

News Release



BRIDGEPOINT Hospital
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**For Immédiate Release
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COUPLE TO TREK 300 KM FOR LOCAL CHARITY

Toronto, August 9, 2006 – When Riverdale resident Dr. Karen Chien treks 300 km through the rugged Scottish Highlands this August, she'll be doing so for a cause that's very close to home.

Chien, and her husband Adam Nicklin, are embarking on the walking odyssey to raise funds for the palliative care unit at Bridgepoint hospital. Not only is Bridgepoint the hospital where Chien works, but the palliative care unit is where her grandfather, Dr. Sau Ngai Chan, spent his final days.

Chien was so impressed by the care her grandpa received that she felt the fundraiser would be a noble cause to pursue in his honour.

The couple hopes to complete their quest within 13 days, from Aug. 28 to Sept 9. The scenic journey will include two famous long-distance walks, namely the 155 Km West Highland Way and the Great Glen Way, which spans 120 km.

Bridgepoint Health's palliative care unit is one of the largest in Toronto, with 41 beds. The unit is also unique in providing long-term palliative care, whereby patients may spend up to a year in the unit.

Bridgepoint Health is an integrated health services organization focused on providing a continuum of care for individuals in the Greater Toronto Area who are living with complex chronic disease and disability. This announcement comes shortly on the heels of Bridgepoint Health receiving Provincial funding to build a new state of the art Hospital expressly built to serve the needs of people living with complex chronic disease and disability and City of Toronto approval for a Bridgepoint campus development plan that will see the historic Don Jail renovated and the creation of new, accessible parklands in the Riverdale community. Bridgepoint Health is comprised of Bridgepoint Hospital; Bridgepoint Health Research Institute; Bridgepoint Centre for Living; Bridgepoint Community Rehab; and the Bridgepoint Health Foundation.

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Backgrounder



The Chien Family & Bridgepoint Health

The Chien family is dedicated to helping Bridgepoint Health achieve its mission to change the world for people living with complex chronic disease and disability. Dr. Vincent Chien is an internal medicine specialist and Chair of the Bridgepoint Health Medical Advisory Committee, his sister, Dr. Karen Chien, is a family practitioner at Bridgepoint specializing in palliative care and their mother, Lorraine, is a renowned teddy bear designer who donates her award winning bears to the Bridgepoint Palliative Care unit every year.

Dr. Vincent Chien

After graduating from medical school at the University of Toronto with an Honours in internal medicine, Dr. Chien began his career in acute care at Wellesley Hospital. Following a merger with St. Michael's Hospital, his practice continued there. Vince's interests in neurological and orthopedic rehabilitation brought him to Bridgepoint Health and his relationships with staff and patients has flourished here ever since.

In addition to his M.D., Vince completed a Masters of Education at The University of Toronto and is currently a teacher and mentor to aspiring physicians. His teaching skills are widely recognized and he has received awards from St. Michael's Hospital, the Fitzgerald Academy, The University Health Network's Toronto Hospital and The University of Toronto. Beyond working at Bridgepoint Health, Vince is also a member of the clinical staff of the Department of Medicine at St. Michael's Hospital.

Vince is deeply committed to the patients of Bridgepoint Hospital and is a champion of the organization's plans to pioneer a new era of specialized assessment and treatment of patients living with complex, chronic disease and disability – the most pressing health care issue of the 21st century.

Dr. Karen Chien

Dr. Chien is an accomplished classical guitarist and was once considered among the top 10 classical guitar musicians in the world. She has a Masters degree in immunology and MD from the University of Western Ontario. She currently operates a family practice at St. Michael's Hospital and shares the palliative practice at Bridgepoint Health with a team of internists from St. Michael's. Dr. Chien is also highly committed to Bridgepoint's mission to change the world for individuals living with complex, chronic disease and disability.

Lorraine Chien

Lorraine Chien is the mother of Drs. Karen and Dr. Vincent Chien and like her children, she is very committed to making a difference in the lives of patients at Bridgepoint Health. Lorraine is a celebrated designer of teddy bears for the GANS toy company and regularly donates the bears she creates to the Palliative Care Unit of Bridgepoint Health. The bears have also been auctioned off for a number of Bridgepoint Health fundraisers. Lorraine has been honoured as a "Hall-of-Famer" by Toronto's famed 'One of a Kind Show' and she runs a bear collectors' club supported by numerous fans of her designs.