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NEWS RELEASE

VON LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE *STAY @ HOME* PROGRAM HELPING KEEP CLIENTS OUT OF HOSPITALS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 9, 2007 (Ottawa, ON) — VON Canada and the Erie St. Clair Community Care and Access Centre are pleased to announce the launch of an innovative chronic disease self-management program called *Stay @ Home*.

The first phase of the program is aimed at 20-25 individuals in Chatham-Kent with diabetes who are at risk of hospitalization or emergency room visits. It introduces the use of a telehome monitoring program enhanced by disease specific education, and self-management classes.

“The project offers yet another tangible example of what can be done to improve patient care and comfort in their homes, while helping to reduce burdens on hospitals and the healthcare system,” says Dr. Judith Shamian, President and CEO of VON Canada. “This project allows clients to remain in their homes instead of in an institutional setting and to play an active roll in their treatment and recovery. It’s a great example of the application of technology bringing about a win-win for both patients and hospitals.”

A monitor installed in the client’s home prompts the client to take their daily weight, blood pressure and glucose. The data is then transferred over a phone line to a central station where a registered nurse views the information and implements proactive strategies to prevent a health care crisis before it occurs.

“Community Care Access Centres play a key role in Chronic Disease Management. The Erie St. Clair CCAC is happy to partner with the VON to enhance services to individuals with diabetes”, states Betty Kuchta, Executive Director of the CCAC. “This project will demonstrate that access to timely information for the health care team, and the individual involved, will improve self-management of this disease. We believe the results will be exciting and will lead the way to improved care delivery models.”

Chronic disease self-management classes based on the Stanford University Chronic Disease Self-Management program are also offered as part of the project.

“Self-management classes offer the opportunity for clients to become true partners in their own care by developing the skills and confidence needed to manage the daily challenges of living with a chronic disease and to deal effectively with the health care team”, says Janis Leiterman, Director of Best Practices in Chronic Disease Management for VON Canada.

The first set of chronic disease self-management classes will be offered to interested individuals from January 9-February 13, 2008 at the VON Chatham-Kent office located at 103-405 Riverview Dr., Chatham, ON. Anyone interested in taking the classes should contact the VON office for more information.

VON is dedicated to being a leader in the delivery of innovative comprehensive health and social services and to influencing the development of health and social policy in Canada. We are a national health organization and registered charity offering a wide range of community health care solutions that meet the needs of Canadians from coast to coast. VON is committed to continuous quality improvement and is accredited by the Canadian Council of Health Services Accreditation.

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