

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2014

Announcing the Creation of the Sally O'Sullivan Legacy Fund in Memory of a Lower Mainland Trailblazer

Surrey, British Columbia Sally O'Sullivan was a child protection mediator and a passionate advocate for children in foster care. Sally was a director of Envision Financial Credit Union who also served on the board of the First West Foundation from 2001 to 2009. **A visionary, Sally was instrumental in the growth of the Foundation, spearheading a \$500,000 fundraising campaign to build two new homes for SOS Children's Village BC.**

Completed in 2006, these houses provide homes for children in foster care who just want to belong, share a sense of community, and create family ties that will endure. One of these houses was recently dedicated to Sally and is now known as Sally O'Sullivan House. Because of Sally's passion for the SOS Children's Village and the Envision House Project supporting this organization, **the Sally O'Sullivan Legacy Fund was recently created with the First West Foundation and will directly support the SOS Children's Village with an annual donation.**

- In British Columbia, 9,200 children are in foster care
- A child in foster care in Canada faces on average: seven homes, seven families, seven schools, seven neighbourhoods
- Only 21% of youth in care will graduate within two years of expected graduation date

Sally was a leading Notary Public, served as president of the Society of Notaries, and became the first woman Rotarian in Western Canada in 1984. Sally was always evolving, and her last career shift was to become a Chartered Mediator, predominantly for the Ministry of Children and Families where she mediated child protection disputes. Sally's continued success elevated her to the level of "Mentoring Mediator" and her services were in high demand.

Unfortunately, a serious stroke in October of 2009 halted her career as well as her service on the Credit Union and Foundation boards. Sally demonstrated her courage and resolve, battling through speech and physio therapies for the next three years, making tremendous progress in both areas. Sadly, Sally suffered another stroke and passed away in December 2012.

"Sally was a warm and caring woman who was a 'big sky' thinker and had tremendous energy," recalls Seline Kutan, Executive Director of the First West Foundation. "Not only did Sally's vision for the Foundation help the organization grow, but her mentorship helped me personally to develop my skills as Executive Director. I'm blessed to have had the opportunity to work with Sally and treasure my memories of her."

The Sally O’Sullivan Legacy Fund will generate funding to support SOS Children’s Village BC which provides homes, a supportive community, and programs to help foster children and youth in need grow into caring, self-reliant adults.

To learn more, please go to <http://www.sosbc.org/village/sos-legacy-fund>, and to donate to the Sally O’Sullivan Legacy Fund please contact Kim Davies at 604-539-5867 or kim.davies@firstwestcu.ca.

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 60 years with presence in 133 countries and over 550 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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