

February 26, 2018

Student films showcase why mental health matters

Once again, Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) has partnered with local schools for its annual Film Festival with a theme that hits close to home for today's youth.

With the opening of RVH's Simcoe Muskoka Regional Child and Youth Mental Health program, this year's Film Festival called for submissions related to mental health well-being and/or the importance of having child and youth mental health services in our region.

This year's theme was: *Making Mental Health Matter: How are you making a difference?* RVH received an impressive 17 film submissions from local schools all showcasing why mental health remains an important topic for students and teachers.

Participating schools this year include Ardagh Bluffs Public School, Innisdale Secondary School, Sister Catherine Donnelly Catholic School, Terry Fox Elementary School and Warnica Public School.

"We believe students in the region have a unique and valuable perspective on RVH and some of the services it provides," says Suzanne Legue, vice president, Strategy, Communications and Stakeholder Relations. "After consulting with our colleagues at the Simcoe County District School Board and Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, we agreed this would be a great opportunity to engage students, especially since we are using technology they already use and are learning about in school."

Now in its fifth year, the RVH Film Festival started as a unique way to promote creativity and engagement among staff, physicians and volunteers. In 2017, the health centre opened up the film festival to the schools in the region, inviting them to participate as well. For staff, physicians and volunteers, it's an inspiring way to hear from the community it serves while also providing a creative opportunity for students to use the media skills they have learned in school.

All the films submitted by students are available for viewing on RVH's YouTube channel (RVHBarrieON) or at <http://bit.ly/RVHFFSchools>. All films will be reviewed by a panel of judges from RVH, Simcoe County District School Board and Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. The winning films from each category – Junior (JK – Grade 6) and Senior (Grade 7 and up) - will be announced on March 8.

-30-

For more information:

Kaylee MacMillan
Corporate Communications
705-728-9090 ext. 41617

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