



PRESS RELEASE

Attendance and Results of Benefit Auction Hits New Record Support of West Island Community Grows with Understanding of its Mission

Pointe-Claire, November 14, 2011. – Each year West Island Community Shares counts more supporters and raises more funds as understanding of its mission grows. Last year the group hit a milestone by raising and distributing \$1,000,000 to 35 West Island charities. The trend continues as evidenced by the results of its 4th Annual “Share the Experience” Benefit Auction held on November 14th. The auction raised a record \$75,000, an increase of 10% over last year and was held in a new venue to accommodate 160 guests versus 100 in previous years.

“Our mission is to make sure that any West Island resident who needs it can find help close to home,” says Caroline Tison, Executive Director. “The West Island is a tight knit community and supporting Community Shares is one way of standing shoulder-to-shoulder in support of neighbours in need.”

“True heroes are everyday people who do amazing things for their community,” said Chantal Carrier, a member of West Island Community Shares Board of Directors and of the Benefit Auction Committee. “The hundreds of people who were involved in the auction by attending, donating, purchasing, volunteering are all heroes.”

“Share the Experience” was held at the Sheraton Montreal Airport Hotel and featured a live auction of 20 “priceless experiences”. All of them were generously donated by event sponsors. They included a week at a luxurious beach-side villa in Curacao, a dinner for four with three hockey celebrities – NHL referee Dave Jackson, TSN 990’s Mitch Melnick and former Canadiens Chris Nilan and a tour of Mel’s Cité du Cinéma. Also up for bid were a “Model for a Day” experience for four ladies complete with a photo shoot, champagne and dinner as well as tickets to the hottest, sold-out, sports and music events in town. A silent auction with close to 90 items, all of which were also donated, was held during the evening.

Among the guests who attended the event in support of Community Shares were Yolande James, MNA for Nelligan and Minister of Families and Lysanne Blanchette-Lamothe MP for Pierrefonds-Dollard.

“I would like to sincerely thank our guests, donors and volunteers for making this event so successful,” said Linda Thompson, the event coordinator. “Special thanks go to our sponsors – Rideau Commemorative Gardens and Funeral Home, Pfizer, Pharmaprix (Kirkland & Beaconsfield), Aqua Spa Lyne Giroux and TD Securities. I’d also like to thank The Beat 92.5’s Ken Connors for acting as co-auctioneer.”



Donors of the priceless experiences included: National Bank Financial Group, Aqua Spa Lyne Giroux, Desjardins Caisse populaire Sainte-Geneviève de Pierrefonds, Chef Jérôme Ferrer & PlaniConcept Plus, Paul & Annie LaChance, Marc Gervais, Westmount Moving, Jeans, Jeans, Jeans, Yolande James & Rodger Brulotte, Bistro 1843, Guy Lafleur, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Anton Designs, Restaurant Mezzamis, André Lurton & Philippe Solom, Otis Grant & Grant Brothers Boxing, Le Chambertin, Restaurant Le Vieux Four Manago, Agrovino, CTV, Rideau Funeral Home, Charles-Étienne Ménard, Mundo Trattoria, Vincent Damphousse, Luc & Donna Bertrand, .

West Island Community Shares' 2011-2012 fundraising campaign continues until March 31st and the goal is \$1,000,000+. For more information or to make a donation, call (514) 695-8694 or visit www.communityshares.ca

About West Island Community Shares

West Island Community Shares provides crucial funding to 35 West Island community groups who deliver essential services to West Islanders in need. Its corporate partners include National Bank Financial Group, Pfizer Canada, Desjardins, Tenaquip Ltd., Avon Canada, Merck, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc., Pharmaprix, Bromelin People Practices, Roxboro Excavation and Shire Canada. Thanks to these corporate partners who cover operational costs, 100% of donations received goes back to the West Island community groups supported by Community Shares. On April 13th, \$1,000,000 was distributed to 35 local community groups as a result of the 2010-2011 fundraising campaign. Since its inception, West Island Community Shares has raised and distributed more than \$6.3 million. For more information on West Island Community Shares and the groups it supports, visit www.communityshares.ca.

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