

Press Release
For Immediate Release
September 29, 2010

Fontbonne Ministries: 10 Years of Nurturing Community

Sisters continue to address social needs through their organization

Toronto Ten years ago, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto established Fontbonne Ministries, a registered charity established to nurture community with the neighbour, especially the homeless, the alienated, the economically poor and women at risk.

"In 1851 our founder, Sister Delphine Fontbonne, arrived in Toronto with three Sisters to respond to the many social needs," said Sister Thérèse Meunier, the Congregational Leader. "Today, through Fontbonne Ministries, we continue that tradition of responding to the needs of the day."

Fontbonne Ministries' first outreach effort was established on the street that early Sisters of St. Joseph walked in the 1850's – Queen Street. Aptly named *Mustard Seed*, its offerings grew from a small community kitchen to a sizable program that offers life skills from sewing and crafts to computers.

A wealth of other ministries followed. The Sisters created *Fontbonne Place*, a building whose two top floors have 18 apartments — affordable, rent-g geared-to-income housing for older, single women – and whose two bottom floors offer welcoming space for more outreach. *In Good Company* followed, a friendly visiting program responding to individuals seeking emotional, spiritual and social support. *Studio on the Hill* offers opportunities to work creatively with clay in a relaxing and friendly studio in East York. *Village Mosaic* provides a welcoming space in south Etobicoke for isolated seniors to come together for hospitality and community building. *Faith Connections* invites young adults (18-39) to engage in opportunities that generate spiritual growth.

To celebrate Fontbonne Ministries' 10th Anniversary, the Sisters are holding an **Open House** on **October 1, from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** at **Fontbonne Place**, 791 Queen St. E., in Toronto. All are invited to celebrate with them.

For more information, contact:

Gisela Côté, Director of Communications
Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto
3377 Bayview Ave., Toronto, ON M2M 3S4
Tel: 416-250-3119 Fax: 416-222-9816
Email: gcote@csj-to.ca Website: www.csj-to.ca