



# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Friday, February 13, 2009

## RESEARCH LOOKS AT THE EFFECTS OF CHILDHOOD CANCER ON GRANDPARENTS

Calgary, AB – The **Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta (KCCFA)** today announced its first **Nursing and Allied Health Research Awards**, which will be awarded to clinical researchers and health care professionals at the **University of Calgary** and **Alberta Children's Hospital** whose research show promise for improving the lives and outcomes for Alberta children with cancer and their families.

Among the four new research projects funded by KCCFA this year is a study by **U of C nursing professor Dr. Nancy Moules**, who is investigating the **impact of childhood cancer on grandparents**. Moules' study will look at what is called the **silent yet double-worry of grandparents who struggle to cope with the cancer diagnosis themselves while supporting their adult children and their sick grandchild**. Although extensive research has been done on children with cancer and their parents, very little attention has been directed to grandparents: "Grandparents worry and grieve for their grandchild while trying to support, love and buoy their own child," said Moules. "The burden is enormous and yet support is minimal for this generation of the family."

"I get pretty emotional just thinking about that time," said Carl Hendrie recalling his grandson's cancer diagnosis at age six. "It was devastating to get that news. I didn't know how I could help but I knew I wanted to be there in whatever way they needed me. Their lives turned upside down and so did ours but we all got through it."

Representing the first research alliance between the U of C Faculty of Nursing and the Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, Blood and Marrow Transplant Program at the Alberta Children's Hospital, researchers from the university and the hospital expect results from the study to change both nursing practice and education. Ultimately, Moules hopes the study will give oncology professionals the information they need to design and deliver new programs and services to meet the unique needs of grandparents like Carl Hendrie.

"We are pleased to offer these new research awards," said Christine Wandzura, founder and chief executive officer of KCCFA. "We will always fund basic science in the lab but we know it is equally important to support research at the hospital and in the community. All of these research pieces play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for children with cancer and their families. They work together to improve the cancer journey and ultimately the child's chances of survival."

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*Helping young people and their families affected by cancer by providing enhanced care at the hospital, educational opportunities through scholarships, amazing camp experiences and hope through new research.*  
[www.kidscancercare.ab.ca](http://www.kidscancercare.ab.ca)

Among the new research projects funded by KCCFA this year are two more Nursing and Allied Health Research Awards and a \$300,000 Establishment Award, the largest Establishment Award KCCFA has awarded to date. *An overview of the new research projects funded by KCCFA this year follows in the attached backgrounder.*

This year's research announcement anticipates International Childhood Cancer Day on Sunday, February 15, a day set aside each year to raise awareness of childhood cancer and to celebrate the milestones in the quest to end this disease.

### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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### **MEDIA AVAILABILITY**

11 AM – 12 PM

IN-PERSON INTERVIEWS

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS

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### **TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS 11 AM – 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM**

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