



SOS Children's Village
British Columbia



The Circle of Courage

Edwin Markham was a famous poet who cleverly fused art and social commentary. He wrote a poem titled "Outwitted" which goes like this:

*He drew a circle that shut me out
— Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!*

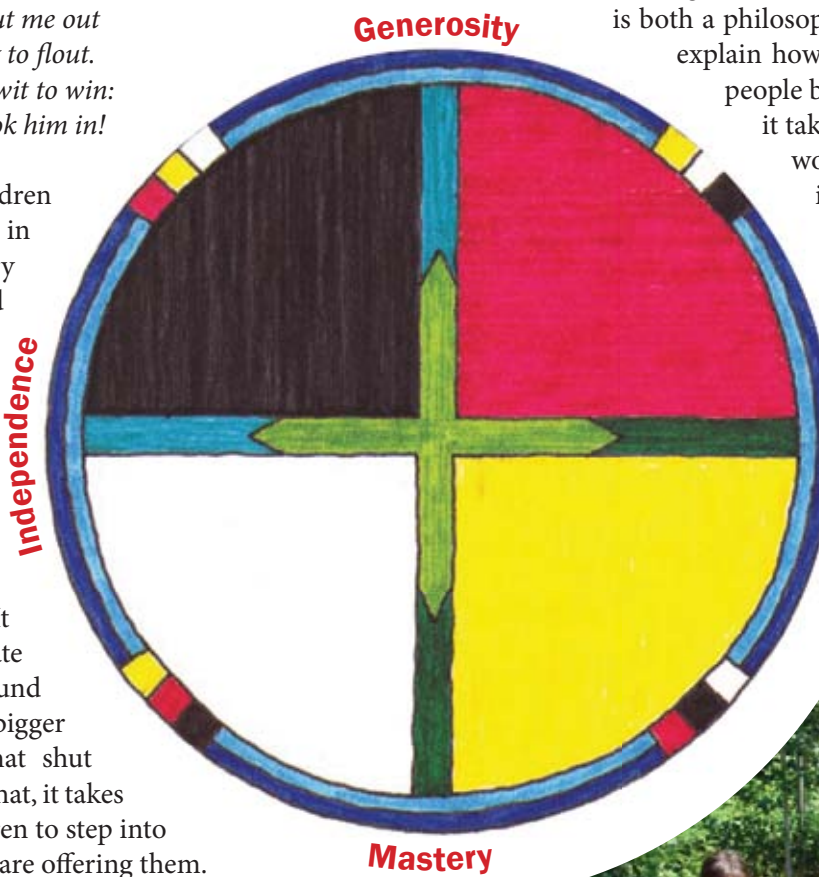
When we work with children who have suffered a lot in their lives, we can very often feel overwhelmed by the degree of their anger, rage, self-destructive behaviors, problems learning, depression and often continual resistance to enter into the love and care that can be available to them. It takes courage to create a circle of healing around these children that is bigger than their defenses that shut people out. More than that, it takes courage for these children to step into the circle of healing we are offering them.

The Circle of Courage is a widely acclaimed model of positive youth development created through the incredible work of Dr Larry Brendtro, Dr. Martin Brokenleg,

and Dr. Steve Van Bockern. SOS BC was inspired by the model, and has adopted the core philosophy and values within our program spheres. Based on the medicine wheel, the Circle of Courage transcends boundaries and cultures. It

is both a philosophy and model that is used to explain how we should treat others, why people behave as they do, the courage it takes to change, and assists us in working with children and youth in a way that allows them to grow strong and have a purposeful life. When programs are designed around this model, they are more effective in helping children and youth make healthier choices, develop greater empathy, thereby less likely to participate in risk behaviors.

The Circle of
[continued on page 10](#)



What we do: We build families for children in foster care, we help them shape their own futures and we share in the development of their communities.



Village Happenings



SOS Children's Village BC

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

www.sosbc.org

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SOS Connection

Editor Cary Gaymond

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



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

SOS Opens New Multi-Sport Court at the Village

At SOS BC we know only too well the difficulties that children in foster care go through when trying to develop peer relationships at school and in the community. There are several reasons for this and good outcomes can only be achieved by becoming intentionally focused on the steps required for success.

