



For Immediate Release
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2009 S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Fundraising Gala

Vancouver – Today, Mrs. Joann Wong-Bittle and Dr. Raymond Kwan, Co-Chairs of 2009 S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Fundraising Gala, officially announced the return of the annual S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Gala on Friday, February 27, 2009, at The Westin Bayshore Grand Ballroom.

“With the looming worldwide financial crisis, the Foundation has undertaken a slight change in the event’s format to responsibly raise the needed funds for S.U.C.C.E.S.S.” Mrs. Betty Funston, Chair of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation, told the media. The Gala will begin with an exclusive banquet for over 850 guests to be followed by an intimate concert with three distinguished artists from Hong Kong. Chet Lam, renowned singer and song writer, Ha Yu, newly crowned Best Actor at the 2008 TVB Anniversary Awards, and Annabelle Louie. “It will most definitely be a memorable evening.” said Mrs. Betty Funston.

Since 1997, the S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Fundraising Gala has a total attendance of over 130,000 people and has raised in excess of \$5,300,000 for S.U.C.C.E.S.S. to provide and enhance essential social services and programs to those in need in the Metro Vancouver community. The Gala has become one of the premier and most anticipated community events in North America.

“This year, our fundraising target for the Gala is \$168,000. Proceeds will benefit S.U.C.C.E.S.S. diversified program and services for youth, women, seniors, and family counseling,” said Mrs. Joann Wong-Bittle and Dr. Raymond Kwan. For the 3rd consecutive year, TELUS takes helm as the Presenting Sponsor of the Gala. Air Canada also returns as the Official Airline Sponsor.

In her remarks, Ms. Kate Baillie, Director, Marketing Communications, TELUS Consumer Solutions, highly spoke of the outstanding achievements of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. “It is our honor to join with S.U.C.C.E.S.S. to give back to the community,” said Ms. Baillie.

“For the past 36 years, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. has become a multi-service provider delivering settlement, counseling, group, employment, business and economic development services. Currently we have 20 locations in the Lower Mainland, one in Fort St. John and 2 overseas offices in Taipei and Seoul,” said Mrs. Christine Brodie, Vice Chair of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. “Approximately 20% of the agency’s \$30 million annual operating budget is raised from the community through donations, corporate sponsorships, membership dues, cost recovery programs and fundraising events organized by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation, such as the annual Walk With The Dragon, Charity Golf Tournament and the Gala.”

Ms. Yin-Qian Huang, a client of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Group & Community Services, shared her “SUCCESS story” at the press conference. When Yin-Qian came to Vancouver in 2007 at the age of 69 with her family, like most new immigrants, she had a difficult time adjusting to her new environment. As a result she became isolated and depression soon followed. At her family’s encouragement, Yin-Qian joined the Mandarin Seniors Group at Killarney Community Center, an outreach program offered by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and began volunteering. Gradually with the help and guidance of a S.U.C.C.E.S.S. outreach staff she was able to open up and gained confidence and made many new friends. Now at the age of 70, Yin-Qian is an active volunteer regularly plans group activities at the community center and helps other newly arrived

immigrants. Her story is one of many successes and testimonies to the importance of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. services in our community.

As a companion fundraising effort, the annual S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Fundraising Raffle Sale has begun. Raffle tickets are \$3 each, or \$15 for a book of five tickets plus a store discount coupon. The total value of prizes is close to \$20,000. The Grand Prize is two roundtrip economy class air tickets from Vancouver to Hong Kong Plus \$5,000 Cash. Raffle winning numbers will be drawn at the Gala on February 27 at The Westin Bayshore Grand Ballroom.

The S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation, incorporated in December 2001, is a charitable foundation responsible for raising funds for S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and its affiliated organizations to support their mandates for the betterment of the community. For more details, please visit: www.successfoundation.ca

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