



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGE
BRITISH COLUMBIA

International Foster Awards Gala

Date: Thursday, November 23, 2017 **Time:** 6:00 pm **Venue:** The Law Courts Inn, 800 Smithe St, Vancouver



The SOS Children's Village BC - International Foster Awards Gala recognizes leadership and success in foster care. It celebrates inspiring former foster children who have triumphed over adversity. It raises money to help current foster children in dire need. The gala is a festive and magical evening in Downtown Vancouver at the spectacular Law Courts Inn, featuring a delicious sit-down buffet dinner and dessert, with fine wines and craft beer for purchase.

Designed by Arthur Erickson as the heart of the iconic Vancouver Law Courts building, the newly renovated Law Courts Inn is situated on the 5th floor of the Supreme Court building. The dining room features floor-to-ceiling windows with an extraordinary view of the downtown cityscape. It is Vancouver's best kept secret!

Receiving the inaugural award will be Tom Watson: Founder of Your Better Life, Owner/President of Recreation Excellence, an international motivational speaker, and a best-selling author. With 200 guests attending, the evening features live entertainment, exciting live and silent auctions, a trip raffle, and a 50/50 draw – a perfect way to kick off the holiday season in style, and for a great cause.

The most rewarding part of the evening is that proceeds go directly to SOS BC's programs and homes for local foster children, and for youth who have aged out of care at 19 years old and are struggling with homelessness.

The Keynote Speaker You Don't Want To Miss: Michael "Pinball" Clemons

Few people exemplify the qualities of personal excellence, teamwork, community leadership, and overcoming the odds better than CFL legend Michael "Pinball" Clemons. With boundless energy, Pinball's talks centre on the potential for each of us to achieve anything we set our minds to. Unabashedly emotional and impactful, he shows audiences how to put heart into everything they do.

Visit www.sosbc.org/gala for more info on becoming a gold or silver sponsor and for buying your tickets.



STUDENT GROUPS SHINE WHEN IT COMES TO RAISING MONEY FOR KIDS IN NEED

By Rose Hamilton
Director of Community Partnerships & Donor Stewardship

It not only takes a village to raise a child ... it takes a village of people to keep the SOS BC Village going! One of the greatest parts of my job here is the wonderful and caring people I meet every day. You, our donors, are the very definition of love and support. I am humbled and awed by your determination, and your fierce concern and caring that every child have a decent shot at a good life. From age 2 to 102 (yes really!) you are there for our Village. Thank you!

This summer has marked an astonishing milestone in terms of school donations. Two in particular are worth a mention here.

After peppering me with questions about SOS Children's Village BC for an hour, students at **Enver Creek Secondary** in Surrey turned their knowledge into fundraising know how. They beat all their previous fundraising by over 100%, bringing in a cheque for \$2,400 and bags of cash (literally!) amounting to \$583.08. Word on the street is that they are determined to top that next year!

The **Youth Hunger Mission Foundation**, a non-profit established by students from several area high schools, puts on a fabulous Fashion & Talent Show in October, as well as running bake sales, raffles, and other events throughout the school year. They set a high standard for the two charities they support, researching and interviewing with tough questions. We are proud to have been selected, and deeply impressed with the \$6,000 they raised for us. We very much look forward to working with YHMF next year.

Whoever thinks that youth of today are selfish and don't care ... well, take another look!

Not to be outdone by their grandchildren, however, several small groups of our elders have decided to change the landscape ... back to the future, as it were. They were missing the sense of community that they said was part of SOS Children's Village BC fundraising 20 years ago. In addition to their usual donations, they wanted to do even more (we like more!).

Their aim was to work together with families, neighbours, clubs, kids – and have fun doing it. One conversation led to another and momentum gathered around having a lot of independent (3rd party) fundraisers centred on holidays special to kids. Could we at SOS BC connect the events on social media, our website, and tip off the local press? Boy could we ever!

Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for further developments.



Youth Hunger Mission Foundation \$6,000 cheque presentation at SOS BC office



SUCCESS WITH SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

For the first time ever, SOS Children's Village BC teamed up with the Coquitlam Firefighters Charitable Society on a school supply drive called **'Fill the Backpack'**! The event took place the last weekend of August at the Staples in Coquitlam.

The response from the community was more than expected, with over \$4,000 raised in cash and six large boxes of school supplies. Some of the backpacks will go directly to children in need in the Tri-Cities area, and some will go to kids in care in our Village.

The backpacks will also come filled with nutritious snacks. Our ambassador Miss Lower Mainland BC 2017-18 Anne Longakit was also in attendance!