According to the Department of Justice Canada, the principal benefits of arts and recreation programs on young people include the following:

- 1) Better use of free time
- 2) Acquisition of skills and raising of self esteem
- 3) Contact with positive role models
- 4) Opportunities for kids to make their own contributions through peer mentoring/coaching

At SOS BC, we are in the process of re-building our arts and recreation program infrastructure. During the past several months we have wanted to create a continuum of recreation/sports opportunities. Thanks to funding through the Variety Club, we now have a beautiful new, multifunctional sports court at our site.

The kids we work with in foster care often have particular difficulties with hyperactivity and anxiety. Sports and recreational activities are a great outlet. As well, motor skills involving the co-ordination of large muscle movements used for running

or climbing can be compromised for some kids in care. Frequently, difficulties with social skills including person to person communication, waiting for turns, understanding rules and playing fairly, disruptive emotions and immature behaviors, often lead to rejection by peers, and feelings of isolation, loneliness, depression and aggression. Sports-related activities can contribute to the reduction of anxiety, isolation, antisocial behavior and substance abuse. In essence it affords opportunities to build great physical and mental health outcomes. Plus, it's great fun!



We are continuing to raise funds in order to hire one part-time specialized staff who will build strategic aspects of the program. If you wish to donate to this vital project, please contact Cary Gaymond Director of Philanthropy at 604 582 2990 Ext 224 or carygaymond@sosbc.org



Inaugural SOS BC Run for Chance to Dream Campaign



With the sun rising over the Fraser Middle Arm on a clear May 30th morning, a third-party SOS BC Benefit rose on the plaza of the spectacular Richmond Olympic Oval: a keen twelve member volunteer planning team had morphed into over 100 event volunteers raising tents and canopies, installing sound systems, setting up water, communications and first aid stations over 5K of Richmond dyke, delivering food and setting up silent auction and entertainment details.

Patrons Doug and Diane Clement, Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Counselor Bill McNulty, MC George Gordon, Executive Director Darlene Straarup, the Fraser River Fiddlers, Greg Meloche and Jack Mellor welcomed and entertained 165 participants in the first annual SOS Children's Village BC Run. Olympic athletes, marathoners, provincial teams, corporate and family groups, elders, children and youth; all walked 1K or ran a 5-10K course, representing over 500 sponsors who helped them raise \$16,000 for SOS BC programs. The City of Richmond and



many local individuals and businesses contributed goods and services to help the planning team create a low-expense, high profit ratio third party event.

Check out www.sosbcrun.ca to see a list of our generous sponsors and great event day photos. Start planning NOW: put together a team, explore creative fundraising ideas and bring the proceeds out to SOS BC Run/Walk 2010. Contact the planning team through the website if you'd like to help.

◀ Doug and Diane Clement



Organizing Committee

Goodbye and hello!

Bridge 19 – Transition Program Closes its Doors

In 2005, SOSBC engaged in discussions with South Vancouver Youth Centre regarding gaps in services. At that time, there was a specific need for housing for young pregnant and/or parenting women leaving the care system that offered support in transitioning to adulthood. South Vancouver Youth Centre had a level of expertise with this population through their Transition to Adulthood Program, which included a Parenting Teen Group. This population, in particular, was identified as being significantly at risk due to person and systemic issues.

In response to the critical need identified by South Vancouver Youth centre, in April of 2005, SOS BC created Bridge 19. House coaches resided upstairs, with young mothers residing downstairs; this allowed for a supportive but non-intrusive internal system. The Bridge 19 residence opened its doors to the first young mother with her new born child who had medical complications. This young mother had grown up in the system herself, born addicted to heroin and after turning 19 years of age, needed supervision and support.

Since then, four other women and their children have lived in the Bridge 19 Transition House, most entering the home unemployed and on government financial assistance. Two of those women were Aboriginal. Some had active Family Service files (Child Supervision orders) or were flagged as high risk. Of the five young women who were served through Bridge 19:

- 100% live independent from government financial assistance
- 100% have full guardianship of their children
- 80% (4/5) are employed
- 1 young mother graduated from BCIT and was the 2006 recipient of the Courage to Come Back Award.

Unfortunately due to a lack of funding, the program closed its doors on April 30, 2009, after four years of operation. While the numbers of those served seems low, the effect is immeasurable, because the support impacted two generations at the same time. For all, the cycle of involvement in the child protection system has been broken and dependency on government financial assistance is no longer needed. What the outcomes will not reflect is the growth in confidence, the increase in self esteem, and the potential for future success not only for the women, but their children.

