



## **Women across Canada raise \$1 million for Shriners Hospitals for Children - Canada**

**Montreal, Saturday July 18, 2009** - This afternoon, Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada received a cumulative \$1 million donation from the Daughters of the Nile (DON). The donation was presented by Mrs. Vesta Marshall on behalf of the 2900 members from the 12 Canadian Temples of the Daughters of the Nile (DON) who have raised these funds over the last 7 years through a variety of community based events across the country. Member of National Assembly for Westmount-Saint-Louis, Jacques Chagnon and Jocelyn Ann Campbell, Associate Councillor for families and social and community development at the city of Montreal were on hand to recognize this significant contribution to the pediatric orthopaedic healthcare establishment.

The ceremony began with Shriners Headquarters Leadership officially recognizing the outstanding contribution and achievement of the DON with an official plaque presentation. “The Daughters of the Nile are a model of will and perseverance to ensure the health and well being of children today and tomorrow” declared Deputy Imperial Potentate George A. Mitchell. “This contribution is as tremendous as the size of their collective hearts”, added Past Imperial Potentate and CEO Ralph W. Semb.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> million raised and presented to SHC-Canada by the DON, a first in the Shriners Hospitals system. The Canadian membership of the Daughters of the Nile has made this kind of exceptional contribution twice before. Past Supreme Queen Rhona Kerr of Oronto Temple No. 69 in Toronto (Ontario) presented the first million in 1995 and Nancelyn Ross of Sphinx Temple No.116 in Winnipeg (Manitoba) the second million in 2002.

“To assure quality health care and health services to all Quebecers is a priority. For this reason, I salute the initiatives that are consistent with this goal. Thanks to this generous donation, young patients treated at the Shriners Hospital and their families will benefit from a variety of much needed services” declared Jacques Chagnon, Member of National Assembly for Westmount-Saint-Louis.

“I am extremely pleased by this tremendous gesture of generosity offered to Montreal-area children and to the Montreal Shriners hospital, whose presence in our city has always been a source of pride. This donation as well as the institution receiving the funding will help improve the quality of life as well as the future of our youth, which has been an ongoing preoccupation for our administration,” said Jocelyn Ann Campbell, associate councillor for families and social and community development at the city of Montreal.

Daughters of the Nile funding have allowed, among other projects, the implementation of leadership programmes such as the Bone Anchored Hearing Aid programme lead by Dr. Lucie Lessard. Thanks to this technology and expertise, more than 70 profoundly deaf children have been able to hear since 1995. The DON also provide vital funding for the purchase of hundreds of prosthesis and orthosis annually for hospital patients.



“On behalf of our young patients and our staff, I wish to thank all of the Daughters of the Nile. In addition to the extraordinary gift they are making today, they are contributing to improve the quality of care and quality of life of the children and their families as well as addressing the day to day needs of the children by providing arts and crafts material and games for our Child Life Department” explained Gary Morrison, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Shriners Hospitals for Children-Canada.

During the ceremony, this donation was recognized through the Shriners Hospitals for Children Philanthropic Society which honours major living donors and deceased benefactors who give contributions and/or bequests in excess of \$250,000. The Daughters of the Nile were honoured with the placement of their third Gold Plaque for gifts of \$1 million or more located in the philanthropic centre wall near the entrance of the hospital.

#### **About the Daughters of the Nile**

Daughters of the Nile is an international fraternal organization for women 18 years of age or older, who are related by birth or marriage to a Shriner, Master Mason or Daughter of the Nile. Altogether, DON counts 34,000 members in 147 Temples across Canada and the United States. The first Temple – Hatasu No.1, was created in Seattle, Washington, in 1913. The first Canadian Temple was Miriam Temple No.2 created in Victoria (British Columbia) in 1918 and the second was Oasis No.46, created in Montreal (Quebec) in 1929.

#### **About Shriners Hospitals for Children - Canada**

Shriners Hospitals for Children (SHC) is a one-of-a-kind international healthcare system dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, innovative research and outstanding teaching programs. Located in Montreal, SHC-Canada is a bilingual, short term, acute care centre providing elective pediatric orthopaedic health care. The role of the Shriners Hospitals is to promote health and to provide treatment and rehabilitation to children with orthopaedic and neuromuscular problems in a family-centered environment at no charge. The Shriners Hospital is affiliated with McGill University and provides for clinical experience and teaching for residents and allied professionals.

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