THANK YOU TO OUR TWO SUMMER PRACTICUM STUDENTS MIRANDA AND MONA, WE'LL MISS HAVING YOU AROUND




SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGE
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Plan today and give a foster child hope for tomorrow

Learn more about leaving your legacy:
(604) 574-2964 ext. 102 or www.sosbc.org/legacy





A COMMUNITY OF CARING

We were thrilled to welcome Jennifer Robbins and Leslie Sobotin of **100+ People Who Care Surrey** to the Village for a cheque presentation of \$3,350. We are so appreciative of their group's generosity!

'100 People Who Care' is a new concept that is catching fire across North America. During the hour long meeting, three nominated charities make a pitch to receive the group's money. A secret ballot vote decides the winner, and each group member then writes a cheque directly to the chosen charity. Tax receipts are issued by the charity so 100 People Who Care Surrey has no administrative costs.



SPECIAL THANK YOUS



- **100+ People Who Care Surrey** for a kind gift of \$3,350
- **Arlin Foundation** for their grant of \$2,000
- **Coast Capital Savings** for a grant of \$15,000 towards our Transition to Adulthood program
- **Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch** for a \$35,000 grant to our Transition to Adulthood program
- **Employment and Social Development Canada** for a \$25,000 grant to our Transition to Adulthood program

- **Enver Creek Secondary School student group** for a kind donation of \$2,980 from their fundraising efforts
- **Envision Financial Employees Endowment** for a \$3,000 grant cheque
- **Kwela Leadership and Talent Management** for a kind gift of \$4,197
- **Knights of Columbus - Council No. 4767 North Surrey** for a grant of \$2,700 towards our Camps, Recreation and Cultural programs
- **Royal Canadian Legion #229 - Whalley** for a lovely \$1,000 donation
- **Sook Ching Foundation** gave a \$10,000 grant
- **Vancouver Chinatown Lioness Club** kindly gave \$1,000 (pictured)
- **Windsor Plywood Foundation** for a kind donation of \$3,500 in memory of Frances Jones
- **Youth Hunger Mission Foundation** for a kind gift of \$6,000 from their fundraising efforts
- Alix Elsey generously gave \$1,000 through her initiative to donate every time she sells a home
- Doreen Corlett generously gave \$5,000
- Mayor Linda Hepner generously donated \$740
- Otto Holzapfel generously donated \$1,000
- The Jina family generously donated \$1,000



**SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE BC SHOCKS
PROGRAM CONFERENCE IN BERLIN,
GERMANY**

By Douglas Dunn, MBA, CFRE
Executive Director

Village Director Kistie Singh and I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the SOS Children's Villages EUNA (Europe North America) Program Conference in Berlin. It is a gathering of SOS child development program leaders representing 36 national SOS organizations, and I'm not sure how many individual SOS Villages. In addition to a heady agenda of topics such as "Training professionals working with children in alternative care on child rights: challenges and promising practices", we were able to tour two Villages and an exciting new project.

First the Villages. **SOS Children's Village Berlin-Moabit** is in the heart of Berlin and we would describe it as an enhanced apartment block, containing a full-service cafeteria, meeting rooms, offices, a daycare (with its own children's cafeteria), and of course some apartments.

We also visited **SOS Children's Village Brandenburg**, a wonderful edge-of-rural Village with 8 houses, several apartments, Village Centre, and a daycare. Of personal technical interest to me was that the homes were all radiant floor heated with solar hot water assists. (Yes, I was involved in the solar energy sector at one time.)

And finally an exciting new project, the **Children's Embassy**. A hotel convention facility that will feature a training program for both youth at-risk and youth with physical challenges. Soon to be open, so if you are travelling to Berlin consider booking your stay there.

In Europe, the social support system is far better

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funded and considered a vital part of every country's structure. An example in Finland: foster homes have a full-time Caregiver caring for 3 to 5 children – much like in BC – however they also have 5 to 7 full-time staff supporting EACH home. Ninety per cent of the funding comes from the government.

Lithuania was in attendance and described their battle to move from the communist-era same age, same sex, orphan warehouses to the exact model that SOS BC is moving towards: professional Caregivers in a foster home structure.

For the most part the European programs are funded and staffed at a level we could only dream of here in BC. And being part of the world's largest child development organization and working in national government-funded social structures within the European Union, they are looking to supplement, add on, or refine their systems. They

are in the heart of a huge system and things are calm and carrying on. The rate of children in care across the EU is approximately 1 child per 1,000.

Then we from SOS Children's Village BC explain our situation, with 8 children per 1,000 in care in our province, the huge percentage of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care, the legacy of insufficient government funding, and the less than 6% government funding that we receive. They were shocked. Then we outlined the plans that our Board, Founders, Staff, and Caregivers have embraced.

