



Press Release

GoodHearts Mentoring Foundation

January 2007

It's been 21 years since Dr. Dennis Modry performed the first heart transplant in Western Canada. In the past two decades more than 500 people have received this wonderful gift of a renewed life at the University of Alberta Hospital.

Today, some 100 adult recipients live, work and flourish in the Edmonton area; another dozen or so are waiting for a heart transplant. The Stollery Children's Hospital is equally successful and progressive with its pediatric heart transplant program. This tremendous progress in cardiology has led to the establishment of the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, which is expected to open in 2007.

Members of this unique and vibrant transplant community have come together to organize a support group with the aim that no individual — pre- or post-transplant — be alone when needing answers, understanding and empathy from someone who has experienced the physical and emotional roller-coaster ride in this life-altering journey.

GoodHearts Mentoring Foundation is made up of recipients and their caregivers who have persevered through an overwhelming and awe-inspiring medical process. GoodHearts endeavours to provide recipients, patients on the waiting list, their families and caregivers with support, encouragement and guidance during each stage of the heart transplant journey.

With a sense of gratitude and service, GoodHearts Mentoring Foundation members wish to make Albertans aware of the benefits of transplantation and raise greater awareness of the dire need for more organ and tissue donors to be willing to renew and enhance the lives of others.

GoodHearts Mentoring Foundation supports the U of A Hospital transplant team by lauding the caring professionals' achievements of the past 21 years and by stressing the positive and lasting change a new transplant can bring each and every recipient and family.

Our website — www.goodhearts.ca — aims to reach out to every member of our confraternity as well as the public. We wish to share our experiences and help others achieve a productive and active life.

Our long-term goal is to work towards establishing an Edmonton residence as a temporary housing facility for out-of-town patients and their caregivers who must live close to the U of A Hospital while waiting for a transplant, and during the follow-up immediately after transplantation.

For further information about GoodHearts Mentoring contact:

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