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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

***Four Counties Health Services officially opens new Endoscopy suite***

**(Newbury, ON) –** Four Counties Health Services (FCHS) celebrated the grand reopening of its Endoscopy suite on Thursday, June 6, 2019. Over 60 participants were on hand for congratulatory remarks from Catherine Osborne, Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) board representative; Tom Jeffery, FCHS Foundation board chair; and Todd Stepanuik, President and CEO of the MHA. Video greetings and congratulations were also received from Monte McNaughton, MPP, Lambton-Kent-Middlesex and Dr. Akram Elgamal, MHA’s surgeon who performs the endoscopies at FCHS.

This suite has been upgraded with a brand new state-of-the-art scope system, providing high definition pictures, which contribute to increased detection and diagnosis of disease for our patients. With this new equipment and the enhancement of the Endoscopy program, it is anticipated that approximately 500 procedures will be completed at FCHS annually, an increase of 350 procedures from previous years.

Following the unveiling of the campaign donor recognition plaque, the FCHS Foundation presented a cheque to FCHS for $450,000, representing donations from 20 corporate, individual, municipal and service club donors. Guided tours of the new endoscopy suite were provided following the presentation.

“Congratulations to the FCHS Foundation Board, staff, volunteers and the FCHS community for your compassion, hard work and dedication to make the purchase and installation of this new equipment a reality. The vision at FCHS since opening its doors in 1967 has been to provide high quality health care services to patients closer to home. This vision continues today as we provide excellence in quality and services through innovation,” says Catherine Osborne, speaking on behalf of the MHA Board of Directors.

“The new endoscopy suite at FCHS is another investment which ensures our ability to provide exceptional care for patients right here at home,” says Steph Ouellet, Vice President for Strategic Partnerships at MHA. “Endoscopy is an important procedure for our hospital, our patients and our community at large. I would like to acknowledge the unwavering support of the FCHS Foundation, as the success of this campaign rested upon their long-standing relationships with the many individuals, groups, organizations, and communities who have given generously.”

“FCHS Foundation is pleased to have contributed to the addition of this wonderful resource for our community. Special thanks to the donors that made this a reality,” says Tom Jeffery, FCHS Foundation Board Chair.

**Photo - Cheque presentation**

From left to right:

* Tom Jeffery, FCHS Foundation Board Chair
* Catherine Osborne, MHA board representative
* Rosemary Frketich, VP Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Officer, MHA
* Steph Ouellet, VP Strategic Partnerships, MHA

**About MHA**: The Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) is comprised of two fully-accredited partner sites: Four Counties Health Services and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital.

A progressive, team-oriented and technologically adept organization of excellence, the MHA is creating a more integrated and seamless approach to treatment by embracing and seeking out partnerships, through collaboration and investing in people. This coordinated approach helps to ensure that a high level of service is provided while reducing costs and continually enhancing quality.