

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Y Staff
FROM: Shaun Elliott
RE: Wellspring
DATE: October 26, 2011

Effective January 2012 the YMCA of Western Ontario and Wellspring London and Region will enter into a service agreement. At that time, the supportive cancer care programs and services provided by Wellspring will move from their current location to Centre Branch.

Wellspring, an affiliate of Wellspring Foundation in Toronto, was introduced to the London area in 2000 by the WCA, a community based health and human services charitable organization, founded in London in 1874.

Two Wellspring staff members, Joanna Meilleur and Daniel Lockwood will be joining our YMCA family in January 2012. Their offices and services will be located in what was called Multipurpose Room “A” and “B” Renovations will begin shortly to accommodate the needs of Wellspring.

We are committed to supporting Wellspring in its mission to deliver cancer care programs and services in our community and we look forward to the collaboration with Wellspring as we collectively work toward the building of a healthier community.

Please welcome Joanna and Daniel to our Y.

<http://www.wellspring.ca/London>

Attached:
Press Release, Wellspring Background Info, Q&A

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2011

LONDON, ON--Wellspring London and Region is pleased to announce that it has entered into a service agreement with the YMCA of Western Ontario effective January 1, 2012. At that time, the supportive cancer care programs and services provided by Wellspring will move from the current location at 231 Hyman Street to Centre Branch of the YMCA of Western Ontario at 382 Waterloo Street.

Wellspring, an affiliate of the Wellspring Cancer Support Network in Toronto, was introduced to the London area in 2000 by the WCA, a community based health and human services charitable organization, founded in London in 1874.

Barbara Willis, Chair of the Board of both the WCA and Wellspring London and Region, says the WCA is extremely proud of the success and growth of Wellspring over the past decade and welcomes the collaboration with the YMCA of Western Ontario.

“By leveraging the resources of our respective organizations, Wellspring will be able to extend its reach into the community and serve a larger population,” Ms. Willis says. “We can ensure that the programs and services of Wellspring, which have become so beneficial to those on their cancer journey in London, will continue.”

Wellspring receives no government funding so it relies entirely on the generosity of its donors and supporters. By sharing infrastructure through the service agreement with the YMCA of Western Ontario, more donor dollars will be invested directly in programming.

“Wellspring remains committed to the same values, program models and quality review processes that led to its success,” Ms. Willis says. “We are confident our donors and supporters will also see the merit of this new operational model.”

“YMCA of Western Ontario is committed to supporting Wellspring in its mission to deliver cancer care programs and services in our community,” says Shaun Elliott, CEO. Murray Faulkner, Chair, Board of Directors says, “We look forward to the collaboration with Wellspring as we collectively work toward the building of a healthier community”.

For further information, please contact:

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Background Information

Wellspring London and Region offers supportive cancer care programs and services to the people of London and region. As an affiliate of the Wellspring Cancer Support Network in Toronto, Wellspring London and Region adheres to the values, program models and quality review processes of the national Wellspring network. Wellspring London and Region receives no government funding and relies entirely on the support of its donors and supporters.

The YMCA of Western Ontario is a multi-service charity that provides opportunities for personal growth in spirit, mind and body for people of all backgrounds, beliefs and abilities.

The WCA is a community based health and human services charitable organization, founded in 1874 in London, Ontario. With a long tradition of compassionate care for the elderly and the vulnerable, the WCA owns and operates McCormick Home, a 160 bed long term care facility located in west London. The WCA also founded and manages Alzheimer Outreach Services, serving individuals with Alzheimer disease and related dementias and their caregivers. In 2000, the WCA was instrumental in establishing Wellspring London and Region, a cancer care support centre.

