



SOS Children's Village  
British Columbia



## KIDS AT SOS BC Fly to the North Pole to Find Santa



## Give Kids a Chance to Dream

**O**n August 28, 1963 an amazing speech known as “I have a Dream”, was spoken with grace and power by Martin Luther King, in the midst of a time of tremendous and dangerous turbulence. As we all know, the speech has become one of the most well known and loved in our time. Its effects are lasting because it provides the assurance that there is always hope, always the possibility of a just future, and, that indeed, a dream can come true.

The legacy for children in foster care is reflected in statistics that have highlighted the fact that all too many of these children have lost too much and gained too little. In the middle of their turbulence they are looking for adults who they can trust with their dreams.

Children living in foster care, by definition, undergo life-shattering upheaval. Amongst foster children and youth there are higher rates of physical health problems, depression, suicide, mental health issues and learning disabilities. And yet, children who have lived in foster care can demonstrate some of the most amazing gifts, talents and resilience which all too often go unnoticed. They deserve a chance to dream.

At SOS BC the Village model of care isn't just about well-appointed homes on 2.5 acres; it is about creating a circle of healing around children who are in turbulence, so that they can feel that they belong and are not alone. It's about community within community creating stability and continuity. It is about an interdependency that generates healthy relationships, peer friendships, and enriching experiences that create positive memories and solid skills.

continued on page 7

**A**dorable eyes wide open, a tiny giggle and then a hushed, “Santa” . . . the joy and wonder of the youngest participant on the “Flight in Search of Santa” was plain to see. Made possible by Air Transat and an invitation from Variety Club, seven awe-struck kids from SOS Children's Village, the Director of the Village Corina Carroll, Philanthropist Joanne Griffiths, and a social worker from VACFSS, flew high with anticipation in search of Santa.

In the midst of a winter storm we ventured to the airport safe and sound in our limo van. History was in the making for these kids, and nothing could daunt them!! The excitement created a constant hum of conversation and questions. Navigating Vancouver International Airport with seven young children from the SOS BC Village, could not be more fun!

We were greeted by the friendly Air Transat check-in staff as well as “Airnest”, the airline's mascot, who

continued on page 3



# The SOS Village Garden of Hope

## A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Donors



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## North Pole continued

was more than happy to share hugs all around. The kids were oblivious to anything else, relishing the attention the six-foot-tall blue mascot was paying them.

At the gate, we enjoyed a carpet picnic while we waited patiently for boarding . . . the anticipation of our adventure building in all of us! All of the kids were curious about what made them so special, so unique that they should be chosen for this adventure of a lifetime.

Finally the time had come to board the plane. We took our First Class seats and soon sang along to Christmas Karaoke. The Flight Attendants fed our excitement with their humorous banter, while showing attention to each of the kids, fueling their feeling of being extra special. For most of the children, it was their first time on an airplane, having

never had an opportunity like this before.

And then . . . the BIG moment arrived . . . feeling a BUMP on the plane, everyone looked eagerly at each other . . . SANTA! He had come! Joined by Mrs Claus, he made his way through the plane, stopping to say hello to each and every child on board, who was also given a stocking of gifts! As is the case with any celebrity, he stopped for pictures and hugs before he made his way back to the cockpit. Santa would stay on board while Rudolf and his sleigh made their way to the airport to wait.

When I looked around, all I could see were candy wrappers, huge smiles, and blue teeth from the blue ring pops! Every single child was beaming, enough to give Rudolf a run for his money! For that moment, each and every one of

them was not a foster child, not a child facing adversity, not a child who stood out because of their differences; each and every one of them was a fortunate child having an extraordinary experience!

And it didn't end there . . . a limo ride home was the icing on the cake. With kids laughing and re-living their experience, we pulled back into the Village, every one with a belly full of Christmas Spirit and a story to tell at school the next day! Amazing moments that will never be forgotten. Thank you Santa, Air Transat, and Variety Club for making it happen.

