

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Cities of Vancouver, Richmond, Surrey proclaim June 23, 2021
'SOS Children's Village B.C. Giving Day'**

Inaugural Giving Day in support of children in care, youth who have aged out of care

SOS Children's Village B.C. presents the fully virtual SOS Children's Village B.C. Giving Day on June 23, 2021. Children in foster care and their caregivers have been under COVID-19 restrictions for a long 15 months, resulting in a state of precarious mental health and great need.

SOS Children's Village B.C. Giving Day was born from a desire to safely raise funds during the pandemic to support the charity's Village programs. Donations are needed to help foster the growth and mental wellness of kids in care and youth aging out of care. Camps and recreation will be a focus this summer, due to their many benefits for young minds.

"8,900 children and youth in British Columbia do not live with their biological parents, with the vast majority of those in foster care," begins the proclamations from the three cities. "These young people deserve and need the concern, love, and support of the community if they are to take their rightful place in society."

The cities support, challenge, and encourage everyone to participate in online fundraising for SOS Children's Village B.C. Giving Day at fundraise.sosbc.org, giving children and youth the chance to become contributing members of society.

"We are now at a point where we can readily respond to the increase in mental wellness needs and give children the strategies to develop skills that will keep them healthy for their lifetime," says Kistie Singh, executive director of SOS Children's Village B.C. "We're working hard to reach our goal of raising \$50,000 by June 23, and I know that if we can rally the deeply caring community of Metro Vancouver, we can do it!"

Features of the Giving Day include two challenge gifts that will be donated only if 20 new monthly donors and 30 new one-times donors join the campaign. Additionally, the top fundraiser will receive a prize of two tickets to anywhere Air Canada flies in North America. Details at www.sosbc.org/givingday.

For more information or interviews, please contact:

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**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGE**
BRITISH COLUMBIA



Backgrounder:

SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental, non-denominational child development organization, supporting children without parental care and families at risk. It has existed for over 70 years with presence in 136 countries and 559 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.

Photos and videos:

www.sosbc.org/the-village/media-room/

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