



MONTREAL AHEPA FAMILY DONATES \$50,000 TO SHRINERS HOSPITAL

MONTREAL, FEB. 13, 2006--The Montreal AHEPA Family donated \$50,000 to the Shriners Hospital for Children on February 11, 2006. The funds were raised from the 7th Annual St. Valentine's Ball, a gala affair that since its inception has donated \$170,000 to children's causes in the Montreal area.

"I am extremely proud that we surpassed our fundraising efforts once again this year," said AHEPA Montreal President George Vassilas. "By extending a helping hand to our neighbors in the greater Montreal community, the AHEPA Family's goal was to perform a philanthropic act rooted in Hellenic ideals and values."

The Montreal AHEPA Family received generous sponsorships from: Honorary Chairperson Demetrius Manolakos, Pfizer Canada Inc, Randstad Canada, the Bank of Montreal, Planète Mobile Rogers Wireless and Sun Life Financial, among many others.

"The goal of the AHEPA Family when we started to plan for this year was to make an impact on the community while continuing to raise money for children's causes in Montreal," said Peter Scoufaras, co-chair of the ball.

"We chose to help the Shriners Hospital for a second year because they provide outstanding pediatric orthopaedic care to more than 5,000 children on an annual basis," added Danielle Efraim, co-chair of the ball. "We wanted to make the statement that the hospital is appreciated and that we want it to stay in Montreal for years to come."

The hospital serves all of Canada and parts of the Northeastern United States and is a top research centre in the area of musculoskeletal diseases, more specifically brittle bone disease, which attracts patients from all over the world.

Chairman of the Board of Directors for Shriners Hospital Gary Morrison accepted the donation and expressed his gratitude to the organizing committee and the local AHEPA Family chapters. In 2005, the Valentine's Ball raised \$40,000 for the Shriners' Hospital.

The honorary committee for this event included Manolakos (Honourary Consul of the Sultanate of Oman), Morrison, as well as Angie Petrogiannis-Stinis; Ron Snow, Karnak Shrine; George Smith, Karnak Shrine.

Also in attendance was Gus James III, Supreme President of AHEPA (from Norfolk, VA); Nick Spilios, Canadian President of AHEPA (from Edmonton, AB); Deb Chrisohou, Canadian President of the Daughters of Penelope (from Calgary, AB); the Consul General of Greece, George Zaharioudakis, and his wife Angeliki; Montreal Municipal Counselor Mary Deros; President of the Hellenic Board of Trade of Montreal, Me. Constantine A. Kyres; and Past Canadian Presidents Xenophon Scoufaras and Lazarus Kalipolidis.

The event was held at the Palace Reception Hall in Laval, and entertainment was provided by La Gioventu Orchestra and Omega Productions.

AHEPA is the largest and oldest Greek-American association in the world with 523 chapters in the United States, Canada, Greece, and Cyprus, and sister chapters in Australia and New Zealand. It was established in 1922 by visionary Greek-Americans to protect Greek immigrants from prejudice originating from the KKK, and in its history, AHEPA has joined with the NAACP and B'nai B'rith to fight discrimination. Moreover, it was founded to help Greek immigrants assimilate into American society.

AHEPA was established in Canada in 1928, and now includes chapters in 14 cities with approximately 2,000 members in the AHEPA family. AHEPA Canada promotes a mutual understanding of Greek and Canadian cultures and encourages members to participate in the civic and philanthropic activities of their communities and country. In Canada, the organization donates more than \$300,000 a year toward education and charities at the local, national and international levels. Please visit www.ahepacanada.org for more information.

The mission of the AHEPA family is to promote the ideals of Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility and family and individual excellence. The AHEPA family consists of four organizations: AHEPA, Daughters of Penelope, Sons of Pericles and Maids of Athena. For more information about AHEPA in Canada, please visit www.ahepacanada.org