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Plans Unveiled for the North Shore's First Free-standing Hospice

The design plans for the North Shore's first free-standing hospice were unveiled today. Centrally located adjacent to Lions Gate Hospital at 13th and St. Andrew's Avenue, the Hospice will feature 15 spacious and comfortable private rooms, a living room, a shared kitchen, and quiet spaces.

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) has provided the land valued at \$2.6 million to build the Hospice and will own and manage the facility. Lions Gate Hospital Foundation, Lions Gate Hospice Society, and Family Services of the North Shore are embarking on a \$7.7M fundraising campaign to build and equip the Hospice.

"We are delighted to announce today, that almost \$3M has been raised, including a \$1M from a North Shore family" said Joanne Houssian, campaign chair and a director of Lions Gate Hospital Foundation. "The response to date has been tremendous and reflects how important expanding hospice services is to our community," said Houssian. "We hope others will get behind the campaign," she said.

The Hospice will be part of VCH's continuum of care and will provide quality, end-of-life care in a home-like setting to stable, terminally ill individuals. The comprehensive bereavement and grief and loss program will be delivered by VCH in partnership with Family Services of the North Shore. The Hospice's Resource Centre will provide program services for family caregivers.

"A free-standing hospice on the North Shore has been a dream for 20 years. It's long overdue. Ours is one of the only communities in the Lower Mainland without residential care services of the same calibre as our acute palliative care, services which we have benefited from for years," says Dr. Val Geddes, medical leader of the North Shore Palliative Care Program.

Construction of the Hospice will commence in late 2008 with the first patients being accepted in 2009.

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