



SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER

Be the Change

Brooke, pictured on the left below with her sister **Anna** (right), wanted to do something to help other children that might not have the same opportunities as her.

Instead of asking for gifts for herself on her birthday as most of us do, she asked her friends and family to instead bring an item or a toy for the children in the **SOS BC Village!**

As you can see below, the response was overwhelming!

Brooke and Anna came in with their mom, **Korey** loaded with **BAGS** of sports equipment, toys and beach supplies all collected at Brooke's birthday celebration!



On behalf of all of us at SOS BC, we were amazed by Brooke's thoughtfulness and generosity. A **HUGE** thank you to her for being an inspiration to all of us!

Fitness, Flexibility & Fun!

Yoga for Hope in support of SOS BC took place for the second year in a row on **Saturday, February 23rd, 2013**. This year, hosted in Richmond at Minoru Sports Pavilion, the event brought together local yoga instructors and yogis from all experience levels to raise funds and awareness for local children and youth.

Also joining the fitness and fun was **Danica Tan**, Ms Teen Richmond, and **Alexa Loo**, Ambassador for SOS BC. A big thank you to the participants, the organizers of this event:

Beth, Patricia and Jody, and all of the wonderful instructors who donated their time and shared their passion with the group!



*Yoga Instructors Beth, Jody, Patricia, Lynn and Vicki pictured above.
Photo Credit: Amanda Oye- Richmond Review*

SIGNATURE SOCIAL



Saturday, June 15th, 2013, 6:00 pm
Canadian Museum of Flight
Hangar #3, 5333 216th Street, Langley

Mark your calendars! **The Signature Social** is returning for its second year, and this time we aren't letting a Friday work day get in the way of a little fun...

Experience the Excitement of the Roaring 20s...

You'll need the secret password and taste for excitement to join us in our "top-secret" speakeasy. Don your best flapper dress or fedora and kick back to some swanky jazz tunes performed by the **Bruce James Orchestra** as you sip local wines and savour delicious hors d'oeuvres.

Tickets are available at the **early bird price of \$60 until May 1st, 2013**. For more information, to get involved, or get your ticket today, please visit our website at www.sosbc.org or contact **Leah** at **604.574.2964 ext. 228**.



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Spring Cleaning

It's that time of year again! The time where you pull those items out of the closet that haven't been worn in the last year or two (even though they were SUCH a great find on the rack), or you begin to box up the old DVD's that have been replaced by the updated Blu-ray? How about those household items that are begging for a new life elsewhere?

You know exactly what we're talking about, and our thrift stores would LOVE to receive your donations of clean, gently used items! Not only would you be giving them new life, and helping out the environment by keeping them out of the landfill, you would also be helping to raise funds to support SOS BC!

Bring your gently used donations to **Accent Inns at 10551 St. Edwards Drive, Richmond on April 10th**! Come by anytime until 7 pm on the 10th. Can't make the trip? If you need a pick up on this date, please call #604-231-3201!

Donations are also always accepted at each of our stores: **Steveston** located at 3800 Moncton Street, Richmond, and **Kerrisdale**, at 2319 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver.

Corina's Corner

Written by Corina Carroll-Layfield, Program Director

During the holiday season I had the pleasure of accompanying 15 children from **SOS BC** and **Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Langley** on the **Flight with Santa**. This is an annual event that we are fortunate to be a part of thanks to **Joanne Griffiths** and her wonderful team. This year, we shared our seats with BBBS of Langley; an organization that we have a collegial relationship with and whose services we believe are of great benefit to children.

In the car ride to the airport, a young boy was quick to identify himself as a "foster kid" when he explained how big his family is. He prefaced this remark by telling us he didn't live with a "real" family. It broke my heart. I have worked with children in foster care for many, many years, and when I joined SOS BC, I was pleasantly surprised at the absence of the word "foster care" in my conversations with the

children. I suppose I have been spoiled by my experience in the last 4 years working in an organization that sees family as family, whether they are biological or by design.

The village model provides an environment where foster care is the norm, not the exception, and so it is rarely brought up. The families, many of whom have been together since a child's infancy, identify as family. In fact, in the article by the Vancouver Sun, one of the youth interviewed indicated that he couldn't really comment on how his life is different than someone else's outside the foster care system, because he didn't see himself as any different.

I look forward to the day when we, as humans, start to identify ourselves and others by what we share, and not by what we think makes us or others different. We must make more of an effort to remove the stigma attached to the labels we use. We don't know the potential in any child until it is realized. For instance, please consider Dr. Wayne Dyer; motivational author and speaker and once a "foster kid". **Life happens to all of us, and for some, life takes them into foster care. It is simply a direction that they had to follow, but it is not the end of the journey.**

If I have anything to convey to you, it is that regardless of a child's status or situation, when they need help to succeed, we as adults, must respond. Let's equal the playing field for all children and get ready to enjoy the results!

Social Media Sensation!

For those of you on Social Media, we have a challenge for you! **Help us reach 500 "Likes" and 300 "Followers" on Facebook and Twitter by April 1st!**



How can you do this, you ask? If you haven't already, join our Facebook community by liking "**SOS Children's Village BC**," or stay connected with us on Twitter by following **@SOSBCVillage**. Next, we all know that good things should be shared, so why not help spread the word?



SOS Children's Village BC

Every child belongs...every child matters

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5th Annual

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE BC

Run & Walk

2-5-10km

Sunday May 26th 9:00am
Richmond Olympic Oval Plaza
 6111 River Road, Richmond BC

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8:30am Registration Opens
 9:00am Welcome
 9:15am Warm-Up
 9:30am 5K & 10K Start
 9:45am 2K Family Walk Start
 10:00am Entertainment begins
 11:00am Awards
 12:00pm Event Concludes

Events Kids Fun Zone
 Silent Auction
 Prize Draws

Registration Online: www.sosbc.org/run
 till midnight May 22nd.
 At event May 26th.

Fees \$20 per person on line.
 \$25 May 26th.
 Entry fees waived for pledges
 \$100 plus.

The Competitor Bibs & Clock.
 Results posted on web.
 Gender/Age medals awarded.

Fostering Health & Wellness

Run on behalf of local kids in need. Experience Richmond's spectacular Olympic Oval Plaza while running or walking along the beautiful middle arm of the Fraser River. Individuals, families, corporate, community, school teams all welcome!

Register, volunteer, sponsor:

Visit www.sosbc.org/run

Call 604.574.2964

Email infososrun@gmail.com



Join our patron at this great family event.

Olympian,
Alexa Loo



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE BC stands for an environment where home, hope & healing are present. We believe in finding solutions in the best interest of children who are hurting. We actively create unique opportunities and programs so that vulnerable children & youth, including those involved in the foster care system, can achieve their potential. **WE STRENGTHEN FAMILIES!**