**Corina Carroll, Director  
Children's Village and  
Support Services**



## SOS Children's Village BC

OUR MISSION: To improve the quality of life for BC children and youth in need

[www.sosbc.org](http://www.sosbc.org)

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## SOS Connection

Editor Cary Gaymond

Design & Layout Big Wave Design

SOS Children's Village is a worldwide humanitarian organization committed to helping over 80,000 children.



It was "STANDING ROOM ONLY" for the children's Christmas party at the Village, with a full and lively turnout. In attendance was the man himself, Santa, who showed grace and staying power with over 25 children and 5 foster moms sitting on his lap to let him know what they were hoping to find under the tree on Christmas morning. Goodie bags and Christmas gifts were handed out by one of Santa's helpers, who made sure that each child left with something special. Thanks Emily!

After all the excitement, everyone lined up for some fantastic food supplied by our friends, Jaylene McNeil with daughter Jessica, son John and sister Jana Herauf from the Boot and Sombrero in Ladner, BC. Special thanks go out to those folks who not only served up some great grub, but had a great time doing it!

And the giving just kept on coming! Thanks to In-Joy Wellness Group and HSBC, the families were able to celebrate a bighearted Christmas, which, without the generosity of our community supporters, would have been difficult with the current economy. For the younger children, it was a time to wonder at the magic of the season, and for the older ones, a time to wonder at the kindness of strangers.

The season offered its share of challenges, with lots of snow, ice and cold weather, but the generosity of the community warmed the hearts of all.

## Friends of SOS Childrens Village Richmond: 5-10K Run; 1K Walk

The SOS Childrens Village Run/Walk begins at 9 a.m., Saturday, May 30th at the exciting Richmond Olympic Oval Plaza. This by-donation event will be a great corporate team-builder and a fun family day at the height of the spring season. Expect celebrities, food and refreshment, entertainment, silent auction and prizes. Watch for event details at [www.sosbc.org](http://www.sosbc.org) and pre-register at [www.sosrun.ca](http://www.sosrun.ca). Collect pledges over the coming weeks and join us at the Oval Plaza for a great outing.



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

# 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Food & Wine Event

**JUNE 18, 2009 AT EAGLEQUEST COYOTE CREEK GOLF COURSE**



Please join us on **Thursday June 18th, 2009** from 6-10pm at **Eaglequest Coyote Creek Golf Course** in Surrey for an amazing night of local and international wines featuring an exquisite collection of Shirazes, Chardonnays, Pinot Gris and Merlots. Gourmet food from local restaurants and artisan food merchants will tantalize your taste buds.

Confirmed exhibitors include: Artisan Wine Group, Cakes on Demand, Domaine de Chaberton Estate Winery, Freehouse Wines, Gone Crackers, Liberty Wine Merchants, Momma Nellie's Salsa, Mozart Bakery, Neptune Foods, Peacock and Martin, Sun Rich Foods, The Boot and Sombrero, The Seasonal Experience, Whistler Water and WineQuest Wine & Spirit Brokers.

The night will also include entertainment, 50 lot silent auction and a raffle. Highlights of the silent auction are: pearl necklace from the Gold Room, snow shoe fondue trip for 4 from Grouse Mountain, night at Four Seasons Vancouver, 4 ski passes from Intrustwest, seasons pass to Hemlock Resort, \$200 Spa Utopia gift card, trip for 2 to Victoria from Pacific Coach Lines, Jazz Brunch for 4 from Sutton Place Hotel, tickets to: Harbour Cruises, Vancouver Aquarium, Vancouver Canadians, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra & the Whitecaps and a 2 night stay at the Tinhorn Creek Vineyards' guesthouse in Oliver worth \$700.

