

## News Release / Pour publication immédiate

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**For Immediate Release**  
**May 1, 2014**

### **Erie St. Clair LHIN Helping Seniors Transition from Hospital to Home**

**CHATHAM-KENT-** The Erie St. Clair LHIN is pleased to fund \$162,250 annually to the Homeward Bound Program of Chatham-Kent. Homeward Bound is a program of the Canadian Red Cross in partnership with Family Service Kent. The program was first piloted in Sarnia/Lambton and based on its success it has been introduced locally.

The Homeward Bound Program provides short-term services to assist patients returning from hospital or respite to home and is based on individual need. The program is a vital option in the discharge process, helps to relieve the stress patients face when transitioning home, and helps reduce hospital readmissions.

The Homeward Bound Program offers support to clients in their first few days back at home. The services are available at no cost and are provided based on the individual needs of the client. Services can include:

- Transportation home from hospital
- Light housekeeping, grocery shopping, laundry, and meal preparation
- Frozen meal program – two complete days' worth of nutritious frozen, ready-to-heat meals
- Home safety assessment
- Companionship visits and social activities such as playing games, watching television, or reading
- Links to other health programs or community services to support the activities of daily living

The Homeward Bound staff work in collaboration with the Community Care Access Centre Care Coordinators, hospital staff, and community agencies to refer individuals to the program; patients can also self-refer to the program. For more information about the Homeward Bound Program, visit [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca) or call 1-844-603-9056

### **QUOTES**

"I often hear that "Home is Good Medicine". We know seniors prefer to heal in their own homes, because they are more comfortable with their friends, family, and familiar surroundings. The new Homeward Bound program in Chatham-Kent helps to ensure that seniors are able to receive the care they need, where they are most comfortable – at home."

Gary Switzer, CEO, Erie St. Clair LHIN

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“The Homeward Bound initiative aligns well with the Canadian Red Cross mission to improve the lives of vulnerable people with increased partnership and networking. We are excited to build our partnership with Family Service Kent which is indicative of the caring and thoughtful approach that each agency brings to this community. The Red Cross is committed to ensuring that our community has appropriate resources to ensure our clients receive better care, better experiences, and better value.”

Cheryl Tompkins, Senior Manager CSS Programs, Canadian Red Cross

“Family Service Kent is excited to be a part of the Homeward Bound initiative that will now enable all individuals in the Chatham-Kent community to access a variety of home support services while they transition from hospital to home. This new partnership with Red Cross is one that will surely have a positive impact on the work we do through the CHAP program and Family Service Kent to support, advocate, and empower.”

Diane Lozon, Community Support Services Manager, Family Service Kent

### FACTS

In 2013 Homeward Bound in Sarnia/Lambton:

- Assisted 709 clients from hospital to home
- Delivered 3,747 frozen meals
- Provided 2,475 Support Staff hours

### LEARN MORE

Read more about Erie St. Clair LHIN at [www.eriestclairhin.on.ca](http://www.eriestclairhin.on.ca)

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