



## 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOS CHILDREN'S GINGERBREAD VILLAGE TO LIGHT UP GROUSE MOUNTAIN THIS DECEMBER

**Date:** Daily from November 25<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>,  
2016 from 10am to 10pm

**Location:** Grouse Mountain, the Peak of Christmas

The sparkling lights of the SOS Children's Gingerbread Village will dazzle you as the Skyride pulls into the station at the top of beautiful Grouse Mountain. Access to our winter wonderland is through the gift shop. The smell as you enter the Spirit Gallery is undeniably sweet and heavenly! Check out each and every fantastic gingerbread house and cast a vote for your favourite. One look at the children's faces as they wander through the Village looking at the amazing detail of the creations will leave you with holiday memories to cherish for a lifetime.

As true works of art, local culinary experts spend hours upon hours perfecting the variety of houses that make up the Village. That's why our festival is Vancouver's preeminent spectacle of holiday magic! After viewing the Gingerbread Village, don't forget to have your photo with Santa in his workshop and see his reindeer, with proceeds supporting SOS BC.

Contact Douglas at [douglasdunn@sosbc.org](mailto:douglasdunn@sosbc.org) or (604) 574-2964 ext. 102 to inquire about sponsoring one of the gingerbread houses this year or to donate a silent auction item.

For the past 22 years, SOS Children's Village BC has presented a memorable Christmas event to the world. This has been made possible thanks to generous sponsorship and in-kind support from individuals and companies, like you, who are committed to enhancing the development and healing of foster children in our Village and vulnerable youth in our community. Over \$600,000 has been raised over the years!



We are thrilled to have Global BC as our TV sponsor, and Immediate Images as our digital billboard sponsor - with ads to appear at the Alex Fraser Bridge and Massey Tunnel.



## 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA SPINS FUNDRAISING MAGIC FOR FOSTER KIDS

**Date:** Thursday November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 6:30pm

**Location:** Grouse Mountain, the Peak of Christmas

SOS Children's Village BC is pleased to feature tabled seating for all guests and a delightful buffet dinner and dessert at this year's Holiday Gala. Last year's event raised a spectacular \$72,500 for foster children and youth in need, making it the most successful event in our history.

We invite you to join us at Vancouver's preeminent spectacle of holiday magic! It's your exclusive opportunity to view the premiere of the SOS Children's Gingerbread Village before the general public, and the perfect way to kick off the holiday season in elegance and style.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Gala will be a festive evening with fine wines, craft beer, and delicious food - all in support of a great cause. After your magnificent Skyride up the mountain, you will be treated to a wonderful experience of live entertainment, captivating live and silent auctions, and a 50/50 draw.

Global TV Personality Amber Belzer is excited to be the Master of Ceremonies for this special evening. The most rewarding part of the night is that net proceeds go directly to our vital programs and homes for local foster children, and for homeless youth who are struggling to live independently or have aged out of care.

Tickets are \$99 each and include wine and beer, dinner and dessert, and live entertainment. A gondola and parking pass (a \$52 value) are also included in the ticket price.

**Get your tickets early:** [www.sosbc.org/gala](http://www.sosbc.org/gala)



Music by **Her Brothers**  
Winners of  
Langley Has Talent





**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGE**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA



## Fall 2016 Newsletter

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### MLA MARVIN HUNT TALKS ELOQUENTLY ABOUT SOS BC IN THE LEGISLATURE

Marvin Hunt is the MLA for Surrey-Panorama, and is a long-time supporter of SOS Children's Village BC. Check out the speech he gave in the Victoria legislature by Googling "MLA Marvin Hunt talks about the SOS Children's Village" -- it's the first result. He says our model of care is a solution to the problems in the provincial foster care system.





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



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## WHAT'S NEW AT THE VILLAGE: SOS SOCIAL CIRCUS!

By Kistie Singh, B.A., B.Ed.  
Village Director

The summer of 2016 at the Village was all about the exceptional SOS Social Circus! Working closely with SOS Children's Villages Canada, Vancouver Circus School, and Cirque du Soleil, SOS BC was able to land an exciting circus program for our Village community.

With children and youth all involved, as well as dedicated SOS staff and Vancouver Circus School trainers, the kids were able to receive 2 hour sessions twice a week for over 7 weeks! Our children and youth learned all forms of juggling. The kids used new gymnastics skills to contort and shape their bodies to perform independently, and in groups, creating pyramids and extending their height by balancing on the shoulders of Vancouver Circus School trainers.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.



