

New CHIP Program helps Bridgepoint Patients Stay Connected

More Bridgepoint patients are able to stay connected with family, friends and the outside world, thanks to a new program supported by CHIP Charitable Services. CHIP covers the cost of telephone service, long-distance calling cards and TV service for patients who can't afford them.

CHIP – which stands for Communities Helping Individual Patients – is active at half a dozen health-care centres in southern Ontario. Bridgepoint is the first complex care hospital that CHIP supports.

“Staying connected with the outside world is very beneficial to patients’ quality of life,” said Wendy Cameron, Professional Practice Leader in Social Work & Discharge Planning. “There’s not this sense of isolation and being trapped in a hospital. Having the ability to keep in touch with family has a huge impact for the patients, especially for patients whose families



CHIP President Jim Dinneen (third from left) presents a donation to Bridgepoint staff.

don't live nearby and can't visit as often as they'd like.”

For patients who are highly isolated and not very mobile, TV access gives them a window into the world beyond their beds. This may prevent these patients from becoming depressed, and motivate them to continue their rehabilitation activities.

If you know of a patient who would benefit from the CHIP program, please contact the social worker on the patient's unit. The social worker will work with you to complete an application form, which is based on criteria developed by Bridgepoint and CHIP. For more information, contact Wendy Cameron at wcameron@bridgepointhealth.ca or x2213.