

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 2014

Fraud Alert! Charity's Most Important Funding Source Threatened

Surrey, British Columbia SOS Children's Village BC is alerting the public to fraudulent solicitation calls being made in our name. One of our thrift store volunteers recently received a call at her home from someone with a heavy accent asking if she would like to donate to a thrift store, and when she asked which one, she was told 'SOS'. We want to clearly emphasize that our charity **DOES NOT** have a telephone solicitation program and anyone receiving such fraudulent calls should report it to police. It is concerning that there seems to have been a recent drop-off in the volume of items donated to our thrift stores in conjunction with these problematic calls.

SOS Children's Village BC established its first thrift store in Steveston in 1992, and opened the second location in Kerrisdale in 2006. Staffed by over 200 volunteers and under the supervision of four managers, these volunteers and their stores generate over 25% of the annual operating funds of SOS BC. **Reduced donation of used clothing and other household items due to suspicious phone calls that lower our credibility represents a huge risk to our organization.** We are too small a charity to do telephone solicitation, or to have the \$5,000 donation bins that the larger thrift organizations utilize. **We rely on individuals to bring their items to us to raise funds for the operation of our foster Village in Surrey.** We remind the public to please remember SOS BC and to always bring your items for donation directly to our stores or to our office in Cloverdale.

For more information about the SOS Children's Village BC Thrift Stores, please visit <http://www.sosbc.org/get-involved/stores>.

Steveston Thrift Store
3800 Moncton Street
Richmond, BC V7E 3A7

Kerrisdale Thrift Store
2319 West 41st Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6M 2A3

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 community-based family care services to improve and sustain the quality of life for foster children and foster families through a variety of programs that address social development and healing. Headquartered in

Surrey, the organization actively creates opportunities, programs and services to increase stability and continuity for foster children and their foster parents.

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