Wellspring London and Region Service Agreement with the YMCA of Western Ontario Questions and Answers

1. Why is the Wellspring London and Region board entering into a service agreement with the YMCAWO?

In 2000, the WCA introduced Wellspring's supportive cancer care programs and services to London with the expectation that Wellspring would be independent and supported by the community within three to five years. Over the past ten years, Wellspring London and Region has benefited from increasing levels of community support but as Wellspring has grown, its reliance on the WCA for support has continued. Wellspring London and Region determined that a new approach was required if it was ever to become completely independent and financially sustainable in the long run.

Over the past two years the Wellspring London and Region board has been exploring its options and pursuing possible collaborations and community partners. The board was extremely pleased to find the YMCAWO open to these kinds of discussions. Through these discussions it was determined that the YMCAWO had sufficient facility space, management, finance and administrative capacity to accommodate Wellspring programs and services.

By leveraging existing infrastructure, Wellspring and the YMCAWO have created a care model which ensures Wellspring programs and services continue to be available within the current level of community support.

2. Who is the WCA and why do they support this agreement?

The WCA is a community based health and human services charitable organization, founded in 1874 in London, Ontario. With a long tradition of compassionate care for the elderly and the vulnerable, the WCA owns McCormick Home and operates Alzheimer Outreach Services. In 2000, the WCA brought the Wellspring model to London with the expectation that Wellspring would be independent and supported by the community within three to five years.

The WCA is extremely proud of the growth and development of Wellspring over the past ten years, but it has become clear that a different governance structure is required if Wellspring London and Region is to become independent and financially sustainable in the long run. The WCA supports the efforts of the Wellspring London and Region board to create its own independent board and enter into this creative service agreement with the YMCAWO.

The WCA is committed to working with the YMCAWO to facilitate Wellspring's next stage in its development as a stand alone charitable organization.

3. How will entering into a service agreement with the YMCAWO impact the Wellspring London and Region board?

While members of the board will change, the Wellspring London and Region board will remain. The Wellspring London and Region board has an affiliation agreement with the national Wellspring network which includes commitments related to maintaining the values, program models and quality review processes of the national network. The board assumes sole responsibility for raising funds in the community to support Wellspring's programs and services. The board will also have responsibility for oversight of the service agreement with the YMCAWO.

Responsibility for Wellspring rests with the Wellspring London and Region board. The YMCAWO is providing facility space and management services to assist the Wellspring board in fulfilling its responsibilities in a more cost effective way.

4. How will the service agreement impact the Wellspring London and Region Foundation?

All fundraising activities will be managed through Wellspring London and Region under the terms of the service agreement. The Wellspring London and Region Foundation will be preserved for a future use to be determined by the Wellspring London and Region board.

Board members of the Wellspring London and Region Foundation will be encouraged to continue to play a role in future governance and/or fund development activities in support of Wellspring.

5. How will Wellspring programs and services be impacted by the service agreement with the YMCAWO?

Wellspring staff are currently working with staff from the YMCAWO to develop a design for the Wellspring office space as well as determine where Wellspring programs can be accommodated using existing program spaces within the central branch. As an example, the YMCAWO has a beautiful exercise studio space that will be the perfect setting for yoga, tai-chi and chi-gong programs.

The YMCAWO is committed to working with Wellspring program staff to schedule programs to ensure that members' privacy is respected and the specific needs of members are met.

In the future, Wellspring expects to expand programs across the YMCAWO branch network.

6. Is the YMCAWO taking over Wellspring?

No. The YMCAWO has sufficient facility space, management, finance and administrative capacity to meet the needs of Wellspring. The Wellspring London and Region board still retains responsibility for the Wellspring program as well as fundraising to sustain and grow the organization.

7. Is the YMCAWO funding Wellspring?

No. Wellspring will still rely on the support of its donors to continue to offer its programs and services free of charge to members. Without any government funding, Wellspring relies entirely on community support. By leveraging the resources of the YMCAWO and Wellspring, we have significantly reduced infrastructure costs so more of your donor dollars go directly to fund programs.

