

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 7, 2008



THE
RICHMOND HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

Contact: Stephanie Dunn
604-278-9711 x 4365
stephanie.dunn@vch.ca

Original Painting by Internationally-Acclaimed Artist to Brighten Spirits and Raise Funds for Richmond Hospital

Renowned artist Michael Tickner was at Richmond Hospital today to present “Safe Haven” an original painting, to Dr. Jeff Coleman, COO, Richmond Health Services.

The painting, commissioned by **Dr. Andrew Jakubowski** with the generous support of Arthur Block, will reside inside the hospital until it is auctioned at the 10th Annual Starlight Gala on October 25, 2008.

“Safe Haven” has also been reproduced as a 30’ x 10’ mural which will be installed outside the entrance to the Emergency Department. The bright, colourful image will raise the spirits of all who enter and exit emergency. The mural will be unveiled on April 10 at 10:00am to hospital administration, politicians and the media.

“I am very pleased to be putting my work in this location and am sure that it will in some small way add a positive energy to that area of the hospital. I am also pleased that we have figured out a way to make the project a fundraiser for the hospital,” says Tickner.

“Safe Haven” will be showcased at **Cork and Canvas** on April 24, 2008. Guests of the event will have the opportunity to purchase limited edition prints. Cork and Canvas is a wine tasting and art sale to benefit The Richmond Hospital Foundation.

The original painting will be auctioned at **The 10th Annual Starlight Gala** on October 25, 2008. The Starlight Gala is The Richmond Hospital Foundation’s annual gala fundraiser.

“Our hospital will benefit tremendously from this beautiful painting and the generosity of Dr. Jakubowski and Arthur Block,” says Lisa Westermarck, Executive Director of The Richmond Hospital Foundation. “Not only will the mural brighten our busy Emergency Department, but by auctioning off the original painting we will be able to raise money to fund urgently needed medical equipment.”

“Safe Haven” is a bright, colourful painting with a uniquely Richmond theme. It features the quaint Steveston waterfront and the dramatic backdrop of the North Shore Mountains.

Michael Tickner is a Vancouver-based artist well known for his “contemporary primitive” style. His bold, colourful paintings are collected by serious private and corporate collectors around the world. Two of Tickner’s images were included in the Vancouver Olympic Bid Committee’s final bid presentation to the IOC Members in Prague.

Established in 1987, **The Richmond Hospital Foundation** is a registered charity that is committed to raising money to fill the gap between government funding and the greater needs of

our hospital. The foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees who represent a broad spectrum of the community.

Upcoming art events to raise spirits and funds for The Richmond Hospital Foundation:

April 10 (10:00am) - Unveiling of “Safe Haven” Mural at the entrance to the Emergency Department with media, politicians, hospital administration and guests.

April 24 – Cork and Canvas, a wine tasting and art sale to benefit The Richmond Hospital Foundation.

October 25 – the 10th Annual Starlight Gala, featuring the auction of the original painting “Safe Haven,” by Michael Tickner.

***Attached please find** a photo of Michael Tickner, Artist; Lisa Westermark, Executive Director, The Richmond Hospital Foundation; and Dr. Jeff Coleman, COO, Richmond Health Services.*