

## Media Release

### For Immediate Release

August 5, 2010

### Bethany Lodge Reduces Its Emergency Department Transfers

**Unionville...** Bethany Lodge is participating in an Emergency Department Outreach Service (EDOS) initiative that has reduced the number of the home's residents transferred to the hospital emergency department.

The home highlighted this initiative to Christina Bisanz, CEO of the Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA), during a tour of the home today.

EDOS involves Bethany Lodge staff in partnership with the Nurse Lead Outreach team from Markham-Stouffville hospital. Where deemed medically appropriate, EDOS enables residents to receive both urgent and non-urgent emergency department services in the comfort of their own room, within the long term care home, from ER nurses who provide the care onsite. Should a resident need to be transferred to the hospital, there are Geriatric ER nurses who work in collaboration with the Nurse Lead Outreach team in order to reduce length of stay in emergency.

"EDOS eliminates the stress of being transferred to the hospital and, very often, having to wait in an unfamiliar and rushed environment," said Basil C. Tambakis, Administrator of Bethany Lodge. "Families of residents appreciate having access to the specialized ER expertise of the Nurse Lead Outreach team, as an additional support to long term care expertise of the home's staff."

"EDOS is an example of how long term care is partnering with other providers to positively impact both resident care and access to healthcare in their communities," said Ms. Bisanz, who is touring a number of OLTCA member homes across Ontario. "Long term care homes are helping develop and implement innovative programs that meet the increasingly complex medical needs of residents while helping meet broader system goals such as reducing emergency room wait times."

OLTCA represents the not-for-profit, charitable, private and municipal operators of 428 long term care homes that provide care and services to some 50,000 residents throughout Ontario.

Bethany Lodge is a 128 bed home that has been helping meet the long term care needs of Unionville residents for 40 years.

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