**Tickets for the night are \$60 each or \$100 for the special VIP tickets** which include access to the VIP Lounge presented by Treegroup Developments Corporation which features exclusive wine and gourmet food tastings along with a fabulous Whitecaps gift bag featuring over \$100 worth of gifts including: a day of Park N' Fly parking, a bottle of Nando's Peri Peri sauce and a delicious treat from Mozart Bakery.



The **Spring Trip Lottery** will feature a grand prize of a trip for two to anywhere that Westjet has a scheduled flight to in North America worth \$4,604. The other grand prize is a trip for two to Victoria on Helijet. Tickets are \$20 each or three for \$50.

**"SOS Children's Village BC builds families for children in foster care, helps them shape their own futures and shares in the development of their communities."**

**For more information or to order your tickets please contact: Ryan Butt**

Manager of Corporate Relations and Events  
Phone: 604 582-2990 ext. 228  
Email: ryanbutt@sosbc.org  
Order your tickets online at [www.sosbc.org](http://www.sosbc.org)



# THANK YOU!

**SOS Children's Village BC** Grouse Mountain THE PEAK OF VANCOUVER  
**PARADE OF TREES**

Thank you to all of our sponsors who helped us raise over \$58,000 to support SOS Children's Village BC

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Thank you also to: Wesla Wong from Global TV, Karen Magnusson, our live and silent auction donors and our amazing group of volunteers for your support.

**WWW.SOSBC.ORG**  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD TODAY...

Thank you to the following companies that donated an item for the silent or live auctions held at the Parade of Trees Gala presented by Coast Capital Savings which raised over \$14,000.

AAA Horse and Carriage, Arts Club Theatre, Bard-on-the-Beach, BCAA, BC Lions, Bel Art Gallery, Best Western Norgate Inn, Best Western Richmond Inn, Big Bus, Boston Pizza, Presentation House Theatre, Cannery Seafood Restaurant, Ceilli's, Cin Cin, Coast Capital Savings, Costco Warehouse Vancouver, Costco Warehouse Burnaby, Deep Cove Canoe & Kayak Centre, Dr Sun Yat Sen Garden Society, East India Carpets, Electronic Arts, Elephant and Castle Group, Fairmont Royal York, Firehall Arts Centre, Fish House in Stanley Park, Foster Walker Gifts, Furry Creek Golf and Country Club, Grand Ballroom, Griffin Jewellery, Grouse Mountain, Harbour Cruises, HR MacMillan Space Centre, Hyatt Regency Vancouver, Innovative Fitness Consultants, Kettle of Fish, LUSH Handmade Cosmetics, M & M Meat Shops, Marriott Residence Inn Vancouver, Nando's Chicken, Nintendo, Old Spaghetti Factory, Pacific Coach Lines, Pacific National Exhibition, Palladio Jewellers, Panago Pizza, Park N' Fly, Playhouse, Provence Marinaside, Red Robin, RE/MAX, Rosedale on Robson Hotel, Science World, Smell this Aromatherapy, Sooke Harbour House Hotel, Spa Utopia, Staples, Stong's, Sutton Place Hotel, Tim Hortons, Urban Fare, Vancouver Aquarium, Vancouver Canadians, Vancouver Canucks, Vancouver Giants, Vancouver Symphony, Vancouver Trolley Company, Vancouver Whitecaps, Via Rail and Whole Being Yoga Company.



**SOS Children's Village  
British Columbia**

## INVEST IN TOMORROW'S CHILDREN

**DID YOU KNOW** that when you donate listed stocks and securities to a charity you pay **NO TAX** on your Capital Gains?

Call the Director of Philanthropy for more information about **FREE Legacy Planning Workshops** in your area  
604 582 2990

**604.582.2990** [www.sosbc.org](http://www.sosbc.org)



## HELP WANTED

**D**o you work for an organization that supports volunteerism? Are you open to learning new skills? Ready to share your talent with others? Are you looking for ways to make a difference in your community? Then read on...