SOS BC welcomes Linda, one of our new foster parents at the Village. Linda's life has been one of extraordinary commitment to making a difference in the lives of children and youth who have had enormous upheaval. Linda has been fostering for 12 years, with a focus on working with high risk adolescent girls. When Linda and one of her foster daughters were invited to the SOS summer barbecue in July to experience the Village and get a sense of what it's about, her foster daughter expressed a lot of enthusiasm and excitement about the possibilities of moving to SOS. The following week, Linda and both of her kids came back out to the village and talked at length about "Village life". Linda acknowledges that she likes the sense of community, having neighbours who can understand that fostering is a lifestyle and not a job. Linda says that "being a foster parent is not what I do, it's who I am. I like that the neighbours are as committed as I am, and I will be living beside others with the same values. My youngest can get a chance to be a big sister . . . it's a good lesson for kids: older kids helping younger kids. They can learn from each other. We all like the big back yard too—so much space and things to do." Linda also likes the way the house is built with the potential idea of having a suite in the basement for teens to move into for the extra support. Linda (as do all of us at SOS BC) worries about what happens to youth when they age out of care.

Linda and the kids are thrilled about moving into the Village on October 1st. She has been very involved in animal rescue as well, so we welcome her three dogs and two cats too!



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



Supporting a Good Cause

Umbro Soccer Boot Drive for SOS Children's Village



Paul Dolan from Umbro and Kristina Dyk from the Vancouver Whitecaps

On Saturday August 29th at the Whitecaps versus Rochester Rhinos soccer game, which was a sell out, the Umbro boot drive was held. The event saw SOS BC have 11 volunteers positioned with information and collection boxes at the three main gates along with a booth in the main area of Swangard Stadium in Burnaby. At the end of the night we collected over 125 pairs of boots. These boots are now on sale at our Treasure Cottage Store in North Vancouver located at 121 Lonsdale Avenue (604.924.3833).

Whitecaps staff and players will also be participating in the HUB Gives day at SOS Children's Village BC on October 16.

Thank you to Umbro, HUB International, the Whitecaps, Tom Mayenknecht and all of our volunteers for their support of a very successful evening.



HUB International Gives to SOS Children's Village BC

When HUB Gives, it aims to ensure that it always Gives Well. That's why HUB International TOS has developed a multi-faceted campaign in support of SOS BC that will continue for many years to come.

The first in the series of HUB Gives projects for SOS was on Tuesday, August 11th, when the employees of HUB TOS organized a clothing drive for the Treasure Cottage thrift stores. As a result of the generous donations received from the 14 offices of HUB TOS, 38 bags of quality clothing were delivered to two of SOS BC's Treasure Cottage thrift stores.

In October SOS looks forward to welcoming HUB employees to the Village for a day of hard work and fun. HUB is generously donating their employees' time, and acquiring the



necessary equipment to perform a number of repair and maintenance jobs at the Village site which will result in huge expense savings for SOS. Thanks to all at HUB TOS International for their incredible support and commitment to SOS BC.



David Mills Sr. VP, Dallas Vaillancourt and Tina Osen President Hub TOS International at Treasure Cottage Kerrisdale



Our Insurance.
Your Advantage.™

The SOS Village Garden of Hope

A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Donors



True Lavender \$1,000 to \$4,999

Bentall Real Estate Services LP • Commercial Drive Business Society • David Head • John Knechtel • Lynn Valley Lions Club • Kerrisdale School Annex • Gastone & Katharina Baldazzi • Art Dodd • Dagmar Cox • Optirex Lab Service • Fairholm & Company • Parish of St. Philips • Nellie Nowak • Vince & Ena Edwards • Fern Finn • Dick & Eleanor Hamilton • Jim & Heidi Bromley • Frank & Helga Posch • Surrey Golf Course • Stella Longstaff • Holland America • Holy Trinity Church - Anglican Women • Kal Tire Head Office • Global Collective Design Inc • Alfred Wirth • Mark & Julie Krehel • Newton Lions Club • Susan & Randy Thomas • LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics • Husky Energy Inc. • S.C. Johnson & Son Ltd • BC Ferries • Aptech Concepts Ltd • Costco Wholesale Canada Inc. • Home Depot - Head Office • Point Grey Secondary School • Bob & Judy Rieder • Deborrah & Jack Munro • Emma Coleman • Bjorn & Lori Hareid • Lindsay Dickson • Barnet Lions Club • Greg & Belinda Boyd • Barbara High • Ramonde & Ed Wilk

