

HOP, STITCH AND JUMP

A Fundraiser for Children Affected by Poverty and AIDS

Dear Potential Sponsor,

We want to let you know about an exciting grassroots initiative currently underway in your community! This initiative is working both locally and globally to improve the lives of children in need, as well as to educate Toronto youth about issues such as poverty and AIDS. The message we send is one of hope; the language we use is creative expression, specifically dance. We believe that art has the potential to encourage, inspire, educate, and build community.

A gala event, featuring performances of South African gumboot dancing by Toronto youth, along with the ijovudu African Dance Company and singers from the MNjcc choirs, will be held at the AI Green Theatre in the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre on April 30, 2009. With this performance, we aim to raise funds to support children afflicted by poverty and AIDS.

To this end, we have chosen two organizations whose aim is to help children reach their fullest potential. Africa's Children-Africa's Future (AC-AF) works to create sustainable communities by innovatively supporting orphans who have become the heads of their households to access educational and community resources. In Canada, AC-AF promotes understanding and awareness of the AIDS epidemic amongst youth and empowers them to become citizens of change. The MNjcc is home to hundreds of children and their families, and actively provides programming and necessary subsidies for afterschool, preschool, enrichment and summer camps. Please visit www.ac-af.com and www.mnjcc.org to learn more.

We invite you to share in the excitement and hop aboard. All donations should be made out to the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre. Tax receipts will be mailed to you before Dec 31st, 2009 (for the maximum allowable amount).

Partner Sponsorship (donation of \$5000) includes:

- Your logo on our poster and program
- Four tickets to gala event (in reserved seating)
- An official notice of gratitude in the event's program
- Dinner for four

Gold Sponsorship (donation of \$1000) includes:

- Your logo on our poster and program
- Four tickets to gala event (in reserved seating)
- An official notice of gratitude in the event's program

Silver Sponsorship (donation of \$500) includes:

- Four tickets to gala event (in reserved seating)
- An official notice of gratitude in the event's program

Friend (donation of \$100) includes:

- Two tickets to gala event (reserved tickets)
- An official notice of gratitude in the event's program

Finally, we are also seeking "in kind" donations in the form of boots, T-shirts and printing expenses. Any and all help will be appreciated! We look forward to hearing from you!

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The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre is dedicated to serving the community, cultural, educational and recreational needs of downtown Toronto. Its programs and services are guided by Jewish values and are open to all, regardless of race, origin or religious affiliation.

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HOP, STiTCH AND JUMP Mission Statement

We are individuals from different backgrounds who have come together to raise awareness about the HIV-AIDS epidemic and its impact on both communities and individuals. We are committed to raising funds to support grass-roots projects that assist children in need, both locally and globally.

What links us is our love of (and involvement in) the arts, as well as our view that art can encourage, inspire, educate and build community. In addition, we believe that adolescents and young adults need to learn more about the issues affecting their own community and the relationships among the global spread of HIV-AIDS, youth's responsibility as global citizens to care for each other, and their own personal responsibility in preventing the disease.

"HOP, STiTCH, AND JUMP"

What we will do: Specifically, our goal is to organize public performances to help fund local and global programs that support children in need and promote AIDS awareness. This year's gala performance will be held at the AI Green Theatre, located in the Miles Nadal JCC, on April 30, 2009, and will feature gumboot dancing, as well as displays of fabric art by HOP'NCLOTH. All funds raised will be directed to two organizations that support youth.

Africa's Children Africa's Future (AC-AF) works to mitigate the effects of the AIDS epidemic by empowering the most vulnerable children (orphans) to realize childhood dreams, live balanced lives, provide for their families, and be actively involved in their communities.

The MNjcc is home to hundreds of children and their families, and actively provides programming and necessary subsidies for afterschool, preschool, enrichment and summer camps.

The preparation for this event will involve a series of educational workshops within Toronto schools. These workshops will focus on two main areas:

1. Teaching gumboot dancing (created by black South African miners under apartheid, gumboot dancing is fast-paced and rhythmic, and upbeat) to youth and adults in Toronto.
2. Educating youth about the realities of HIV-AIDS (causes, prevention strategies, responsibilities of the individual and community, global implications) and about the need to support children living in poverty in their own community.

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January 2009