



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Lending a Helping Paw - 'PAWS For A Visit' Program Benefits Senior Residents**

Edmonton, AB – March 14, 2011– Two eager Boston Terrier therapy dog hopefuls will have a chance to strut their stuff during their practicum visit at Kiwanis Place Wednesday night. The assessment screenings are part of a process that all dogs and their handlers complete before becoming certified by the Pet Therapy Society of Northern Alberta.

Pet visitation is a scheduled program that provides an opportunity for safe, informal interaction between people and, in this case, “man’s best friend”. No specific outcome is expected, but it is regarded as therapeutic and very important to the people who participate, and the dogs have a great time too!

“There’re usually five or six dogs and three or four of those are our regulars”, explained Sharon Nickel, Kiwanis Place Recreation Coordinator. “Some residents and tenants who don’t participate in our other activities always make it out for the pet visitation.” The program is scheduled for an hour however, the dogs and residents find it hard to say goodbye so some linger after the event to fit in just a few more licks and hugs.

At least thirty people are expected to visit with their furry friends starting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2011. Kiwanis Place is located at 10330 - 120 Street in Edmonton.

-30-

### **Contact:**

Susan McCarthy, Public Relations Manager  
GEF Seniors Housing  
14220-109 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5N 4B3  
Phone: 780-447-9207  
Cell: 780-938-1243  
Fax: 780-488-3561  
[smccarthy@gef.org](mailto:smccarthy@gef.org)  
[www.gef.org](http://www.gef.org)

***GEF Seniors Housing is the largest provider of subsidized seniors supportive living residences providing nearly 2,500 Edmonton senior citizens with safe, affordable homes and services.***