• I. MacDonald • Helen Grimmett • Peter Koelbleitner • Art & Jackie Missler • Daniel Ilich • North Delta Rotary • I.O.O.F. Progress Lodge #81 • New Car Dealers Assn of BC • Gilles & Lois Bouchard • Christine Huber • Margot Wawra • Chris & Cindy Bouchard • Jo Tonita • Art & Marguerite Valiquette • Devine Elden • Douglas & Elizabeth McRae • Estate of Margaret King

Sustaining Daisy \$5,000 to \$9,999

Kaatza Foundation • Hamber Foundation • The Zacks Family Charitable Foundation • Klaus and Hideko Kittel • Paul and Sally Bouchard • IntraWest Corp • Darlene & David Straarup • Vern Haubrich • RBC - Surrey Region • Air Canada - Head Office • BMO Employee's Charitable Foundation

Enduring Rose \$10,000 to \$29,999

United Way Lower Mainland • Grouse Mountain Resorts • Reinhart & Elvira Aulinger • Treegroup Developments Corp • Serena Fashions • London Drugs Foundation • RE/MAX Lower Mainland Group Advertising

Committee • Intact Foundation • F.K. Morrow Foundation • Anonymous • RBC Charitable Foundation • Coast Capital Savings - Head Office • Sook Ching Foundation

Benevolent BC Dogwood

\$30,000 to \$49,999

Telus Community Board • Diamond Foundation • Estate of Max & Lana Davolt • Loyal Protestant Association • Canwest Global Foundation • CKNW Orphan's Fund • Face the World Foundation

Majestic Cedar \$50,000 to \$99,999

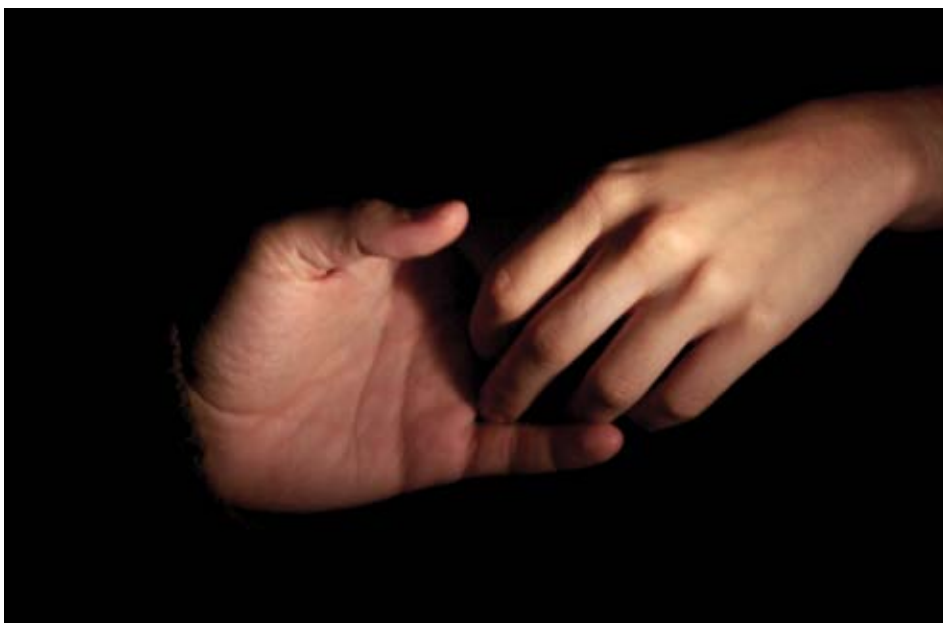
Variety - The Children's Charity • Edith Lando Foundation • Pacific Friends of Children • Fisher Foundation • Foresters • John Hardie Mitchell FF • Envision Financial Admin. Centre • Milan & Maureen Ilich Foundation • HSBC - Futures First Program

Legacy Maple \$100,000 to \$999,999

Anonymous • Estate of Barbara Landauer • Treasure Cottage Steveston • Envision Charitable Foundation • BC Gaming • Treasure Cottage Kerrisdale • Treasure Cottage North Vancouver

October is Foster Family Month in BC

SOS Children's Village BC salutes foster parents everywhere for your tireless and selfless dedication!



