



LOCAL NEWS: For Immediate Release

Emily's House Children's Hospice Receives Grant from Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) Foundation

TORONTO – August 19, 2016 – Emily's House children's hospice was presented with a USD 5,000 grant from the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) Foundation in Park Ridge, Illinois today to help provide children's hospice programs and recreational play therapies for children with complex disease and disability, and an under-lying life-limiting illness.

Emily's House, Toronto's first pediatric residential hospice, opened in July 2013, in response to the special needs of children facing the challenges of living with a life-limiting illness and their families. Emily's House offers specialized pediatric hospice care, as well as play, art and recreation programs to help enrich lives through all stages of a child's illness. As one parent wrote: ***"They supported our family during our most difficult days, in the most meaningful ways."***

After being introduced to Emily's House by Jeff Dawson of Jeffrey Dawson Insurance Agencies Limited, James Burton of PPI Financial Group, acted as sponsor for the grant application. Dawson presented the USD 5,000 grant cheque to Emily's House at an event today. "Where hospitals and established charities have secure funding bases, it is vitally important to consider new projects and grassroots initiatives where there is a gap that needs to be filled – to build awareness, core funding and sustainability," explained Dawson, representing Burton at the cheque presentation. "I can't even fathom having a child of our own in a similar situation. However we can help ... we will. Our hearts go out to all families with children who have life-limiting illnesses. We are grateful that Emily's House is there for them."

The MDRT Foundation, which provides global grants, is committed to building stronger families and communities around the globe. This year, it will award nearly \$1 million in MDRT member-endorsed grants to more than 100 charitable organizations worldwide. The foundation was created in 1959 to provide MDRT members with a means to give back to their communities. Since its inception, it has donated more than \$29 million in the U.S. and more than 70 countries around the world. These funds were raised by MDRT members and their industry partners.

"We are very grateful for the support of MDRT, James Burton and Jeffrey Dawson. Compassionate care begins with individuals who have a heart for hospice," says Rauni Salminen, C.E.O., Emily's House and Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care: ***"When there is no cure – someone needs to help these children and their families feel as supported as possible."***

The MDRT Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Million Dollar Round Table, The Premier Association of Financial Professionals®. MDRT is an international, independent association of nearly 42,000 life insurance and financial services professionals from more than 80 countries and territories. MDRT membership is internationally recognized as the standard of sales excellence in the life insurance and financial services business. For more information, visit mdrt.org.

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