With the collective 65+ years of knowledge and experience in child development, and with the support of current leaders of the incredible SOS Kinderdorf programs, we here in BC are going to disrupt the child care system. In the next few years we are going to change the minds, touch the hearts, and inspire the decision makers in and around the foster care sector in BC.

CREDIT UNION EMPLOYEES GIVE BIG WHEN IT COMES TO HELPING OUR KIDS

We had an exciting cheque presentation at the Village with Danya Shima, representing the **Envision Financial Employees Endowment**.

SOS Children's Village BC was chosen to receive a \$3,000 grant!

The Envision Financial Employees Endowment grows through the fundraising efforts of employees at Envision Financial. Employees then help determine how to distribute the donations generated by this fund.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the wonderful employees of Envision.





**KUDOS TO THE WONDERFUL STAFF
FROM COAST CAPITAL GRANDVIEW
CORNERS BRANCH AND FROM HSBC
WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME FOR A
'DAY OF CARING' AT OUR VILLAGE**



**NORTH SURREY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
DEFEND CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN
FOSTER CARE**

Here's a photo of the cheque presentation from the **Knights of Columbus - Council No. 4767 North Surrey** and their \$2,700 donation to our summer camps program! For most children in this program it is the first time they have ever been able to go to camp, and there are many psychological benefits to attending camps.

Pictured on the left is knight Aguedo De La Cruz and our executive director is on the right. We extend our sincere gratitude to all members of the Knights of Columbus - North Surrey for their amazing support.





YOUTH WORKSHOP AT VILLAGE FOR CREDIT AND BUDGETING INSPIRED BY ENVISION FINANCIAL

SOS BC program staff held a 'Youth Workshop Series on Credit & Budgeting' at our Village Centre for the foster youth in our programs. The class covered: what is credit, how to build your credit, and how important it is to have a good credit score. They talked about pros and cons of credit cards and how to be responsible with them.

The display of groceries on the shelf was a game of 'The Price Is Right'. The youth were asked to guess the total of the shopping receipt. Then each youth guessed how much they thought each item was and the true price was shown underneath the tag. It was an awesome way to bring the grocery store to the Village.

We would also like to send a shout out to **Envision Financial's Cloverdale Branch** as they provided the swag and ideas around the class. Thank you to advisor Robyn Preston!



A BRILLIANT METHOD OF SUPPORT

A huge thank you to realtor **Mike Karamanian** for setting up a new and ongoing initiative where he will be donating to SOS BC \$250 for each apartment or townhouse and \$500 for each single family house bought or sold through him!

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

We would like to give a shout out to internet service provider **Uniserve**. They are based in Vancouver and for over 25 years have been bringing innovative tech solutions to customers across Canada.

In June, Uniserve started providing free and ongoing high speed internet to all five houses in our Village campus.

This has reduced our administration costs and allowed us to redirect that money to our programs - thank you so much Uniserve!

CONNECTED TO OUR COMMUNITY



My family and I believe in giving back to the communities we work, live and play in. Starting August 1st, I'll be donating \$250 for each apartment or townhouse and \$500 for each single family home you buy or sell through me. Donations will be made to SOS Children's Village of BC.



www.mikekaramanian.com



www.uniserve.com



VANCOUVER'S CAPRI EVERITT GOES 'AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 ANTHEMS'

SOS Ambassador **Capri Everitt** and her family have returned home from a journey around the world to 80 countries where Capri sang the national anthem of each country in the national language – all to raise money for orphaned and fostered children through SOS Children's Villages!

It all started in 2015 when Capri's parents called SOS Children's Village BC to discuss this crazy idea they had. Now, not only have they pulled off this incredible feat, they did it with style and flair.

Since the completion of Around the World in 80 Anthems, 12-year-old Capri has kept busy. She spoke at We Day Manitoba and she also did a TED Talk! TED stands for Technology Entertainment and Design. She gave the **TED Talk** at a TEDx event in Mumbai, India. The event that Capri spoke at was the largest TEDx event in all of Asia. Capri opened the conference by singing the Indian national anthem.

When Capri spoke at **We Day** she was really excited. Capri got to meet **Paula Abdul** and some other celebrities. Her brother Bowen's school was able to watch the We Day speech live on TV, and the students all thought Capri did amazing!

The family's newest project has been filming a documentary in Atlanta, Georgia about the experience. The Everitt family is looking forward to sharing everything they did in those different countries with their feature length film and short film. Bowen was thrilled to be able to use the slate, as you see in the photo to the right.

Visit www.aroundtheworldin80anthems.com to view the trailers. The short film has already won 'Best Documentary Short' at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival and an award at the Impact DOCS Awards.

