

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 17, 2017

SOS Children's Gingerbread Village and Holiday Gala Raise \$65,000 to Benefit Foster Children & Youth

Surrey, British Columbia Local charity SOS Children's Village B.C. announced today that a **total of \$65,000 was raised** over the holiday season through the SOS Children's Gingerbread Village presented by RE/MAX, and the Holiday Gala premiere, at Grouse Mountain. The SOS Children's Gingerbread Village is the highlight of Grouse's magical Peak of Christmas festivities.

The total raised includes a record amount donated by the public to take photos with Santa at his mountaintop workshop. Proceeds from this event support SOS B.C.'s high-demand neurofeedback therapy, counselling, educational, musical, cultural, and transition to adulthood programs for children and youth in foster care (as well as youth who have aged out of care).

Grouse Mountain has been a dedicated partner of SOS Children's Village B.C. since 2005, providing valuable support through their annual Peak of Christmas celebration. The SOS Children's Gingerbread Village has become a holiday favourite with both Metro Vancouver residents and tourists visiting from abroad. Grouse Mountain donates all funds from photos with Santa to SOS B.C. each year.

"The Peak of Christmas was bustling with visitors this past holiday season, no doubt due to the plentiful snow and magnificent decorations up at Grouse Mountain," said Douglas Dunn, executive director of the charity. "We at SOS Children's Village B.C. are thrilled with the increase in donations from the public through photos with Santa. **More and more people are opening their hearts and making a visit to the SOS Children's Gingerbread Village part of their annual holiday traditions.**"

"On behalf of everyone at SOS B.C., I would like to sincerely thank the wonderful team at Grouse Mountain and at RE/MAX, all our corporate, media and service club sponsors, all the Gingerbread Village bakers, and every member of the public who helped make Christmas much more special for the children and youth we support who cannot live with their biological parents."

About SOS Children's Village BC

SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental, non-denominational child development organization for fostered, orphaned, and abandoned children. It has existed for over 65 years with presence in 134 countries and 572 Villages. British Columbia is home to the only SOS Children's Village in Canada. SOS Children's Village BC provides homes, a supportive

community, and programs to help foster children and youth in need grow into caring, self-reliant adults.

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For more information please contact:

William Brennan, Manager of Communications
SOS Children's Village BC
T: (604) 574-2964 ext. 104
E: williambrennan@sosbc.org Web: www.sosbc.org

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