

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inaugural SOS International Foster Awards Gala Sold Out, Tickets For Next Year Now On Sale

Vancouver, British Columbia The local chapter of the world's largest non-denominational child development charity is pleased to announce that the last ticket for the SOS International Foster Awards Gala was sold over the weekend. This new event comes to downtown Vancouver on November 23, 2017 at 6:00pm with 200 guests attending. Due to continuing demand to be a part of this impactful award and to help foster children and youth in dire need, **SOS Children's Village B.C. has just opened online ticket sales for next year's 2018 gala.**

Guests of the 2017 SOS International Foster Awards Gala will enjoy the spectacular views of downtown at the Law Courts Inn, **while rubbing elbows with celebrities that include Grey Cup champions Michael "Pinball" Clemons, Marco Iannuzzi, and Lyle Green.**

The SOS International Foster Awards Gala recognizes leadership and success in foster care, celebrates inspiring former foster children who have triumphed over adversity, and raises money for programs that prevent further deaths of foster children. According to the Representative for Children and Youth, **between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017, a horrifying 112 children and youth in care died in B.C.** The goal of the event is to raise \$100,000 to help current children in care who typically end up struggling with addiction, homelessness, mental illness, and physical/sexual abuse before and after aging out of the system.

The proven SOS Children's Village model of care, with 572 villages in 134 countries, is based on SOS International founder Hermann Gmeiner's belief that a consistent professional caregiver, family atmosphere, home, and supportive community create a circle of healing, belonging, and growth for a child in need. **Since its opening in 1999, the village in Surrey - the only SOS Children's Village in all of Canada - has provided care to foster children and their families; helping to build on individual strengths and cultivate social networks to maximize each child's opportunities for success.** The village provides healing, hope, and home through a community environment of trauma-informed therapists and support staff.

Earlier this year, the charity completed a 4-year \$450,000 capital campaign to construct five transition to adulthood suites for homeless youth aging out of care. Even more impressive, only 6% of SOS Children's Village B.C.'s funding comes from the government, with the vast majority coming from individual and corporate donors. SOS B.C. uniquely focuses on lifelong engagement with foster children and embracing their cultural heritage. Their long-term vision is to expand the village model to every town in British Columbia.

“The interest from the community for this new event has been overwhelming,” said Douglas Dunn, executive director of the charity. “We sold out on Saturday evening, and we now have four tables sold for next year’s gala. We are in discussions with a fantastic celebrity you won’t want to miss for our 2018 SOS International Foster Awards Gala, and we have just opened ticket sales for next year.”

Visit www.sosbc.org/gala to secure tickets for 2018.

About SOS Children’s Village BC

SOS Children’s Villages is the world’s largest non-governmental, non-denominational child development organization and cares for fostered, orphaned, or 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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