“A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.”

Forest E. Witcraft
American Scholar, Teacher
and Scout Leader
1894-1967



On Monday September 14th G & F Financial Group hosted their Annual Golf Tournament. This year the tournament was hosted at Greenacres Golf Course in Richmond. For the 2009 event SOS Children's Village BC was selected to be the recipient of the proceeds from the event. We are very happy to announce that over \$15,000 was raised to support our village and programs.

The day started off with a shot gun start at 1pm and after a great round of golf a buffet dinner was enjoyed by all of the participants. Trophies were also handed out for: team low gross, men's and ladies longest drive and closest to the pin.

Thank you to G & F Financial Group, their employees and supporters along with all of the participants for their support of the golf tournament and SOS Children's Village BC.



TREASURE COTTAGE

Thrift Stores



Introducing our new Treasure Cottage Thrift Store Managers

Karen Gordon has been managing the Kerrisdale store with her colleague Vera Gover since January of 2009 . This is Karen's first summer in Vancouver as she has recently moved to the Lower Mainland from London, England. Maybe we should thank Karen for the wonderful summer weather! This lovely lady has a background in retail and enjoys meeting new people and providing extraordinary customer service. Karen says "the community is diverse with people from all over the world and she is constantly amazed at the origin of some of the donations that have been in people's attics for years". She loves to see some of the wonderful treasures that come in. She mentions a very special woman who donated a Limoges eight piece dinner service that had been in storage for thirty years. It sold in a few days and raised a very large amount of money for SOS. Karen finds SOS a "very rewarding place to work, as the organization focuses on children from the local community."

Cecilia Campos is a North Shore resident who has kept herself very, very busy! And now she has taken on the role of managing the North Vancouver store. Cecilia is full of energy and is very excited about working with an organization that helps the community. She is impressed by all the good deeds she sees, such as volunteers coming in to donate their time. "It is a remarkable act of goodwill which is good for the soul of the store and something that she feels everyday herself". Cecilia enjoys the PEOPLE that she comes across every day in the store... volunteers and customers are what she loves best! Along with working, Cecilia has kept very busy raising her family, participating in sporting activities and volunteering as the Costume Director for Sentinel Stage.

Both Cecilia and Karen are asking people to raid their attics and drop off their treasures at any one of the Treasure Cottage Thrift Stores. Come by and do some shopping and consider joining their team of volunteers to have some fun and raise dollars for the children living in foster care in BC! Did you know . . . both the Richmond store and the North Vancouver store can now pick up your furniture donation locally to the stores for a very minimum fee?? Please call us for more information.

Treasure Cottage phone numbers:
 Steveston 604.274.8866
 Kerrisdale 604.264.0880
 North Vancouver 604.924.3833



Celebrate Winter 2009 with SOS Children's Village BC

Parade of Trees at Grouse Mountain

Thirty corporations will sponsor trees for \$1,000 and try to outdo the competition with dazzling decorations – a prime opportunity to brand a tree, incorporate company messaging and enjoy the season at the same time. Tree decorating takes place Thursday December 3rd from 12pm-5pm with light refreshments to get everyone into the Christmas spirit. It is a great team-building activity, with opportunities to enjoy other activities up at Grouse as well – the skating rink, the hustle and bustle atmosphere, the outstanding view! Each holiday season, over 100,000 people from across the Lower Mainland view the Parade of Trees. Confirmed media sponsors for this event include Global TV, Jack FM, 24 Hours and the North Shore News, who have together donated over \$96,000 worth of advertising.

Parade of Trees Gala

presented by



The Gala will be held at the top of Grouse Mountain to launch the Parade of Trees on Thursday December 3rd from 6pm to 10pm. It is a wonderful night of wine, food, music, lighting of the trees and awards for the favourite trees. The highlight of the evening will be a silent auction with many amazing items to purchase for Christmas gifts including vacation packages, local hotel stays and great meals at your favourite restaurants. With over 200 guests expected to attend, including all of our key partners, it will be an incredible evening. Four complimentary tickets are included with the sponsorship of a tree and tickets can also be purchased for \$100. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Skate-a-thon

The Skate-a-thon will take place in December at the top of Grouse Mountain. Participants are encouraged to collect a minimum of \$50 (adults) or \$25 (children) in tax receiptable donations. Participants will head up Grouse Mountain to drop off their pledges and go skating. The cost of going up Grouse and the skate rental are included. Awards will be given out to the best fundraisers in the individual and group (5 people) categories. This event is a great corporate team-building exercise and is also a fun family day at the Peak of Christmas.

