

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annual SOS Children's Gingerbread Village and Holiday Gala Raise \$72,500 to Benefit Foster Children & Youth

Surrey, British Columbia Local charity SOS Children's Village B.C. announced today that a **total of \$72,500 was raised** through the SOS Children's Gingerbread Village, presented by RE/MAX, and the Holiday Gala premiere event at Grouse Mountain. This figure represents a 17% increase over the previous year's \$62,000 raised to benefit foster children.

Event sponsorship alone for the 21st Annual Holiday Gala was up 36% from the year before. Ticket revenue, live and silent auction revenue, as well as cash donations also increased over the previous year. Proceeds from this event support the charity's in-demand neurofeedback therapy, counselling, educational, and transition to adulthood programs for children and youth in foster care.

Grouse Mountain has been a dedicated partner of SOS Children's Village B.C. since 2005, providing valuable support through their annual Peak of Christmas celebration. The SOS Children's Gingerbread Village has become a holiday favourite with visitors and participants alike. In addition, Grouse Mountain raises considerable funds through photos with Santa which are donated to SOS B.C. each year.

"This past holiday season was unprecedented for SOS Children's Village B.C. and for our annual Christmas event in partnership with Grouse Mountain," said Douglas Dunn, executive director of the charity. **"Reviews of the Holiday Gala and its new sit-down dinner format were glowing, and the increase this year in donations through Photos with Santa is heartwarming.** More and more people are making a visit to the SOS Children's Gingerbread Village part of their annual holiday traditions."

"On behalf of everyone at SOS B.C., I would like to sincerely thank the wonderful team at Grouse Mountain and RE/MAX, all our corporate, media and service club sponsors, all the Gingerbread Village bakers, and every member of the public who helped make Christmas much more special for the children and youth we support who cannot live with their biological parents."

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 65 years with presence in 134 countries and 563 Villages. British Columbia is home to the only SOS Children's Village in Canada. SOS Children's Village BC provides stable homes, a supportive

healing Village environment, and programs to help foster children and youth in need grow into caring, self-reliant adults.

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