

Media Advisory



ATTENTION NEWS/HEALTH EDITORS:

Rock the Cradle Gala is supporting the growing health care needs of the tiniest patients living in West End Toronto

TORONTO, Wednesday, December 8 – St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation is hosting the first-ever [Rock the Cradle Gala](#) in support of St. Joseph's Health Centre's Family Birthing Centre and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in the [new Our Lady of Mercy \(OLM\) Patient Care Wing](#). On Thursday, February 24, 2011, this black tie event – chaired by The Honourable Sarmite D. Bulte, PC and member of the Foundation Board's - promises to be an evening to remember and will feature great food, a live auction and entertainment from Canadian music artists The Stampeders, Justine Hines and honorary guest, Kim Mitchell.

"St. Joseph's Health Centre saved my second child's life," said Alisa Walton, a local physical theatre artist, who hosted a fundraiser in support of the NICU earlier this year. Her son D.J. was born with persistent pulmonary tension of the newborn, a rare and life-threatening disease that affects a newborn's ability to adapt to breathing outside of the womb. Thanks to the specialized care he received in the NICU and through the unit's follow up program, D.J. is now a healthy and active toddler.

"We are looking forward to the new building to provide continued, premium care to the community," said Dr. Eddy Lau, Chief of Paediatrics. "The new OLM wing will allow us to care for more children and families, like D.J. and Alisa. Expansion of facilities and new equipment in all of our paediatric, neonatal and birthing units will allow us to enhance the excellent care we currently provide to the growing families in our neighbourhoods."

The new \$73 million, 4-storey patient care wing is slated for completion in the Spring of 2011. It will be home to our new state-of-the-art NICU, a new Paediatric Unit, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, and an expanded Family Birthing Centre, and three new inpatient areas housing a total of 92 beds.

"We are pleased to support St. Joseph's Health Centre in their commitment to Put Patients First, by organizing a Gala event supporting care for our tiniest patients," said Maria Dyck, President, St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation. "Thousands of new parents choose to have their babies at St. Joe's and the care they receive is exceptional. This new facility will offer a space that is extraordinary and will benefit the community in so many ways."

Interview opportunities: **Alisa Walton, mother of D.J. who received specialized care in St. Joe's NICU**
 Dr. Eddy Lau, Chief of Paediatrics
 Maria Dyck, President, St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation

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[Click here for more information about the new Our Lady of Mercy Patient Care Wing](#)
[Click here more details about the Rock the Cradle Gala](#)

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