



**United Way/Centraide of the  
Upper Ottawa Valley Inc.**



**Carefor Health & Community  
Services**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Carefor & United Way Partner on Van Retrofit**

### **Vans to meet non-urgent medical transportation needs for clients in Renfrew County**

**Pembroke** – Medical transportation is a high priority need in Renfrew County, with pressure points being felt by all health care and community support service agencies throughout Renfrew County. Measures are being taken to help ease some of that system wide pressure by utilizing two vans provided to Carefor Health & Community Services in Pembroke. Both vans have recently been fully equipped to accommodate the wheelchair disabled, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the United Way/Centraide of the Upper Ottawa Valley Inc. (UWUOV).

The vans were provided to Carefor as lead agency in Renfrew County by Champlain LHIN and the Ministry of Health as part of the LHIN Aging @ Home strategy. Recognizing the need for the vans to be wheelchair accessible, Carefor approached UWUOV late last year for funding to install wheelchair lifts in both vehicles. As medical services and transportation were two of the six high priority issues arising out of the United Way's recent Community Matters' public consultation initiative, the United Way Board approved a grant from its Community Project Fund to cover the retrofit work.

“Carefor, as one of the United Way's thirteen member agencies, was already receiving funding for other worthwhile programs to help seniors,” says United Way board chair, Mike Wright. “But Carefor's request for additional help with the van retrofit resonated with our Board because of the potential it had to provide assistance to those in our communities who required transportation to and from medical appointments, as well as providing the possibility of reducing pressures on other agencies allowing them to better focus on their primary function.”

Since receiving the vans, transportation services have been provided to clients from a variety of programs, however, recently a more structured service model has been in development to improve access to medical and health care services within Renfrew County and the broader Champlain area.

According to Carefor Executive Director, Steve Perry, the longer term vision for the vans includes a coordinated approach to client transfers from hospital to home, to and from medical and specialist appointments and programs and Frozen Meals delivery to depots within Renfrew County. “We thank the United Way for investing donor dollars in this worthwhile project. While these two vans are only part of the solution in meeting the health care related transportation needs in Renfrew County, they will have an important role in helping to ease the chronic need for such service”.

For further information, please contact:

Mike Wright, United Way Board Chair (613) 735-0436	Steve Perry, Carefor Health & Community Services (613) 732-9993 ext. 3214
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