

May 3, 2017

## RVH'S CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM MOVES FORWARD

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) kicked off National Mental Health Week by awarding the contract for its regional Child & Youth Mental Health program. The contract was awarded to CHART Construction Management Inc. of Concord, Ontario following a public tendering process.

Construction will begin by mid-May on the eight-bed inpatient unit – the only one of its kind in North Simcoe Muskoka. The unit, slated to open in late-2017, will care for up to 300 troubled young people a year. A comprehensive day program will provide an additional 3,000 outpatient visits annually.

“We know 70 per cent of mental health issues emerge in adolescence and without help, those challenges can escalate. Youth suffering acute mental health issues, such as suicidal behaviour, psychosis and severe depression, need quick access to specialized inpatient services for stabilization and treatment,” says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. “These hospital-based services are currently not available in this region and today’s announcement changes that. By providing care closer to home, RVH and its partners will significantly ease the burden for young people and their families throughout North Simcoe Muskoka.”

RVH is so committed to bringing this program to life that the \$5 million construction and equipment costs are being funded entirely through the RVH Foundation’s Hearts and Minds campaign. In November 2016, Ontario’s Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Dr. Eric Hoskins announced the provincial government will invest \$3.2 million in annual operating funds for the regional Child and Youth Mental Health program.

“I am thrilled to see that the youth mental health project is progressing at RVH,” says Barrie MPP Ann Hoggarth. “Very soon, the young people of our community who struggle with mental health issues will have access to life-saving care, allowing them to have a fair chance at a happy and fulfilling life.”

-30-

For more information:

**Suzanne Legue**  
Vice President Strategy,  
Communications and Stakeholder  
Relations  
705-728-9090 ext. 41600

**Jane Cocking**  
Corporate Communications  
705-728-9090 ext. 41611

### About RVH:

RVH is a regional health centre in Barrie, Ontario, located 80 kilometres north of Toronto. As the largest hospital in the region of Simcoe Muskoka, RVH’s team of over 350 physicians, 2,500 employees and 850 volunteers provides exceptional care and specialty services to almost half a million residents, including cancer care, stroke services, orthopaedics, intensive care, mental health and interventional radiology. RVH is focused on delivering high-quality, safe care that puts patients and their families first. For more information visit [www.rvh.on.ca](http://www.rvh.on.ca)