



## **Montreal AHEPA Family shows its heart is full of fun at Valentine's ball that raised \$35,000 for Shriners Hospital**

*Over past 3 years, AHEPA has raised \$126,000 for the Shriners Hospital for Children.*

**Montreal, February 12, 2007** - The Montreal AHEPA Family donated \$35,000 to the Shriners Hospital for Children during its 8th Annual St. Valentine's Fundraising Ball on February 10, 2007 at the Chateau Royal in Laval.

To date, \$125,000 has been donated by AHEPA to the Shriners Hospital as part of its pledge to finance the building of a school within the upcoming construction of a new Shriners Hospital. The new hospital will be built alongside the McGill University Health Centre in Montreal.

“By extending a helping hand to our neighbors in the greater Montreal community, the AHEPA Family’s goal is to perform a philanthropic act rooted in Hellenic ideals and values,” said **George Vassilas**, chapter president of AHEPA Mount Royal Chapter CJ7 and co-chair of the event.

“This ball has become something of a signature event for the AHEPA organization,” said his co-chair **Christina Antoniou**. “We love that year after year, we open our hearts during Valentine’s Day to help out children’s causes in Montreal.”

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.

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.

Some of the party people in attendance included: Montreal Consul General of Greece, **Ms. Maria Karnoutsou**, AHEPA Canada President **Fotios (Frank) Antoniou** and his wife **Elaine**, Daughters of Penelope Canadian President **Eleni Inglis** with husband Brian, Daughters of Penelope District Governor **Penny Damianakos**, AHEPA District Governor **Emmanuel Revelakis** with his wife **Helen**, **Jim Constantacos**, (Honorary Chairperson) and his wife **Carole**, **Helen Tyros**, President of the Hellenic Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal, with her husband **Bill Kampouris**, **Me. Demetrius Manolakis** (President, Canadian Hellenic Congress and Honorary Consul to the

Sultanate of Oman), **Mary Deros** (a Montreal City Councilor) and husband **Peter, John Evdokias** with wife **Dominique Beauchamp**, **John Mavridis** with wife **Athena** and **Tony Loffreda** with wife **Angie**.

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.

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.

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For more information, please contact Christina Antoniou at 514-208-5960.