8. What other options were considered? Were other collaborations pursued?

Wellspring London and Region pursued a number of collaborative partnerships but the YMCAWO service agreement represented the best opportunity to reduce infrastructure costs to the point where community support could sustain Wellspring in the long term.

9. How will I access Wellspring programs in the future?

We are currently working with the YMCAWO staff to develop the specific processes that will ensure ease of access of Wellspring members to programs. Peer support volunteers and front office volunteers will be on hand to welcome you in January as before. We will provide additional information to you as we move closer to January 1, 2012.

10. What role will the WCA have in the future of Wellspring?

The WCA is extremely proud of the growth and development of Wellspring over the past ten years, but it has become clear that a different governance structure is required if Wellspring London and Region is to become independent and financially sustainable in the long run. The WCA supports the efforts of the Wellspring London and Region board to create its own independent board and enter into this creative service agreement with the YMCAWO. Following the successful transition to the YMCAWO, the WCA will cease to have a role in Wellspring's governance.

The WCA has agreed to share the costs of redeveloping the Wellspring space at the centre branch with the YMCAWO.

11. How is the service agreement structured?

Wellspring London and Region has entered into a service agreement with the YMCAWO to provide office and program space for Wellspring. Senior leadership from the YMCAWO will support the efforts of the Wellspring board and staff in operating the programs and services. Finance and administrative support will be provided by the YMCAWO. In return for these services, Wellspring London and Region and the YMCAWO have agreed on an annual fee for these services that result in significant savings to Wellspring, resulting in a financially sustainable model.

12. Is this a permanent arrangement? What happens if it doesn't work?

Wellspring London and Region and the YMCAWO have entered into a three year agreement. The agreement is subject to formal reviews annually. At the end of three years, Wellspring and the YMCAWO will have the option to renew the agreement or pursue other options.

13. When will programs start at the YMCAWO?

We anticipate having Wellspring programs available at the central branch of the YMCAWO beginning in January 2012.

14. What impact will this service agreement have on my volunteer role?

None. We will still need front desk and peer support volunteers and we hope that you will join with us at our new location starting in January 2012. We will keep you informed as we get closer to that date.

15. Where is the central branch of the Y and how will I access Wellspring space?

The central branch of the YMCAWO is located at 382 Waterloo St. in downtown London. Parking is available free of charge on the lot to the north of the facility and metered parking is available on King Street. The facility can be accessed directly from the parking lot or from the main doors on Waterloo St. YMCAWO staff, located at the registration desk in the

central atrium, will be able to direct you to the Wellspring space which is on the main floor, west of the registration desk.

16. Will I need to be a member of the YMCAWO to access Wellspring programs?

No. We are working with the YMCAWO staff to develop procedures for Wellspring members to access Wellspring program spaces and will advise you of these procedures prior to January 2012.

17. How will the service agreement impact on Wellspring staff?

Under the terms of the service agreement, the YMCAWO will provide management, finance and administrative support. As a result, Kristen Goodman, Executive Director, and Sandy Payne, Finance and Administrative Coordinator, will retire. Daniel Lockwood, Program Director, and Joanna Meilleur, Director of Fund Development, will transfer to the YMCAWO and continue to operate Wellspring.

18. Who are the YMCAWO and why are they entering into the service agreement?

The YMCAWO, established in London in 1856, has a proud heritage of service and deep rooted commitment to the London region. The YMCAWO offers programs in London, Middlesex, Oxford and Elgin Counties. Its mission, “to provide opportunities for personal growth in spirit, mind and body for all people of all backgrounds, beliefs and abilities” complements Wellspring’s philosophy extremely well”.

TheYMCAWO is committed to supporting Wellspring in its mission to deliver cancer care programs and services in our community and collectively working toward building a healthier community.

19. What happens to the existing Wellspring offices?

Wellspring’s existing facilities on Hyman St and Richmond St. are leased spaces. The lease term ends January 31, 2012, at which time Wellspring will vacate both properties and operate solely through the central branch of the YMCAWO.