While having a blast learning new skills in circus, the kids also picked up on important social skills as well. The rapport built between trainers and staff with our SOS kids made all the difference. The team was dedicated to teaching the kids not to give up even when some tricks seemed hopeless! This resiliency was a key part of the program. The children and youth also learned to respect boundaries, and picked up on social cues that helped them understand personal space and the comfort levels of others.

At the end of the program, the community and staff came together to watch the kids put on a show to showcase their new skills. Highlights included some flips on the new trampoline that was gifted to the Village from the program, and the biggest pyramid the kids have ever attempted to build! Of course some pizza and ice cream cake were in the mix. It was a great end to the summer pilot program. We hope to see Social Circus next year!







## MAYOR OF SURREY AND CITY COUNCILLOR VISIT SOS BC VILLAGE

We were pleased to welcome Mayor Linda Hepner of the City of Surrey -- the second largest city in British Columbia by population -- to the Village earlier this year. Mayor Hepner and Councillor Vera LeFranc toured the Village and sat down for tea.

The Mayor contacted us to schedule a visit after seeing one of our posts on Twitter (@SOSBCVillage). She praised our social media presence, and was so proud that the only SOS Village in Canada is located in her own city. She expressed her full support of our Capital Campaign to build five basement suites in the Village for youth who are aging out of foster care.

Mayor Hepner told our staff that our SOS Village concept -- 4 pillars: the SOS mother/father, the sisters and brothers, the family home, and the Village community of support -- should be in every city across Canada. She will be adding SOS BC to the charities that benefit from the annual fall Mayor's Ball put on by the Surrey Firefighters.



## SPECIAL THANK YOUS



- **Arlin Foundation** for a **\$1,000** donation
- **BC Gaming** for a **\$100,000** programs grant
- **Chris Spencer Foundation** for a **\$7,400** grant to furnish the new Transition Suites
- **Envision Financial** for a grant of **\$10,000** to Pathway to Trauma Informed Care Workshops
- **Home Depot Foundation** for a **\$35,000** grant to our Capital Campaign
- **Kids for Kids Charity Initiative** and **UBC TSA** for raising **\$6,500** for us through RHYTHM

- **Knights of Columbus Council No. 4767 North Surrey** for a **\$2,700** grant to our camps
- **Kwela Leadership & Talent Management** for choosing us as their charity of choice with a **\$3,870** gift
- **Mayor of Surrey Linda Hepner** and **Surrey Firefighters Charitable Society** for a **\$25,000** grant to our Capital Campaign and TTA program
- **MacDonald, Dettwiler & Associates** for a **\$1,000** donation
- **Province of British Columbia** and **MLA Marvin Hunt** for a **\$10,000** grant to our Capital Campaign
- **Royal Canadian Legion Whalley No. 229** for a **\$1,000** donation
- **Strawberry Hill Housing Society** kindly gave us **\$7,000**
- **Vancouver Foundation - Youth Homelessness Initiative** for the third cheque of **\$47,000** of a three year grant to our Transition to Adulthood program
- **Youth and Philanthropy Initiative** and **St. John's School group** (pictured left) for winning us **\$5,000**



## **DID YOU KNOW DRINKING ANYTIME DURING PREGNANCY CAN CAUSE SERIOUS BRAIN PROBLEMS?**

By Dr. Lise' DeLong, Ph.D, CPCRT, CCCM  
Clinical Director, Developmental NeuroCognitive Specialist

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders - FASD is an umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. Effects may include physical, mental, behavioural, and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications.

Typical primary characteristics in children, adolescents, and adults include:

- Memory problems
- Difficulty storing and retrieving information
- Inconsistent performance ("on" and "off") days
- Impulsivity, distractibility, disorganization
- Ability to repeat instructions, but inability to put them into action ("talk the talk but don't walk the walk")
- Difficulty with abstractions, such as math, money management, time concepts
- Cognitive processing deficits (think more slowly)
- Slow auditory pace (may only understand every third word of normally paced conversation)
- Developmental lags (may act younger than chronological age)
- Inability to predict outcomes or understand consequences

Many people with FASD have strengths which mask their cognitive challenges:

- Highly verbal
- Bright in some areas
- Artistic, musical, mechanical
- Athletic
- Friendly, outgoing, affectionate
- Determined, persistent
- Willing
- Helpful

- Generous
- Good with younger children

A study conducted by the University of Washington shows the percentage of people age 6 to 51 with an FASD who had difficulties in the following areas:

