

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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For more information contact:
Arlene Segal, Events Coordinator

**Miriam Foundation Theatre Night
in support of Miriam Home & Services
Children & Youth Programs**

Montreal, QC, November 10, 2004:

The Miriam Foundation held its first theatre evening on Thursday, October 21, 2004 featuring the play "Man of La Mancha", the opening highlight of the renowned Saidye Bronfman Centre Theatre's 2004-2005 Season. The event, chaired by Toni Bessner, was a new initiative of the Foundation. It was an outstanding success, raising \$ 40,000 in its first year through corporate sponsorships and ticket sales.

The proceeds of this event will support various children and youth programs at Miriam Home and Services. A recognized leader in the field of intellectual disabilities, Miriam Home & Services currently offers a complete range of rehabilitative, socio-professional and residential programs to over 600 individuals and its client base is constantly expanding. The funds raised from this event will contribute to the continued delivery of these services which are so vital to the well-being of children and youth with intellectual disabilities and their families.

One of the committee members spoke to the audience of 300 theatregoers of her arduous search for services when her son was diagnosed with special needs at the age of 6 months. She expressed her appreciation for the ongoing support of the Miriam Foundation and Miriam Home & Services and noted that she was speaking on behalf of many parents who still have children on waiting lists.

One program which her son has benefited from is the Maurice & Tillie Wolfe Trampoline Therapeutic Program. Situated at the Ben Weider JCC/YM-YWHA, it offers highly-structured professional supervision and education for young children with global developmental delays. Its objective is to integrate these children into the mainstream school system.

After the show, the guests enjoyed a dessert reception catered by Giorgi of Tradition Catering. Instead of the traditional Program book, everyone received a unique gift of a music CD with a booklet honouring the event's sponsors. This project was sponsored by Madacy Entertainment Group.

Another major sponsor of the event was the Bank of Montreal's Fountain of Hope. Daniel Whelan, Branch Manager of BMO, Westmount Branch explained that this foundation is supported by contributions from bank employees and clients. Its mandate is to support projects and organizations which help victims of violence and children with special needs.

Established in 1970, the Miriam Foundation raises much-needed funds for Miriam Home and Services. Often cited as a model agency, Miriam Home and Services offers innovative and effective initiatives that foster increased socialization and community integration for children, adults and seniors living with intellectual disabilities. Currently, more than 600 people receive vocational, rehabilitative and residential services. For more detailed information, please visit us online at www.miriamfoundation.ca.

-30-

For More Information Contact:

Arlene Segal

Tel: (514) 345-1300 or

Tel: (514) 345-0210 x 133

Fax: (514) 345-6904 www.miriamfoundation.ca