fun – all in support of the Health Centre's tiniest patients. Over \$395,000 was raised at the gala and will go towards the Health Centre's expanded Family Birthing Centre and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in the new Our Lady of Mercy Patient Care Wing.

The Rock the Cradle Gala, chaired by Foundation Board member The Honourable Sarmite D. Bulte, PC, was a night to remember – which brought together hundreds from across the city in support of West end Toronto's community teaching hospital. The evening showcased the talents of Canadian rock icons Kim Mitchell and The Stampeders, singer/songwriter Justin Hines and musician Graham Howes, with Tyler Stewart from the Barenaked Ladies as the Gala's MC.

"It's a privilege to help kids get better. Not everyone can work in a great health centre like St. Joe's, but this event is a way for our community to help our kids," said Dr. Eddy Lau, Chief of Paediatrics. The support from our neighbours and friends is contributing to a new Family Birthing Centre and NICU he explains, adding that, "it's about keeping our kids close to home — 95% of all general paediatric medical conditions can be treated here at St. Joseph's," he said. "With the expansion, we will be able to take care of more babies and children than ever before."

"St. Joseph's has such a long and proud tradition of Putting Patients First. We are pleased to organize an event which has raised more money than ever before," said Bulte. "We are thankful to our Gala attendees and sponsors who helped make this event a huge success, including Ozz Electric Inc, this evening's presenting sponsor."

The original Our Lady of Mercy Building was demolished in 2007 as part of St. Joseph's extensive redevelopment project. The new patient care wing, slated for completion later this year, is a spacious, four-storey building that will be the new home to our state-of-the-art NICU and Family Birthing Centre, a new Paediatric Unit, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, and three new inpatient areas housing a total of 92 beds.

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About St. Joseph's Health Centre Toronto:

St. Joseph's Health Centre, Toronto, is a full service acute care community teaching hospital in the Catholic tradition, affiliated with the University of Toronto, providing services to the diverse communities of southwest Toronto. With a Vision to be Canada's Best Community Teaching Hospital, St. Joseph's is acknowledged for its commitment to community engagement and linkage that enables the delivery of outstanding quality and service to the communities we serve.

The Health Centre's clinical programs include Women's, Children's & Family Health; Surgery and Oncology Services; Emergency and Critical Care; Medicine, Ambulatory & Seniors' Health; Mental Health & Addictions Services and Clinical Support Services. For more information visit us online at www.stjoe.on.ca.

About St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation:

St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation is dedicated to supporting St. Joseph's Health Centre Toronto in its tradition of providing quality health care services for Toronto's west end.

The Foundation does this through various fundraising, stewardship and granting activities, as well as endowment building. Gifts to the Foundation help the Health Centre improve facilities, acquire new state-of-the-art equipment, and support important education, research and programs. For more information, visit www.foundation.stjoe.on.ca.