- 94% had mental health problems
- 83% of adults experienced dependent living
- 79% of adults had employment problems
- 60% of those age 12+ had trouble with the law
- 50% experienced inpatient treatment for mental health or substance abuse or spent time in prison
- 45% engaged in inappropriate sexual behaviour
- 43% had disrupted school experiences
- 24% of adolescents, 46% of adults, and 35% overall had alcohol and drug problems

This doesn't have to happen. Here are some ways to remediate and rehabilitate:

- Spend time encouraging independence
- Create ways to help them feel successful
- Engage them in music at a young age (encouraging an outlet for expression)
- Social programs that encourage talking about their concerns
- Brain remediation games that assist with:
  - Speed Processing
  - Language Processing (Expressive and Receptive)
  - Auditory Processing (Reception, Association, Sequential Memory, Discrimination)
  - Divided and Diverted Attention
  - Working Memory
  - Executive Function Skills (Problem solving, Critical Thinking, Reasoning, Deduction)
  - Cognitive Switching
  - Left/Right Orientation
  - Internal Organization

It does take a whole village to raise our children, please tolerate differences and yet teach yourself so you can help the younger generation learn what MIGHT happen if they are not careful.





## A NEW MUSICAL PLAYGROUND

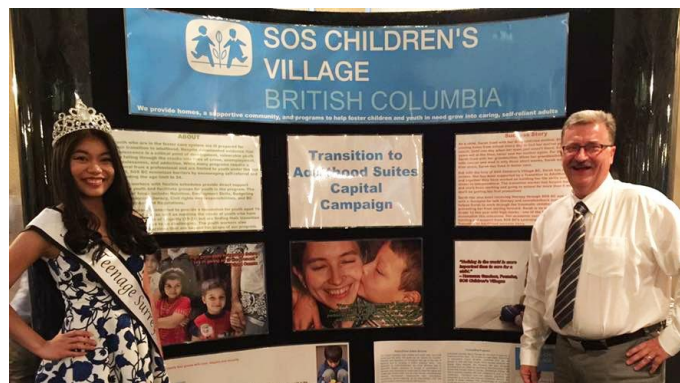
Marc DeLong, husband of our Clinical Director Dr. Lise' DeLong, generously built a musical playground for the kids in the Village while he was visiting from California with Lise! The children were so excited about it, they even started using it BEFORE it was finished (as you can see in the right photo). Thank you Marc, it looks great.



## TWO BRILLIANT THIRD PARTY FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR SOS

Every year, the North Surrey Lions Club hosts a fundraising dinner and donates the money to their charity of choice, this year it was SOS BC! Miss Teen Surrey, Anne Longakit, was pleased to attend and met with our executive director. She was thrilled to learn more about our charity. The dinner was at Eaglequest Coyote Creek, with a silent auction, reverse draw for \$1,000, and a 50/50 draw. Over \$3K was raised thanks to the hard work of the club and event organizer Dona Cadman!

There was an amazing and successful show in support of SOS BC called 'RHYTHM: A blend of eastern and western culture in a night of music and dance'. It took place at the Scottish Cultural Centre in Vancouver, presented by the KIDS FOR KIDS Charity Initiative in collaboration with the UBC Tamil Student Association. Thank you to Duva and his team for organizing the impressive event!







## **CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE FIRST THREE TRANSITION SUITES AND OUR 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!**

On June 9, 2016 at our Village we celebrated the grand opening of three new transition suites for youth aging out of care (more about the campaign at: [www.sosbc.org/notothestreets](http://www.sosbc.org/notothestreets) - we're still fundraising for two more suites) and the 30th anniversary of SOS Children's Village BC!

Though clouds loomed overhead, luckily the rain held off and everyone had a great time. We had over 100 of our closest supporters in attendance, including our Founders, Marvin Hunt MLA Surrey-Panorama, Judy Villeneuve Surrey City Councillor, Bruce Robinson First Nations Elder, Todd Schierling executive director Surrey Firefighters Charitable Society, MPB Construction, Qoola and their CEO Warrick Chu, the Surrey Now newspaper, and the JACK FM truckside!

Letters of greeting from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, David Johnston Governor General, Carolyn Bennett Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Christy Clark Premier of B.C., Stephanie Cadieux B.C. Minister of Children and Family Development, Linda Hepner Mayor of Surrey, and Melanie Mark MLA (Vancouver-Mount Pleasant) were read aloud to guests in attendance.

Thank you to all our donors at the event, and to all our staff for putting together such a wonderful celebration.

## **AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SPANNED THE GLOBE**

The opening of our trailblazing transition suites for youth aging out of care was one of the featured articles in the July 7th edition of the Global SOS Intranet Newsletter, that goes out to all SOS Children's Villages staff around the world!

