



PRESS RELEASE

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MONTREAL AHEPA FAMILY LAUNCHES 12TH ANNUAL ST-VALENTINE'S BALL FUNDRAISING DRIVE FOR SHRINERS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

MONTREAL, QUE – The Montreal AHEPA Family is proud to announce its 12th Annual St-Valentine's Charitable Ball that will take place on Saturday, February 12, 2011 at the Palace Reception Hall in Laval. Over the past eleven years this event has raised over \$340,000 for children's causes. Institutions that have been supported include the Shriners Hospital for Children, the Montreal Children's Hospital, the St-Justine Hospital, the Giant Steps Foundation and the Children's Wish Foundation.

"This year's goal is to raise the balance outstanding to complete the \$250,000 pledge AHEPA has made towards the Shriners Hospital" said Montreal AHEPA Family Co-Presidents Dr. Ken Matziorinis and Dr. Hellen Christodoulou. The Shriners Hospital is the leading treatment centre for children with orthopaedic, burn and neuromusculoskeletal conditions including arthritis in the world and treats children for free thanks to the ongoing fundraising effort of the Shriners. "For eighty-five years, we have delivered pioneering, patient centered, compassionate care to our patients and their families in a healing environment" added Dr. Robert Drummond, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Hospital. The Shriners Hospital "is and will continue to be a true centre of excellence that uniquely combines teaching, clinical practice and research all under one roof. Many ground breaking therapies with global impact have been developed here" said Dr. Drummond

AHEPA, the American Hellenic Educational and Progressive Association was founded in 1922 in the United States and was established in 1928 in Canada. It is the largest and oldest heritage volunteer organization of the Greek Diaspora with over 500 chapters and 16,000 members in North America, Greece and Cyprus and sister organizations in Australia and New Zealand. Originally founded to combat discrimination and bigotry and assist in the integration of Greek immigrants in their new homes, AHEPA today focuses on maintaining the ideals of Greek culture, language and civilization among the 3.5 million community of Americans and Canadians of Greek origin. "We are very fortunate that such a leading world-class institution is located in Montreal, Quebec" said Dr. Matziorinis and "we are proud to contribute to the work they do for the benefit of our children" said Dr. Christodoulou.

“The St-Valentine’s Ball Committee has been working enthusiastically to raise funds and organize a first class event” said the Co-Chair of many past Ball fundraising events and Committee Coordinator Peter Scoufaras. “The response has been overwhelming so far” added Helen Hiotis, past Co-Chair and administrator of the event. To date, some of the sponsors include Elisabeth Sakoyiannis, well known volunteer, Nick Tsatas, founder of the Madisons New York Grill & Bar Restaurants, Nick Vouloumanos of Apollo Microwaves, Emanuel Leylem of West Island Express, BMW Laval, the Banque National, the Caisse Desjardins, Constantine Kyres of Fraiser Milner Casgrain LLP, Kosta Dariotis of CIBC Wood Gundy, Michael Sayig of Centreville Volkswagen; other sponsors are in the pipeline and will be announced the night of the event.

This year’s Ball is being held under the auspices of the Honourable Anastasios Orestis Kafopoulos, Consul General of Greece. The members of the Honourary Committee are the Honourable Senator Leo Housakos, the Honourable Eleni Bakopanos, PC, Director of Government Relations, McGill University, Mrs. Mary Deros, City Councilor and Member of the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal and Dr. Robert Drummond, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Montreal Shriners Hospital.

This year, members of the Organizing Committee include: Maria Anagnostou, Frank Antoniou, Gloria Countourellis, Dennis Georgakis, Helen Hiotis, Lazarus Kalipolidis, Nick Katalifos, Jane Kyriopoulos, Peter Papas, Angie Scoufaras, Peter Scoufaras, Pota Theodorakopoulos, Georgia Tridimas, Effie Varelas and Demetris Yantsulis.

George Vassilas, District Governor of AHEPA and past Chapter President added “Montreal’s Greek community is proud that the Shriners and AHEPA, two pre-eminent North-American organizations have partnered to support such a worthy cause”.

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