

**CHILDREN OF THE
STREET SOCIETY**
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children of the Street Society 20th Anniversary Celebration of Success and Fundraiser
Local charity hosts fundraiser to support programs aimed at keeping kids safe from human trafficking and online exploitation

February 17, 2015, Coquitlam – Children of the Street Society, a Provincial non-profit organization since 1995 dedicated to preventing the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of children and youth will be hosting their **20th Anniversary Celebration of Success and Fundraiser** at **Stanley Park Pavilion (610 Pipeline Road) in Vancouver on March 5, 2015 from 6pm – 9:00pm.**

The event kicks off the Annual Provincial Stop the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Awareness Week, and promises to be an engaging evening of networking and conversation. Tickets are \$60 each which includes appetizers and refreshments; a raffle draw for 2 West Jet flight tickets courtesy of WestJet; a live auction of a dinner for two at Tableau with former BC Lion Angus Reid and his wife, and an exquisite silent auction featuring prizes from MAC Cosmetics, The Metropolitan Hotel Vancouver, Canuck's Club Seats, a private scenic plane ride and much more!

Hosted by **Diane Sowden, Executive Director of the Society**, the evening will include a look at the history of Sexual Exploitation over the last 20 years including surprise guest speakers and multimedia snippets from the organization's history. It will also feature performances from TCO² (Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others), the Society's prevention education team.

Tickets can be purchased by calling Children of the Street Society at 604 777 7510 or online at www.childrenofthestreet.com/celebrate.html.

Space is limited so don't miss out and buy your tickets today!

March 9th to 13th 2014 marks the 16th Annual Provincial Stop the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Awareness Week. Each year, the Province of BC declares STOP the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Awareness Week. The awareness week recognizes the importance of supporting communities to develop prevention, education, enforcement and intervention strategies to address the sexual exploitation of children and youth.

This year, the society is kicking off a campaign to spread awareness on the issue by selling fuchsia-colored daisy pins. The symbol was chosen as a visual way to represent various facets of the issue; daisies represent childhood innocence and fuchsia is a combination of red, for red light districts, and purple, the provincial colour for violence prevention. Children of the Street Society is encouraging citizens to wear the daisies for the month of March. Proceeds from the campaign support education and awareness initiatives on sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Individuals wishing to pick up daisies can do so by making a minimum \$5 donation to Children of the Street Society on our website www.childrenofthestreet.com/donate.html or by stopping by the office at **208-1130 Austin Avenue** and making a small donation.

About Children of the Street Society:

Children of the Street Society is a Provincial Society and Federal Charity dedicated to preventing the sexual exploitation of children and youth in British Columbia through education strategies, public awareness initiatives, and family support since 1995. Our mission is to take a proactive approach through public awareness, education and early intervention strategies to prevent the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of children and youth, while offering support to families. Our vision is a world where children and youth are safe and free from all forms of sexual exploitation.

The Society offers a variety of preventative programs which engage a diverse range of individuals and groups. Its primary prevention tool is education and awareness workshops for young people ages 11-18. Last school year the Society delivered 642 workshops to 26,000 participants, ages 10-18 across the province.

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