

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2014

SOS Children's Village B.C. Receives \$50,000 Grant Over Five Years from the Boag Foundation for Direct Impact Funding and Capital Campaign

Surrey, British Columbia SOS Children's Village B.C. is thrilled that Directors of the Boag Foundation recently approved a \$10,000 per year grant to the charity for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018, to fund an intensive youth transition financial support program, as well as an additional \$10,000 this year towards the Transition to Adulthood Suites Capital Campaign for homeless foster youth aging out of care. **This five year grant is the longest pledge term ever received by SOS B.C.**

The funding from 2015 to 2018 will create SOS Children's Village B.C.'s new 'Direct Incentive, Direct Impact Program'. This program will target a single at-risk or challenged foster child per year and provide substantial financial incentive for them to succeed academically. **It will be unique for Metro Vancouver in the way it intensely targets individual high-risk youth and provides them an opportunity to create dynamic, sustainable, life-altering and life-long change.**

The prime criterion for selected recipients would be the fact that the recipient would likely not complete high school nor go on to post-secondary education without the financial incentive provided. This new program aims to work alongside and empower young people to realize their potential, to become caring self-reliant adults, and to break the cycle of foster care dependency. **SOS Children's Village B.C. is desperately trying to break the cycles that lead to generation after generation of family breakdown, and young people entering foster care.**

The goal of the Direct Incentive, Direct Impact Program is to identify, and through the use of financial incentives, therapeutic intervention, mentoring, and social engagement, move one young adult each year for the next four years from dependency and a high risk of criminality or victimization, to successful completion of a Post-Secondary degree, certificate, or similar academic accreditation.

The funded individuals will be part of our larger existing Transition to Adulthood Program and will receive self-directed, one-on-one support in obtaining both their academic and life skills goals. The Vancouver Foundation has already funded the Transition to Adulthood Program over three years for a total of \$142,000 through their Youth Homelessness Initiative.

The Direct Incentive, Direct Impact Program is **a very intensive version of the 'Opportunity Passport' program used so successfully by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative in the United States.** SOS Children's Village B.C. hopes to create the same model with its partners in the Vancouver Foundation over the next few years.

The funding for 2014 of \$10,000 will go to SOS Children's Village B.C.'s ongoing 'Say Yes to the Village, No to the Streets!' Capital Campaign to build five semi-independent basement suites in the existing Surrey SOS Village for youth transitioning out of foster care. With the help of the Boag Foundation, the initial goal of raising \$50,000 to renovate the first suite is practically reached: www.sosbc.org/notothestreets.

SOS B.C.'s overriding vision is that its 'children' – whether in the Village or in the Transition to Adulthood Program – never stop being a part of the SOS family. Once they are an SOS Child or Youth, they are part of the charity's family for life.

About SOS Children's Village BC

SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental, non-denominational child development organization for orphaned and abandoned children. It has existed for over 65 years with presence in 134 countries and 553 Villages. British Columbia is home to the only SOS Children's Village in Canada. SOS Children's Village BC provides stable homes, a supportive and healing Village environment, and community-based family care programs to help foster children and youth in need grow into caring, self-reliant adults.

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