

November 3, 2014

Eisses family proud to call RVH their health centre

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) has received a gift of \$100,000 from the Eisses family of Innisfil which will fund some of the priority areas the health centre has identified for the next five years. These areas include advanced cardiac care, child and youth mental health, women's cancer services and equipment and research. Long-time RVH supporters, the Eisses family has contributed more than \$200,000 to RVH since 2001.

"Our family has roots in this community dating back to the 1950s and we are so proud to have RVH in our backyard for so many of those years – always there for us when members of our large family need it the most," says Harry Eisses. "We have family all over Simcoe Muskoka and we all count on having a regional health centre able to meet our needs both now and in the future. I want to know that if a family member needs care because of a heart attack, mental illness or cancer, they can receive it close to home in a facility with the latest equipment and top physicians."

Recently, that was the case for one Eisses family member when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Five years ago this would have meant travelling outside Simcoe Muskoka to receive the care she needed and time away from her family. With the opening of the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre at RVH in 2012, she was able to receive 100 per cent of her treatment in Barrie and be home each night with her four young children.

"It is inspiring that our loved ones can receive comprehensive care in their home community," says Eisses. "When the cancer centre opened as part of RVH's expansion, it changed healthcare for residents in this region and we want to help that happen again. There will always be new priorities for the health of this community and we want to do all we can to make sure patient needs are met at RVH."

With the \$450 million expansion complete and based on the needs of the community RVH serves, the health centre aims to bring specialized programs like advanced cardiac care as well as child and youth mental health services closer to home.

North Simcoe Muskoka is the only region in the province without advanced cardiac services. As a result, every year more than 3,500 heart patients must travel to centres outside the region for lifesaving cardiac care. The services RVH would provide through the program include cardiac diagnostics and interventions such as coronary angiogram and angioplasty, giving patients access to faster treatment, a shorter hospital stay and less travel time.

"We cannot thank the Eisses family enough for their continued support of RVH," says Janice Skot, president and CEO, RVH. "Their generosity helped bring cancer care closer to home during the I Believe campaign and now they will help with our latest fundraising priorities. They are clearly a family with big hearts who genuinely care about the healthcare of their family and fellow community members."

Cutline: The Eisses family of Innisfil has generously donated \$100,000 to help fund priority areas - including advanced cardiac care, child and youth mental health, women's cancer services, equipment and research - at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH). Since 2001 the Eisses family has donated more than \$200,000 to RVH. This generosity is possible due to the success of family businesses like the Eisses Poultry Farm and the hard work of family members including (from left) John, Harry, Ed and Carl Eisses.

-30-

For more information:

Suzanne Legue
Chief Communications Officer
705-728-9090 ext. 41600

Jennifer Moore
Corporate Communications
705-728-9090 ext. 41618

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