Scavenger Hunt

Individuals and corporate teams are invited to participate or announce a challenge. Think adventure, clues and mystery items to find. We will be welcoming donation challenges and announcing challenges through our website, e-newsletter and media partners! Teams with a maximum of 5 people or individuals can participate 11am to 7pm Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays December 4th to 23rd. Prizes for top winners in two categories: individual and team.

Win a great trip

The third Annual Trip Lottery will be taking place from September 15th to December 22nd. Buy your tickets before the early bird draw: Thursday December 3rd, 2009 with the final draw taking place Monday December 28th 2009 at 2pm. There are only 1000 tickets for sale at \$20 each or 3 for \$50. Buy your tickets now for a great escape.

Volunteers needed:

SOS Ambassadors at the Parade of Trees

As an SOS Ambassador, you will be the face of our organization for visitors to Grouse Mountain: this is an opportunity for you to use and expand your interpersonal skills, organizational and multi-tasking abilities and enjoy the activities of Peak of Christmas.

Qualifications:

- Good interpersonal skills and an outgoing personality
- Ability to promote and sell a product
- Enthusiasm and a willingness to learn about SOS Children's Village BC

Duties:

- Answering questions and providing info about SOS Children's Village BC
- Sell trip lottery tickets and tree voting tickets
- Provide information on our events and encourage each visitor to participate

continued on page 11



THANKYOU!

SOS Children's Village BC

6th Annual

Food & Wine Event

JUNE 18 • EAGLEQUEST COYOTE CREEK GOLF COURSE

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS WHO HELPED US RAISE \$31,000
TO SUPPORT SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE BC**

FOOD AND WINE SPONSORS



VENUE SPONSOR



TRIP LOTTERY SPONSORS



MEDIA SPONSORS



EXHIBITORS

Artisan Wine Shop • Cakes on Demand • Chocolaterie Bernard Callebaut • Costco Surrey
Domaine de Chaberton Estate Winery • Eaglequest Coyote Creek Golf Club
Free House Wine & Spirits • Frog Friendly Wild Coffee Company
Goat's Pride Dairy at McLennan Creek • GONE CRACKERS • Independent Distillers Canada
Leading Brands of Canada • Liberty Wines • Momma Nellie's Goodies
Mozart Bakery • Neptune Food Service • Peacock and Martin • PMA Canada
River's Bend Winery • Saturna Island Winery • Sun Rich Foods
The Boot and Sombrero Tex Mex Restaurant • The Fort Wine Company
The Seasonal Experience • Tinhorn Creek Vineyards • Uli's
Whistler Water • WineQuest Wine & Spirit Brokers

**THANK YOU TO DAWN CHUBAI FROM CITYTV, OUR SILENT AND
LIVE AUCTION DONORS, EVENT GUESTS, ENTERTAINMENT BY
CHECO TOHOMASO (MAIN ROOM) AND PAUL CHOISIL (VIP ROOM),
ELEGANT WEDDING DÉCOR BY DOREEN BALDWIN AND SOS
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE BC'S BOARD, STAFF AND 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 Food and Wine Event
which raised over \$11,000.**

