



MISERICORDIA HEALTH CENTRE'S  
**ANGEL SQUAD**

## Media Release

December 3, 2009 – for immediate release

### Angels here for drive-thru donations

Next week, from **7:30 - 9 a.m. Tues.-Thurs., Dec. 8-10**, Misericordia's angel squad – replete with gowns, wings and halos – will be taking over the Maryland Bridge encouraging motorists to become angels and donate to our [14<sup>th</sup> annual Angel Squad Campaign](#). What could be a better photo op?

#### How it works:

Our angels line the bridge - waving frenetically, dancing the cancan, jumping up and down and ringing bells. And they're not just trying to keep warm! They're inviting motorists to pull in and give a "drive-thru" donation\* in exchange for a Starbucks beverage and biscotti and a copy of the Winnipeg Free Press.

- *Donations \$10 and over are eligible for a tax receipt.*

#### New this year: Angel expansion

For the first time ever, our angels are going to collect donations on Maryland Street in addition to our Sherbrook Street location. A new angel satellite site!

#### Even easier way to donate:

We also have a new [angel hotline at 22-ANGEL](#) for donors to call. The line is now open for pre-donations. For the Internet-savvy, donations can also be made online: [www.misericordia.mb.ca/Foundation/Donation.html](http://www.misericordia.mb.ca/Foundation/Donation.html)

#### Spreading the Misericordia spirit:

We have a slew of dignitaries joining us that should make an interesting mix, including: the new Minister of Healthy Living, Youth & Seniors, **Jim Rondeau**; Minister of Housing & Community Development, **Kerri Irvin-Ross**; Leader of the Official Opposition, **Hugh McFadyen**, PC Manitoba; Liberal Leader **Dr. Jon Gerrad**; Liberal MP **Anita Neville**, PC MLA **Heather Stefanson** and her daughter; PC Health Critic **Myrna Driedger**; Mayor **Sam Katz** and more.

Even Mick E. Moose will make an appearance with a cohort of Manitoba Moose players, including Matt Pope and Dusty Collins.

## Where do the donations go?

Proceeds go directly to vital care and programs for patients and residents at Misericordia Health Centre. Please see our backgrounder for more MHC information.

## Need patient stories?

Want to add a human interest element? We have patients and family members willing to be interviewed who will let you know about their experience at Misericordia. Just let us know in advance and we'll set it up for you!

## Angels by the numbers

- 14 years the Angel Squad Campaign has been in operation
- 150 volunteer "angels" making it happen
- 14,500 motorists who cross the Maryland Bridge every morning
- 485,000 Manitobans helped by Misericordia Health Centre annually

*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, long-term and interim care, urgent care, ambulatory clinics, diagnostic imaging, laboratory services, sleep disorder centre and pediatric dental surgery. Misericordia is also home to the internationally-recognized Provincial Health Contact Centre, including Health Links-Info Santé. For more information, please visit our website at [www.misericordia.mb.ca](http://www.misericordia.mb.ca).*

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

## Misericordia Profile

Misericordia Health Centre has been providing quality faith-based care to Manitobans since 1898. As our communities' needs have changed, we have changed to meet those needs.

Today, Misericordia plays a critical role within the Winnipeg Health Region. We offer a diverse range of health-care programs – everything from walk-in Urgent Care to Misericordia Place, our modern 100-bed personal care home.

People who need eye or dental surgery, have broken an ankle, require longer-term care or are living with a respiratory illness are just some of the patients whose quality of life is enhanced by our compassionate care.

We also operate the internationally-recognized Provincial Health Contact Centre, including Health Links-Info Santé – an innovative province-wide telephone health information service, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Our approach to care is inspired by our Founders, the Sisters of Misericordia. We pride ourselves on holistic care: interprofessional staff and volunteers attend to the medical, physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of every resident and patient.

As an evolving research and teaching centre, Misericordia is proud to be affiliated with many educational organizations, including the universities of Manitoba, Winnipeg and Brandon. Our specialist physicians, nurses and therapists – some of whom hold joint university appointments – provide patient-centred care and conduct research while giving future health-care professionals hands-on training.

Misericordia Health Centre is an accredited non-profit organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and affiliated with the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. Our directors use their collective expertise to translate the motto of the Misericordia Sisters – *compassion of the heart for those in need* – into advocacy for the health-care needs of the communities we serve.

### Misericordia by the numbers 2008-2009

Over **\$60 million** operating budget

**1,089** pediatric dental surgeries performed

**40,291** urgent care visits

Our personal care beds at Misericordia Place were **full 100% of the time**

**349** volunteers donated **18,000** hours

Provincial Health Contact Centre received **over 550,000** calls

**Over 275** university and college students trained with us – from nurse practitioners to dental hygienists to receptionists

**1,032** full-time, part-time and casual staff

**18,610** Meals on Wheels sent to our community



## Misericordia's Redevelopment

In April 2007, Manitoba Health and the Winnipeg Health Region announced a significant investment in Misericordia's future, with our Foundation playing a strong supporting role.

The new provincial Sleep Disorder Centre – a diagnostic lab, sleep clinic and treatment service consolidated at Misericordia – is already helping Manitobans sleep better. And the redevelopment of Misericordia's buildings is now in the final design stage for the first phase.

We're on track to have shovels in the ground by the spring!

Our aging Maryland South and Sherbrook buildings will be replaced in phases during the next five years; our modern complex will include a striking two-storey glass atrium.

**Phase 1:** includes the demolition of the Maryland South building and the creation of a new two-storey building to house all our expanded programs, including the consolidated Eye Care Centre of Excellence, Diagnostic Imaging, Laboratory Services and, our new PRIME program – a day health centre for seniors. Space will be also be allocated for a future Ophthalmology Residency Program.



**Phase 2:** will involve the demolition of the Sherbrook building, a new Misericordia chapel and other aesthetically-pleasing pieces of our redevelopment, including a new front entrance.

Our Foundation is committed to raising the additional dollars for our new buildings. Bringing in our angel squad is just one way they are making our redevelopment a reality.



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