



**MISERICORDIA**  
H e a l t h • C e n t r e

## Media Release

February 14, 2008 – for immediate release

### My teddy bear has a cast, too



Five-year-old Erica Wilson doesn't go far these days without her fluffy brown stuffed bear. She has to make sure his broken arm is OK. Soon, he'll be getting his bright purple cast off.

It's an ailment she's all too familiar with: Erica's recent dream day of tobogganing turned into a nightmare when the youngster was knocked down by a swift sled. Scared and in pain, her family brought her to Misericordia's Urgent Care Centre. An immediate X-ray determined Erica had a broken collarbone.

"She was sore, crying and really upset," recalls father Cory Wilson. "That bear with a cast sure helped comfort her quickly. She knew it was hurt, too."

The bear is the brainchild of the staff at Misericordia Health Centre's Ambulatory Care Cast Clinic.

"We wanted to reduce fear," explains orthopedic technician Darren Pierce. "Any time a child needs a sling or a cast, they have their choice of stuffed animal. It sure perks them right up."

Pierce casts the donated stuffed animals in different ways – mostly arms and legs – so he can explain to kids what will be happening to them. He even has his own stuffed monkey hanging as a mascot in his clinic room.

"It's a wonderful idea," says Wilson. "Erica even brings the bear to her follow-up appointments."

## **Interview/photo op:**

**What:** Erica has her final cast clinic appointment – including an X-ray – and is available for photos with her father, Cory Wilson, and orthopedic technician, Darren Pierce

**When:** 10 – 10:45 a.m., Friday, February 15, 2008

**Where:** Ambulatory Care, Cast Clinic, inside MHC's Urgent Care entrance, 99 Cornish Avenue

*Since 1898, Misericordia Health Centre has been providing compassionate high quality health care to those most in need in accordance with our core values: caring, respect and trust. Misericordia provides an array of specialized programs including our Eye Care Centre of Excellence, pediatric dental surgery, long-term and interim care, urgent care, ambulatory clinics, diagnostic imaging and laboratory services. Misericordia also operates the internationally recognized Provincial Health Contact Centre, including Health Links-Info Santé. Coming soon to MHC... the Sleep Disorders Centre. For more information, please visit our website at [www.misericordia.mb.ca](http://www.misericordia.mb.ca).*

-30-

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