7-11, AAA Horse & Carriage, AE Photography, AP Creations, Aquilini Investment Group, Art Knapp's Plantland, Arthur Murray Dance Studio, Artisan Wine Group, Austrian Wine Marketing Board, BC Biomedical, BC Lions, Bel Art Gallery, Best Western Nanaimo & Firehouse Grill, Big Bus, Black Bond Books, Jim & Gwen Blair, Jim & Heidi Bromley, Boston Pizza-King George & 101, Cactus Club Cafe, Cakes on Demand, Cannery Restaurant, Carmelis Goat Cheese Artisan, Cascadia Hotel, Central City Shopping Centre, Charton Hobbs, Chocolaterie Bernard Callebaut, Choices Market- White Rock, Costco Surrey, Deep Cove Canoe & Kayak Centre, Delta Hotel-Whistler, Domaine de Chaberton Estate Winery, Eaglequest Coyote Creek Golf Club, East India Carpets, Electronic Arts, Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy, Firehall Arts Centre, Fish House, Four Seasons Hotel-Vancouver, Free House Wine & Spirits, Frog Friendly Wild Coffee Company, G & F Financial Group, Generous Donors, Goat's Pride Dairy at McLennan Creek, Gold Room, GONE CRACKERS, Gord Ron's Royal Oak, Grand Ballroom, Griffin & Pernilla Goldsmith, Grouse Mountain Resorts, Guildford Cab, Guildford Town Centre, Hagensborg Chocolates, Harbour Cruises, Hemlock Resort, Hyatt Regency Hotel-Vancouver, Independent Distillers Canada, Intrawest, Island Farms, Just Ladies Fitness, Kulus Consulting and Development, M & M Meat Shops, Maggie Bernet, Michael Downs, Momma Nellie's Goodies, Mount Seymour, Mount Washington, Mozart Bakery, Myrna Webster, Nando's, Old Spaghetti Factory Restaurant, Orca Spirit Publishing & Communications, Pacific Coach Lines, Pacific National Exhibition, Pacific Wine & Spirits, Palladio Jewellers, Pan Pacific Hotel-Seattle, Panago Pizza, Park 'N Fly, Peacock and Martin, Playhouse, Que Pasa Mexican Foods, Raintree Day Spa, Red Robin, River's Bend Winery, Roca Blanca Dance Studio, Rosedale On Robson Suite Hotel, Safeway-Surrey, Sammy J. Peppers, Sandman Hotel-Guildford, Saturna Island Winery, Seahorse Grill, Semiahmoo Centre, Spa Utopia & Salon, Stong's Market, Survivor Boot Camp, Sutton Place Hotel, Takeshi Fujibe, The Fort Wine Company, The Keg Steakhouse & Bar, Tinhorn Creek Vineyards, Township 7 Vineyards & Winery, Travel Boecker, Van Dusen Botanical Gardens, Van Houtte, Vancouver Aquarium, Vancouver Canadians, Vancouver Giants, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Visionberry, Whitecaps, Whitefish Group, WineQuest Wine & Spirit Brokers, and Y. Yoga

Circle of Courage continued

Courage is based on four universal growth needs of all children: *Belonging, Mastery, Independence and Generosity.*

These four core growth needs, are also values which comprise four parts of an individual's "circle" which must be intact in order for that individual to grow resilient, emotionally healthy, and become a positive contributing member of society. When any part of that circle is broken, a child's potential is compromised.

Over the next few issues of SOS Connections Newsletter, we will be highlighting each of the four values. In this issue we want to focus on the first value in the Circle of Courage: *Belonging.*

Belonging provides the foundation for future success with others. Belonging is based on the truth that every individual has the need to belong; a need to be part of something bigger than them. It is easy for children



who have experienced abandonment, neglect and abuse, to become guarded, distrustful, lonely and misunderstood. Since 1999, when SOS BC first opened its Village doors, some of the kids we've journeyed with couldn't touch appropriately or didn't know how to listen to a friend or adult. Some would talk in a way that made an adult cringe! Others had no idea how much pain they could inflict on others around them. All had one thing in common; they didn't feel like they belonged to anyone, anywhere.

It is a priority for us at SOS BC that everyone who lives at the Village has a strong sense of belonging. This

takes intentional work. Each family at the site creates their own home with it's own unique rhythms and routine. With the assistance of SOS BC staff, the families form a supportive neighborhood environment where experiences are shared and each child is able to participate actively. Foster children neighboring with other foster kids immediately see that theirs is a shared experience. Each child is unique but their histories connect them to each other. A child can walk out their back door at the Village, and share their back yard with another child who has some understanding of what life looks like through the unique perspective of a child in foster care. Village events celebrate the seasons of life and how we are all connected to one another. Through celebrations with food, music, dance, song and other shared experiences, Village events bring everyone together for a common purpose: "we belong and we are journeying together". The children's Talking Circle is a traditional practice of Aboriginal peoples, and provides a place for all to speak without fear of judgment. The therapy program assists those who need more help moving past their traumas and sorrows.

