

Peel Children's Centre Raises \$66,180 for Child and Youth Mental Health Services in Peel Region

Mississauga, ON – On Saturday, November 23, Peel Children's Centre (PCC) welcomed guests to its sold out Evening of Hope Gala and Auction, presented by Bell. The masquerade-themed event raised \$66,180 in support of PCC's high quality, free and confidential mental health services for children, youth and their families. Janice Golding, a videojournalist for CTV News Toronto, was the event's special guest Master of Ceremonies.

Donning a Venetian masquerade mask, PCC CEO Humphrey Mitchell welcomed and thanked guests for their support. Mitchell reminded guests that behind every mask there is a face, and behind that face, a story. He then invited guests to remove their masks to show their commitment to ending the stigma of mental health that stops many people from reaching out and getting help from service providers like PCC.

To illustrate the impact PCC's services have on children, youth and families in Peel Region, Mr. Mitchell invited Sharon Vandrish to the stage to share her family's story. Ms. Vandrish's son first began receiving mental health services from PCC at the age of 8, and she shared how PCC's high quality services and dedicated, compassionate staff made a positive difference in his life over the course of the subsequent ten years. At the close of her address, Ms. Vandrish invited two of her son's counsellors to join her on stage and asked that everyone join her in thanking them for their hard work and commitment to helping young people with social, emotional and behavioural challenges.

Other highlights from the evening's program included a special musical performance by local singers Kati Pearson and Diana Chrisman; live and silent auctions; and the opportunity to take home an air travel package generously donated by the Air Canada Foundation. Guests were also invited to sponsor a child in need of mental health services by purchasing a stuffed toy, sold by Matching Sponsor Scotiabank's employee volunteers.

At the close of the evening, Mr. Mitchell once again expressed his sincere gratitude to everyone in attendance for their dedication to making a difference in the lives of children, youth and families who are struggling with mental health-related challenges. Mr. Mitchell also thanked the many volunteers who contributed to the event's success.

PCC is a fully accredited, not-for-profit child and youth mental health agency. Since 1985, PCC has inspired hope by leading in the delivery of high quality mental health services that help more than 4,300 children, youth and their families annually. To learn more about PCC, please visit www.PeelCC.org. To learn more about next year's Evening of Hope, please visit www.PCCEveningOfHope.com.

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