

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 10, 2014

**SOS Children's Village B.C. Celebrates Milestone 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Gala at Grouse Mountain, the Peak of Christmas**

**Surrey, British Columbia** Vancouver's preeminent spectacle of holiday magic kicks off the holiday season on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Grouse Mountain, the Peak of Christmas. **Now celebrating two decades of success, the SOS Children's Holiday Gala has raised \$470,000 over the years for the charity's much-needed neurofeedback therapy, counselling, educational, and transition to adulthood programs for children and youth in foster care.**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Gala takes place at 7pm above the sparkling lights of the Lower Mainland - a truly festive evening featuring fine wines, craft beer, and delicious food, as well as captivating live and silent auctions, a trip raffle, and a 50/50 draw. For guests, this is an exclusive opportunity to view the premiere of the SOS Children's Gingerbread Village before it opens to the general public.

Not only is 2014 the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event, but it also **marks a record for the charity in terms of media sponsorship.** Exciting new media partners include JACK FM, SONiC FM, News1130 AM, and City/OMNI Television, along with long-time sponsors North Shore News and 24 Hours newspapers, for a combined promotional value of over \$135,000! Demand for tickets this year has been unprecedented.

**David C. Jones** is the evening's emcee, declared by the *Vancouver Sun* to be "One of the funniest minds in Vancouver". He has been crowned winner of the coveted title 'Best Comedian in Vancouver' by the readers of the *Georgia Straight* – two years in a row.

Live music will be provided by beloved North Shore musician **Checo Tohomaso**, who is back by popular demand. Checo has played in the past with Marvin Gaye and Lionel Ritchie.

**"Grouse Mountain is thrilled to once again support SOS Children's Village throughout our Peak of Christmas celebration," said Grouse Mountain general manager Michael Cameron.** "Grouse Mountain visitors open their hearts as they tour the exquisite creations in our Gingerbread Village and raise funds to support the important work done by SOS Children's Village in British Columbia and we look forward to another successful collaboration with this very worthy partner."

The SOS Children's Gingerbread Village is an enchanting exhibit of astoundingly detailed gingerbread creations, illustrating this year's elf theme, and thousands of Peak of Christmas visitors will walk through the display and vote on their favourite structure when the month-long festival opens on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**“The spectacular venue and crew at Grouse Mountain really make the Holiday Gala the magical kick off to the holiday season that it is,”** said SOS Children’s Village B.C. executive director Douglas Dunn. “It’s a stylish start to the SOS Children’s Gingerbread Village, and we thank the Grouse Mountain team for their dedicated partnership with us year after year.”

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Gala on November 27<sup>th</sup> is expected to sell out this week. A few tickets are still available for public purchase at [www.sosbc.org/gala](http://www.sosbc.org/gala).

### **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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