

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 2015

SOS Children's Gingerbread Village Presented by RE/MAX Thrills Thousands at Grouse Mountain

North Vancouver, British Columbia The Chalet at Grouse Mountain, the Peak of Christmas, has been transformed into a magical winter wonderland this holiday season, adorned with the much anticipated 4th Annual SOS Children's Gingerbread Village. **Open daily to the general public until January 4th from 10am to 10pm, the SOS Children's Gingerbread Village presented by RE/MAX supports SOS Children's Village B.C.'s much-needed neurofeedback therapy, counselling, educational, and transition to adulthood programs for children and youth in foster care.**

Bigger and better than ever, the houses in the Gingerbread Village are true works of art and set the standard for gingerbread creations in Vancouver with their astonishing detail and creativity. Thousands of Peak of Christmas visitors will walk through the display, leave a donation, and vote on their favourite house during the month-long festival. Guests are encouraged to visit Santa's Workshop from 12pm to 8pm to get their photo with Santa, with proceeds supporting SOS B.C.

The charity is honoured to have RE/MAX return as Presenting Sponsor. **Jonathan Gelderman, Chair of the RE/MAX Lower Mainland Advertising Committee**, was thrilled to attend the premiere of the SOS Children's Gingerbread Village:

"RE/MAX Agents of the Lower Mainland are proud to be the Presenting Sponsor of the SOS Children's Gingerbread Village at the Peak of Christmas. We believe that every child deserves to have a home, and SOS Children's Village B.C. does tremendous work ensuring that children in need in our community receive the support they deserve," said Jonathan Gelderman.

Douglas Dunn, executive director of SOS B.C., highlighted the effort put in by the bakers: "We had both professional and amateur bakers and culinary chefs from all over Metro Vancouver contribute to this year's fantastic looking SOS Children's Gingerbread Village. There are entries from elementary and high schools, in addition to **a 13 year old girl who spent an entire week putting together her gingerbread masterpiece**. It's heartwarming to see so many Vancouverites visiting the Gingerbread Village and supporting foster children who are struggling through a month that should be filled with joy, not sadness."

This year also **marks a new record for SOS Children's Village B.C. in terms of media sponsorship**. For cash donations, over \$530,000 has been raised through the years from SOS B.C.'s annual Christmas event. Lower Mainland residents who cannot make it up to the Gingerbread Village can still support the charity by purchasing **trip raffle tickets** - 1 for \$20 or

3 for \$50 - with a grand prize of a WestJet flight for two to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and a seven night stay in the spectacular boutique hotel Villa Amor del Mar.

More information about Vancouver's preeminent spectacle of holiday magic and the accompanying trip raffle is available at www.sosbc.org/poc.

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 563 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.

About the RE/MAX Network

RE/MAX was founded in 1973 by Dave and Gail Liniger, with an innovative, entrepreneurial culture affording its agents and franchisees the flexibility to operate their businesses with great independence. Over 90,000 agents provide RE/MAX a global reach of more than 90 countries. RE/MAX is Canada's leading real estate organization with approximately 19,000 sales associates and 750 independently-owned and operated offices nationwide. RE/MAX, LLC, one of the world's leading franchisors of real estate brokerage services, is a subsidiary of RE/MAX Holdings, Inc. (NYSE:RMAX). For more information about RE/MAX, to search home listings or find an agent in your community, please visit www.remax.ca.

-30-

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