We welcome individuals and corporate teams that are ready to dig in and make a difference. At SOS BC, we offer volunteers a variety of ways to shine...our volunteer program not only changes a child's life, but it also changes the life of our volunteers. This rewarding experience allows volunteers to apply their diverse talents in several ways, meet new people and experience fresh challenges. As a volunteer, your time and creative ideas are invaluable

## INTRODUCING . . .

**J**oining the SOSBC team was a decision that I will always be proud of. To make it even better, I have the opportunity to supervise an incredible SOS Family Support Worker, Josephine Denis, who provides support to MCFD caregivers in the Fraser Region.

Josephine seems to see each day as another chance to make a difference in the lives of children and families. She has optimism that is grounded in reality and graces us all with her peaceful demeanor and sense of humor. Josephine brings her experience to everything she does, infusing her knowledge with empathy, graciously accepting her role as our cultural touchstone, offering her insights and suggestions into Aboriginal ways. She supports caregivers in bringing harmony to their homes through cultural practices and with a voice of experience as she herself was a foster parent.

It is such an honour to work with Josephine and to introduce her to all of you.

**Corina Carroll**  
Director, Children's Village  
and Support Services

**“There are many things in life that will catch your eye, but only a few will catch your heart. Pursue these.”** Michael Nolan

and your efforts as part of our volunteer team will allow you to feel true joy!

In order to continue our programs at SOS BC, we need your help. To find out more about our volunteer opportunities, visit our website at [www.sosbc.org/volunteers](http://www.sosbc.org/volunteers) or contact Susan Thomas at 604.582.2990 Ext 226 to find out how you can make a difference in the life of a child living in foster care!

One of the most important ways that we raise funds at SOS...our Treasure Cottage Thrift Stores. We are in dire need of gently-used treasures including clothing and accessories, housewares, books, cds and furniture.

Donations are graciously accepted at the rear of each building during business hours:

**Kerrisdale** 2319 West 41st Avenue, 264.0880, 10am - 6pm

**North Vancouver** 121 Lonsdale Avenue, 604.924.3833, 10am - 6pm

**Steveston** 3800 Moncton Street, 604.274.8866, Mon - Sat 10am - 4pm, Sun 11am - 3pm

For more information on Treasure Cottage, contact the Manager of your local store.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Contact Store Manager

**Kerrisdale: 2319 West 41st Avenue, 264.0880**

**North Vancouver: 121 Lonsdale Avenue, 604.924.3833**

**Steveston: 3800 Moncton Street, 604.274.8866**

## Husky and Mohawk Cards

We have entered into an exciting new corporate partnership with Husky and Mohawk. SOS Children's Village BC has enrolled in their Community Rebate Program that donates to us a rebate of 2% on all gas and other purchases that you make at Husky and Mohawk Stations. There is no cost to either our organization or to you.

If you have any questions about this program or to request cards please call or email me.

Ryan Butt, Manager of Corporate Relations and Events  
Phone: 604 582-2990 ext. 228 Email: [ryanbutt@sosbc.org](mailto:ryanbutt@sosbc.org)



## A Chance to Dream continued



**By investing pro-actively in a range of social supports for children in foster care, we can strengthen their resilience and ability to avoid the justice system.**

Our therapy program isn't just about the right technique; it's about genuinely giving from the heart and listening to the sadness, seeing and building strengths, ultimately encouraging kids to believe in themselves and dream. We involve kids with literacy development because we know that it grounds them in skills that are critically necessary for them to succeed in their future. Nearly 70% of children in foster care have educational special needs in contrast to the 15.5% of the general youth population.\* Investing in their literacy skills improves their educational outcomes.

Providing art, culture and recreational opportunities creates a sense of mastery, connection and belonging.

