

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 16, 2015

**SOS Children's Holiday Gala Welcomes Elegant New Format for its 21<sup>st</sup> Year**

**Vancouver, British Columbia** Vancouver's preeminent spectacle of holiday magic kicks off the season on November 26th, 2015 at 6:30pm atop Grouse Mountain, the Peak of Christmas. **For the first time in SOS Children's Village B.C.'s history, the charity is pleased to introduce tabled seating for all guests and a delightful buffet dinner/dessert at the reinvented 21st Annual Holiday Gala.** Following feedback from last year's event – which hit maximum venue capacity at 230 guests, and sold out a full two weeks beforehand making it the most successful ever – SOS B.C. is excited to take this year's Gala to the next level.

The SOS Children's Holiday Gala and accompanying festivities have raised \$530,000 over the years for the charity's much-needed **neurofeedback therapy, counselling, educational, and transition to adulthood programs for local children and youth in foster care.** Attendees will be the first in Vancouver to witness the revealing of the renowned SOS Children's Gingerbread Village, presented by RE/MAX.

**Global BC's Kaitlyn Herbst** is thrilled to be Master of Ceremonies at the gala, with live music provided by local alternative rock band **Her Brothers**, winners of the *Langley Has Talent* competition and speakers at We Day! Guests will be treated to a seated buffet dinner and dessert with fine wines, craft beer, and splendid cuisine, while enjoying a captivating silent auction and the breathtaking city views from snow-blanketed Grouse Mountain. It's the perfect way to kick off the Christmas season with style and elegance, all while supporting a great cause.

**Two spectacular vacation packages will be on offer during the event: One is the grand prize in the Holiday of a Lifetime Trip Raffle** – a trip for two on WestJet to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico where the winner will stay in the boutique hotel Villa Amor del Mar for seven nights. The infinity pool and sweeping ocean views complete this little piece of paradise.

**The second trip package will be in the live auction** – a holiday for two on Orca Airways to stay for two nights at the fantastic Wickaninnish Inn. The winner will experience Vancouver Island nature at its wildest while enjoying the comfort of this world-class Tofino hotel, offering ocean views, Pacific Northwest cuisine, and Ancient Cedars Spa services.

“Guests from galas past have glowingly described how magical this event feels to them, how it always gets them in the holiday spirit, and how it banishes that fatigue over the whirlwind countdown to Christmas we sometimes get at this time of year,” said Douglas Dunn, executive director of SOS B.C. “I really must thank the amazing crew at Grouse Mountain for all they do to support this beloved event, the team at RE/MAX, all our media sponsors, and everyone who takes time to think of others less fortunate than themselves during the holidays.”

Tickets to the gala are \$99 each, available at [www.sosbc.org](http://www.sosbc.org), and include a gondola and parking pass. The most rewarding part of the evening is that net proceeds go directly to SOS B.C. programs and homes for local foster children, and for homeless youth who are struggling to live independently.

**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.

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