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COMMITTED TO THE CORE

MEDIA RELEASE

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RALLY, TUES., SEPT. 10, 1 P.M., HAMILTON URBAN CORE Community Health Centre calls on Ontario government for action now

Hamilton -- The city's well-known and bustling inner city community health centre will hold a rally, Tuesday, September 10, 1 pm – 3 pm, at 71 Rebecca St. to call public attention to the need for a new building and to urge Ontario Health Minister Deb Matthews to take action.

In 1997, when “The Core” opened its doors at the current location, it served 215 people. Today, there are more than 7,000 active, registered clients who depend on Hamilton Urban Core for primary health care, health promotion programs and essential support services.

The Hamilton Spectator's groundbreaking investigative series, “Code Red,” described the staggering numbers of inner city residents affected by poverty and, because of it, the serious health impediments they face.

The Core serves people living in poverty and has one of the highest provincial populations of those living with chronic and complex health conditions. It is a trusted and highly valued primary care provider. It is also a recognized leader in its field, offering preventive oral health services, foot care services, diabetes education awareness sessions, a street drop-in, therapeutic and supportive counseling, and much more. It is celebrated as a “safe” place – a place at which all people are treated with the utmost dignity and respect when they walk through the doors.

But for many years now, the Centre has outgrown its building (the former bus station) which has become broken-down and far too small to meet the critical needs. The matter is now urgent.

“We are hopeful this can be resolved quickly,” says Jane Mulkewich, Hamilton Urban Core Board Chair. “We believe that the government is committed to a fair society and health equity, that the Health Minister is committed to strengthening the community sector and that the LHIN is committed to meeting the needs of the very clients served by Hamilton Urban Core. The Core, as ever, is committed to ensuring people have access to high quality care to enable them to achieve the best possible outcomes.”

Rally speakers include Adrianna Tetley, Executive Director of the Association of Ontario Health Centres; Jane Mulkewich, HUC Chair of the Board of Directors; clients, supporters and others.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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