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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- Foundation's Contribution the Difference Between Life and Death -

October 20, 2010 – Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) can literally mean the difference between life and death. The Greater Peterborough Health Services Foundation (GPHSF) held a photo opportunity earlier today to celebrate their contribution of 17 AEDs to the Peterborough Networked Family Health Teams in the City and County of Peterborough. These life-saving devices can be used to restore heart rhythm and life.

“Thanks to the invaluable support of the Peterborough Festival of Trees, we were able to support the Peterborough Networked Family Health Teams with this key equipment, to ensure that our area’s residents and health care providers now have increased access to vital community-based care resources,” said Hannah Routly, Executive Director, GPHSF. “AEDs offer the best means to provide a crucial life-saving shock quickly.”

On hand for the celebration, was Peterborough resident Cathy Hall. Cathy has firsthand knowledge of the importance of prompt and immediate access to an AED. While attending a conference in 2005, Cathy suffered cardiac arrest and thanks to the availability of an AED had her heart rhythm restored. “I just didn’t understand when I was in the hospital. Everybody would tell me how lucky I was, even the janitors would tell me! They told me I’d had a heart attack, so I couldn’t figure out why that was supposed to be ‘lucky’. It was only when the term ‘cardiac arrest’ was explained to me, did I get it.” Cathy remains dedicated to spreading the word about the importance of having immediate access to AEDs in our community and is thrilled by this life-saving contribution from the GPHSF.

“The interval from collapse to defibrillation is crucial,” said Dr. Harterre, Physician Lead, Peterborough Networked Family Health Teams. “The more AEDs that are present in our community, the greater the likelihood they will be used in time. The invaluable support of the GPHSF and the Festival of Trees continues to enhance and elevate the quality of care that is available to the residents of the City and County of Peterborough.”

The Greater Peterborough Health Services Foundation (GPHSF) is a non-profit organization, dedicated to improving primary health care services in the City and County of Peterborough by supporting our local medical community. Formerly, the St. Joseph’s Care Foundation, the Foundation funds essential equipment, education, and research, while fostering preventative action and promoting healthier living for all.

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