



## **Ronald McDonald House Charities Toronto opens second Family Room at Credit Valley Hospital**

### **Partnership creates a retreat within the hospital for families with ill children**

Mississauga (September 7, 2016) – Families with children in the paediatrics unit at Trillium Health Partners – Credit Valley Hospital now have access to a “home away from home” inside the hospital to help them cope, thanks to Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Toronto.

RMHC Toronto officially opened its second Family Room at Credit Valley Hospital (CVH) today so parents can rest and recharge just steps from where their child is being treated. Research shows that parents who stay close to their ill children are able to be more involved in clinical decision making and care.

The first RMHC Toronto Family Room at CVH opened in 2012 for families with infants in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at the hospital and has just been renovated. Last year, this Family Room supported close to 500 families, a number that is now likely to double with the opening of the second Family Room in the paediatrics unit.

“Family Rooms are a core part of the RMHC Toronto mission to provide an environment that keeps families close when they need each other the most, and this is our sixth Family Room opening,” says Sally Ginter, Chief Executive Officer, RMHC Toronto. “All parents with a sick child face a great deal of stress, so we are delighted to expand our already strong partnership with Trillium Health Partners to support even more families from the Mississauga area.”

“Our partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities Toronto is invaluable to the patients and families we care for at Trillium Health Partners,” says Dr. Nicholas Blanchette, Division Head and Quality Lead, Children’s Health, Trillium Health Partners. “Family members are part of the care team and need to be able to be there around the clock. It is important that we take care of the entire family during their difficult time”

Last year, CVH cared for 733 babies in the NICU and 1872 young patients in paediatrics.

Each Family Room is equipped with a lounge area and TV and a kitchenette stocked with beverages and snacks. Families will also have access to three sleep rooms for overnight stays, two recliners for napping and washrooms with showers.

The Family Rooms are open and staffed every day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., with the sleep rooms available 24 hours a day.

The new Family Room at CVH is the sixth in RMHC Toronto's growing network of Family Rooms across the GTA. Family Rooms opened at Rouge Valley Centenary in 2015, The Hospital for Sick Children in 2014 and Markham Stouffville Hospital in 2013. The seventh Family Room will open later this year at Health Sciences North in Sudbury.

- 30 -

### **About Ronald McDonald House Charities Toronto**

Ronald McDonald House Charities Toronto has been fulfilling its mission since 1981 to provide a "home away from home" for seriously ill children and their families to heal better together. It operates a House for 81 families in downtown Toronto and Family Rooms in four hospitals across the GTA. Last year, 750 families stayed at the House and close to 2,400 families visited our Family Rooms. Ronald McDonald House Charities Toronto is an independent charity, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. For more information, visit [www.rmhctoronto.ca](http://www.rmhctoronto.ca).

### **About Trillium Health Partners**

Trillium Health Partners is one of the largest community-based acute care facilities in Canada. Comprised of Credit Valley Hospital, the Mississauga Hospital and the Queensway Health Centre, Trillium Health Partners serves the growing and diverse populations of Mississauga, West Toronto and surrounding communities. Trillium Health Partners is a teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto. Trillium Health Partners is an associate member of the Toronto Academic Health Science Network.

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