

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Anonymous Charitable Donations of \$100,000 and \$60,000 Bring Christmas Joy at SOS Children's Holiday Gala

Vancouver, British Columbia Vancouver's preeminent spectacle of holiday magic atop Grouse Mountain, the Peak of Christmas, **was the most successful gala ever in the history of SOS Children's Village B.C.** The evening began with an announcement from Douglas Dunn, the charity's executive director, of a **\$100,000 gift** from a long-time supporter for the Transition to Adulthood Suites Capital Campaign. Dunn then expressed to guests that the donor wished for an attempt that night to match the donation, which resulted in a **\$60,000 anonymous gift**, plus multiple other donations in lesser amounts.

"**The transition suites that we want to build in our Village in Surrey are desperately needed** and these five suites alone could reduce the number of homeless youth in our area by up to 8%, now and into the future," said Douglas Dunn.

The \$100,000 donor was keen to refer to these homes as "Success suites" for giving youth a chance to turn their lives around, and wanted to foster "An attitude of gratitude" through this gift. Information on the SOS B.C. Capital Campaign is available at www.sosbc.org/notothestreets.

The 21st Annual SOS Children's Holiday Gala, which took place on November 26th, raised a record \$67,000 (gross), apart from the sizeable donations. The evening featured clear skies, a blanket of snow, sparkling Christmas decorations, and people skating on the outdoor rink.

The new gala format with tables and seating for all 200 guests (previous galas were standing cocktail receptions) received excellent feedback and the buffet dinner got rave reviews. **Michael Cameron, Interim President of Grouse Mountain Resorts**, spoke during the event and received a special plaque from the charity for long-time support of the gala. **The RE/MAX Agents of the Lower Mainland** also received a plaque for the same reason.

Kaitlyn Herbst, weather and traffic reporter on Global BC, was Master of Ceremonies for the evening. She did a live TV feed on the News Hour at 6:20pm in the SOS Children's Gingerbread Village presented by RE/MAX. Representatives from Global BC, Kiss Radio, Jack FM, News 1130, 24hrs, and North Shore News were also in attendance. **Local band Her Brothers** - winners of the *Langley Has Talent* competition and speakers at 2015 We Day - did a masterful performance that won't soon be forgotten, singing favourites like *Uptown Funk*.

"The most gripping moment of the night was when **special guest Monica Star** told her story - with heart and flair - of growing up as a foster child and the trauma she went through," said Douglas Dunn. "A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this event such a success,

especially our generous sponsors & bakers, volunteers, staff, Peak of Christmas committee, and the entire crew at Grouse Mountain.”

SOS Children’s Village B.C. will be making a formal announcement next week of the exciting next step in the Transition to Adulthood Suites Campaign.

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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