Now, I want to introduce you to little Peter. Peter had a very rocky start to his birth and never knew his biological mother or any of his family...until recently. Peter, at 5 years old, was adopted by an extended family member who also adopted his biological sibling who Peter

has never lived with....until now. Peter has lived with the same foster mother since he was an infant and she worked diligently at the pending adoption because she knows that children deserve a permanent family. Peter as an infant was high needs; as a toddler he had trouble expressing himself verbally, and had frequent and intense outbursts. But the SOS staff saw rapid changes in Peter, as his foster mother managed the behaviors with daily patience. The other children at the Village looked out for him and included him when they played. Even as a toddler, Peter would be one of the kids who would sit incredibly still to watch an Aboriginal dancer, or hear an Aboriginal Elder speak. Slowly Peter became one of the most outgoing and polite children at the Village. Always curious, Peter was

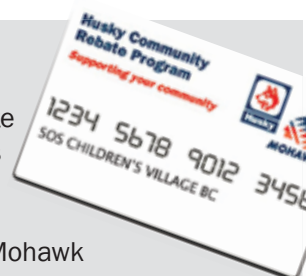


Husky and Mohawk Cards

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



often the first to greet visitors.

The time for Peter to journey onto the next season of his life arrived not long ago. The entire village celebrated Peter's adoption; putting aside their own feelings of loss by coming together to celebrate with a barbeque. The children had worked together to make good-bye banners and posters. Our practicum student worked with Peter to create a Life Story-book to take with him. His new family has promised to stay in touch and come back to visit.

Lakota anthropologist Ella Deloria says about Belonging: "Be related, somehow, to everyone you know". I'm sure Peter felt that as he left the Village. SOS BC will always attempt to develop a culture of belonging for the children and families we work with. It is never easy, but always worth it.

Illustration used with permission from Circle of Courage, PO Box 57, Lennox, SD 57039.

Artist: George Blue Bird

Information utilized from *Reclaiming Youth at Risk: Our Hope for the Future* by Brendtro, Brokenleg and Van Bockern.

Parade of Trees continued

Location:

- The top of Grouse Mountain, 6400 Nancy Greene Way in North Vancouver
- Tram ticket to the top of the mountain will be supplied

Dates:

- December 4 until December 28, 2009
- Shifts are 4 hours in length
- Time 11am to 7pm

For all inquires about these events please contact:

Ryan Butt

Manager of Corporate Relations & Events
SOS Children's Village BC

Direct Phone: 604 582-2990 ext. 228

Fax: 604.582.2110

Email: ryanbutt@sosbc.org

Additional information: www.sosbc.org

Save the World Award goes to SOS Children's Villages



On July 24, SOS Children's Villages received the SAVE THE WORLD AWARD 2009 as part of an international television gala. Helmut Kutin accepted the prestigious Save the World Award on behalf of SOS Children's Villages in a media event that aimed to honour "role models who through their exemplary involvement and commitment are making immense contributions to mankind as well as to the preservation of our planet."

Since being founded in 2000 by the journalist and bestselling author Georg Kindel and Mikhail Gorbachov, the World Awards have been raising awareness for the most important global challenges and presenting possible solutions for improving our world now and for

future generations. Past winners include Queen Noor of Jordan, Susan Sarandon, Steven Spielberg and Paul McCartney, amongst others. This year, SOS Children's Villages were given the award in recognition of their commitment to giving children all over the world what they need most: love, security, a home and a real chance to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

The World Awards committee based its decision on the fact that SOS Children's Villages offers thousands of children who have lost their main carer a new home.

In his acceptance speech, Helmut Kutin emphasised that he was thanking the awards commission on behalf of all the children, SOS mothers and staff of the organisation, but that he also wished to thank those without whom none of the organisation's work would be possible: those who decide to contribute to the work of SOS Children's Villages. In his brief address to the distinguished audience, Kutin said that "we are glad to receive this award as recognition of our work, but also see it as encouragement to persevere in our task of joining forces to ensure that children and young adults grow up in a healthy environment and as recognised citizens of the world. We all know what has to be done. All that remains now is to do it! The world we live in is beautiful, but we have to strive to make it better; and we have to do it today - tomorrow it could be too late!"

Well-known actress and model Andie Macdowell hosted the show and other award winners included Carl Lewis, Greenpeace, and Michael Jackson, on whose behalf brother Jermaine accepted the award.

Source: SOS-Kinderdorf International



Helmut Kutin proudly shows the award he received on behalf of SOS Children's Villages - Photo: World Awards Media

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British Columbia**

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