

Media Release



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CARING • RESPECT • TRUST

August 16, 2010 – for immediate release

First time on a bus – in a wheelchair

Imagine you've had a life-impacting health change – like a stroke or a head injury – and you suddenly have to learn how to use a wheelchair.

Everything you're accustomed to doing has to be done somewhat differently, for example getting on a transit bus. It can be intimidating.

Teresa Peterson, an occupational therapist in Misericordia Health Centre's *Easy Street** program, says it shouldn't have to be.

"We partner with Winnipeg Transit," explains Peterson. "We bring buses to our clients so we can teach them how to get on and off buses in a non-threatening environment with support from rehabilitation staff and transit personnel. It's a learning experience for everyone."

* *Easy Street*, a mini-community unique to Misericordia Health Centre's rehabilitation program, helps patients practice the skills they need for independent living – like banking, shopping and getting on buses.

PHOTO OP:

What: *Easy Street* patients with power wheelchairs and scooters learning how to get on and off Winnipeg Transit buses

When: 9:30 a.m. Tuesday August 17, 2010

Where: East corner of Sherbrook & Cornish (right beside the Misericordia Place garden)

Who: *Easy Street* patients are available for interviews, as is occupational therapist Teresa Peterson

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