



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Saturday, May 23, 2009

First Annual SKHIP Raises \$11,740 in Pledges for Local Orthopaedic Care

CHATHAM, ON (Saturday, May 23, 2009): Today, over 50 participants took part in the first annual **SKHIP- *it's a joints effort***. The walk, attended by local Orthopaedic patients and their family and friends, was held at the Active Lifestyle Centre in Chatham to celebrate the patients' restored mobility and to raise funds to support Chatham-Kent Health Alliance's Orthopaedic and Physiotherapy programs.

Early projections are indicating that \$11,740.60 was raised at today's event through generous donations and participant pledges. "The tremendous support of the residents of Chatham-Kent for this first annual event has been fantastic," says Michele Grzebien, Executive Director, Foundation of Chatham-Kent Health Alliance. "It is a true testament to the quality of care provided to patients in Chatham-Kent Health Alliance's Orthopaedic program." The funds raised through **SKHIP** (Shoulder, Knee, Hip) will help support the purchase of much-needed equipment and supplies for Chatham-Kent Health Alliance's Orthopaedic and Physiotherapy programs.

The first annual **SKHIP** featured a short walk that was suitable for all ages, information booths, refreshments, face painting, an Urban Poling demonstration and door prizes. It also provided patients with an opportunity to reconnect with their Orthopaedic Surgeons as Dr. Z. Kukkadi and Dr. J. Turnbull were in attendance along with health care providers from Chatham-Kent Health Alliance.

A special thanks to Delhaven Orchards Ltd., Maple Art Gallery, Russell Tool & Die Ltd., Sobeys, Stryker and Tim Hortons for their support of this event through in-kind donations.

About the Foundation of Chatham-Kent Health Alliance

The Foundation of Chatham-Kent Health Alliance was established in 1998 to enhance the quality of healthcare available to the citizens of Chatham-Kent by raising funds and providing other resources to support Chatham-Kent Health Alliance. It accomplishes this through annual campaigns, capital and endowment campaigns, memorial giving, special events and planned giving. To date, the Foundation has raised over \$28 million.

- 30 -

For more information, contact:

Barb Noorenberghe, Special Events Officer
Foundation of Chatham-Kent Health Alliance
bnoorenberghe@ckha.on.ca or 519-436-2538