
Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network

November 16, 2010

**SENIORS WHO ARE HOMEWARD BOUND GET A LIFT
AND MORE**

Seniors in Sarnia are getting a lift home and more, through the help of the Homeward Bound Program run by the Canadian Red Cross, Sarnia-Lambton Branch. The program provides assistance to seniors returning home after a hospital stay, emergency room visit, or an out-patient procedure. The purpose of the service is to facilitate a timely and effective transition for patients returning home.

The program, launched in 2008 through the Erie St. Clair LHIN's Aging at Home Strategy, can provide patient transportation from hospital to home, Meals on Wheels services for two full days, and home management and companionship for up to seven hours over three days.

Harold, a recent client of the Homeward Bound Program, needed the service as his wife Pat doesn't feel comfortable driving. The Red Cross provided relief to the couple who already had caregiver responsibilities for their disabled daughter. Pat felt that the Transitional Support Staff were wonderful and helped to complete many chores in a short amount of time. "Having Homeward Bound Transitional Support Staff help to catch up on the tasks around our home provided a mental release for us," said Pat.

Thanks to the Homeward Bound Program, Harold has remained connected to other community resources. He now orders Meals on Wheels, appreciating the delivery of hot meals right to his door until he fully recovers. He plans to start using the transportation services to make it to and from his weekly laboratory visits.

When asked about his experience with the Homeward Bound Program, Harold said, "This is a worthwhile service that was carried out thoroughly in a professional yet personal manner that had both me and my spouse feeling completely comfortable."

Since April 1, 2010, 175 patient days have been saved at Lambton County hospitals through the efforts of the Homeward Bound Program.