



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

Media Release

December 15, 2008 – for immediate release

Heart-warming holiday stories

The Misericordia spirit of compassionate care is evident throughout the year, but especially so during the holidays.

This season, we offer you human interest stories to warm hearts:

Celebration of Light – Tuesday, December 16

- This annual tradition celebrates the theme of light – common to both Christian and Jewish traditions – with reflections and songs presented by the Westgate Mennonite Collegiate Choir and Brock Corydon School
- 1:45 p.m. on our historic St. Luke's Chapel

Available for interviews: Veronica Kett, the quintessential spokesperson for this event. Veronica has a long history with Misericordia. She was born at Misericordia, as were her three sons. Over the years, she has attended midnight mass in our chapel. Today, her husband is a patient of our Eye Care Centre of Excellence. Kett turns 70 on December 18. She's celebrating her birthday this year by attending our Celebration of Light

Resident Christmas Dinner – Wednesday, December 17

- For nine years, our Recreation Services department has ensured our long-term care residents get a "cooked from scratch" turkey dinner with all the trimmings.
- The whole facility pitches in, with help from virtually every department. It's controlled chaos with a delightful mouthwatering result
- Families and loved ones are invited to attend the festive event, complete with decorations and musical accompaniment
- Two other residents dinners will be held Thursday December 18 and Tuesday, December 23

Available for interviews: Misericordia residents and family members; Ellen Locke, Misericordia's Recreation Manager

Balmoral Hall Day of Giving – Thursday, December 18

- For the seventh year in a row, 80 Balmoral Hall middle school students will bring stockings to share with our long-term care residents
- The stockings are stuffed with treats, a tree ornament and a hand-written card; some international students have some interesting stories of how they would normally celebrate Christmas in their homeland
- Students spend the afternoon with our residents and also sing a selection of Christmas carols

Available for interviews: Misericordia residents; Susan Shortill, Volunteers Manager; Balmoral Hall students and Tracy White, Middle School Principal

A Present for One and All – Tuesday, December 23

- Christmas isn't the most wonderful time of year for seniors in long-term care who no longer have any family or loved ones living
- The staff of the Family Law Branch of the Manitoba Department of Justice ensure these Misericordia residents receive a special gift on Christmas Day
- For the past seven years, the Family Law Branch has been delighting residents with fleece blankets, books, plants and other hand-picked gifts suited to Misericordia residents without family
- Social Worker Jane VanDam describes a recent conversation with a resident, "I asked her what her favourite colour was," says VanDam. "And she answered, 'I bet you are trying to figure out a Christmas gift for me!' There was such a glow, a look of satisfaction on her face – that anticipation of a surprise."
- On **Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 3:45 p.m.** Sharyl Thomas, who was a ward clerk at Misericordia Health Centre before studying law, will bring the gifts to Misericordia

Available for interviews: Misericordia residents, Jane VanDam, Misericordia's Manager of Social Work; Sharyl Thomas, Crown Counsel

Since 1898 Misericordia Health Centre has been providing compassionate 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, long-term and interim care, urgent care, ambulatory clinics, diagnostic imaging, laboratory services, Sleep Disorders Centre and pediatric dental surgery. Misericordia also operates the internationally-recognized Provincial Health Contact Centre, including Health Links-Info Santé. For more information, please visit our website at www.misericordia.mb.ca.

-30-

Media Contact:

Heidi Klaschka, Director of Communications and Public Relations
204.788.8302 office
204.232.9918 cell
HKlaschka@miseri.winnipeg.mb.ca