The SOS Children's Village model is all about removing the stigma from foster care, and ensuring that little by little, dreams can happen for children who can no longer live with their biological families. We work hard through the maze of a issues and problems that are so typical to the foster care system, to somehow keep things simple: kids need to feel as though they belong to someone, somewhere. They need a circle of people around them who believe in them, cheer them on, and

encourage them to follow their dreams. They need to just be kids, with friends and adults who are consistent in their lives and committed to their futures. They deserve experiences which are fun and can make them smile.

Corina Carroll is our new Director of the SOS BC Village and Support Services. Corina's career has spanned the past 13 years working with some of the most difficult and traumatized children in the foster system. She has known a lot of children who stopped dreaming.

Corina believes that the SOS BC Village model is the most unique and ideal. As a realist, Corina understands that the Village model is not necessarily going to work for every foster parent or foster child. However, it is ideal in the sense that it provides the extras that these kids need, generates a sense of community and social connectedness naturally, and above all, consistently builds a sense of belonging.

“Usually, natural support systems can be difficult for foster parents to develop; they often find themselves in situations that are not readily understood by people around them, so isolation can frequently occur. In the Village they are not alone and we understand what they

are going through. Children in foster care are often targeted in a neighborhood, a group home, or school. Many times they feel that the home they are in is not “their” home and that they'll never fit in, so they quit trying. At the Village though, it is a priority that the kids feel that they have value and are important. There is an extended family atmosphere and the kids discover their connections as they play and do things together.

Children and youth in foster care are at a higher risk of a future in jail than their peers. By investing pro-actively in a range of social supports for children in foster care, we can strengthen their resilience and ability to avoid the justice system. Did you know, that the cost of one youth in the custody of a jail cell for one year is approximately \$215,000?\*

There are too many kids in foster care who have untapped potential and deserve to have a future that is far better than their past. We are launching our “Give Kids A Chance to Dream Campaign”. This is your opportunity to contribute to changing the trajectory for a child in foster care.

By sponsoring a day, a week, month or year of SOS BC services for a child in foster care, you are investing for positive returns. By sponsoring the Give Kids a Chance to Dream Campaign you enable SOS Children's Village to help children and youth in foster care improve their life opportunities so that they can have a pro-social and positive future. That impacts everyone...

*Sponsor SOS services so kids can dream.*

<b>A YEAR</b> in the life of a child	\$3,600
<b>A MONTH</b> in the life of a child	\$300
<b>A WEEK</b> in the life of a child	\$70
<b>A DAY</b> in the life of a child	\$10

You can help a child who has lost more than you can imagine, gain the confidence and trust to succeed...they are worth it...they are our future!

\*Source: *Kids Crime and Care*  
Joint Report by the Rep for Children and Youth and the BC Provincial Health Officer  
February 23, 2009



**SOS Children's Village  
British Columbia**

Publications Mail Agreement #40034052  
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on June 18th at Eaglequest  
Coyote Creek Golf Course**



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**We are updating our systems If you prefer to receive your SOS newsletter by email, please indicate on form below**

## Fostering the future with your help today

will bring hope and stability to foster children whose lives will be forever changed.



### SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE BC DONATION FORM

You can help rebuild children's lives . . .  
whether you choose to make a donation, provide  
volunteer service or create community awareness.  
You can make a difference in a child's life.

Every donation is important to us.

#### Yes, I would like to help a child today:

\$50  \$35  \$25 other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to pay by:  Cheque  VISA  MasterCard  
(please fill out credit card information in next column)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

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sosnewspring09

SOS Children's Village BC Canadian Charitable Registration  
BN # 12993-5011 RR0001

#### MONTHLY GIVING CLUB

Yes, I would like to belong to the **SOS Village Rose Club**  
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- YES, I /we want to volunteer
- YES, please send info about leaving a gift to SOS in my will
- YES, I/we have included SOS in my will

Please make cheques payable to:  
SOS Children's Village BC  
PO Box 102, 10688 King George Hwy,  
Surrey, BC V3T 4W4

Please send my SOS Connection by e-mail  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your generosity**  
**For more information call us at 604-582.2990**