



## CLOVERDALE RODEO PARTNERS WITH SHRINERS IN FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

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Surrey, British Columbia - It can be argued that the greatest act of charity is to help a child in need. For the past 105 years the Shriners of British Columbia & Yukon have upheld that goal, assisting brave children from across the province in obtaining healthcare here at home or at one of the 22 private Shriners Hospitals for Children in the United States.

Charity is not a new concept, and the people of British Columbia have given generously from their hearts and wallets for generations. But for all the attempts to make it a fair place, the world is a long way from being perfect. So the mission to provide medical care to every child who needs it remains the guiding principle of an organization whose volunteer members contribute thousands of hours annually to make sure local kids receive the healthcare they need.

The Cloverdale Rodeo and Exhibition Association is proud to announce a new partnership with the Shriners of BC & Yukon, one of the most successful charitable organizations in the province.

"Our entire organization is supportive of the great work done by the Shriners in B.C.," says Cloverdale Rodeo and Exhibition Association President Shannon Claypool. "We are hopeful this will be a longstanding partnership between our organization and the Shriners to raise much needed funds for their local initiatives."

As such, the 2009 Rodeo and Country Fairs' Thursday night VIP event will be called the *Cloverdale Rodeo Kick-Off Party, presented by the Shriners of British Columbia*, with all net proceeds from ticket sales benefiting the Shriners Care Cruiser Program.

"This night has become a signature event for the Association," says Claypool. "We are very hopeful that the public will come out and support this great charity."

Canadian country music performer Terri Clark is the headline artist for the evening. Ticket information for the Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> concert is available online at [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca) or by calling 604-280-4444.

### **To give perspective to the incredible work funded by the Shriners here in B.C.:**

- The Shriners of BC & Yukon charitable work is funded entirely through private donations
- Since 1998, the Shriners have contributed more than \$48 million to the economy and health care for children in B.C.
- On average, 475 children from British Columbia are treated at Shriners Hospitals for Children at no cost to them

- In 2008 alone, the Shriners transported 1,953 B.C. children to hospitals for treatment and contributed more than 6.37 million in medical treatment in B.C.
- Shriners have been treating B.C. children since 1924 in their privately-owned and operated Shriners Hospitals for Children, headed up by Canadian surgeon Dr. Peter Armstrong
- In 2007 Shriners Hospitals for Children:
  - Approved 39,454 new patients
  - Treated 125,125 children
  - Spent \$721 million U.S. on free medical care and research for children in Canada, the United States and Mexico

### **Shriners of North America background:**

- The Shrine started in 1872 in New York City as a social club for Masons
- In 1919, it started building a children's hospital whose operations would be supported by a \$2 annual assessment on each Shriner and various fund-raising activities
- Today, 22 Shriner Hospitals for Children provide free orthopedic and burn care to needy children
- The first Shriners Hospital opened in Shreveport, LA in 1922 and spurred a world-renowned hospital system that has treated more than a half million children who have gone on to lead successful and happy lives
- For more than three quarters of a century, Shriners Hospitals have spent more than \$3.4 billion U.S. operating their 22 Shriners Hospitals
- The orthopedic Shriners Hospitals are expertly staffed and equipped to treat orthopedic disorders such as curvature of the spine (scoliosis), brittle bone disease (osteogenesis imperfecta), hand and back problems, clubfoot, limb deficiencies, and growth problems
- The Shriners Burns Institutes are internationally recognized as pioneers in burn treatment
- Today, the Chicago, Philadelphia and new Northern California Shriners Hospitals are the only national network offering spinal-cord injury care to children and adolescents
- **One of the extraordinary aspects of Shriners Hospitals is that all medical services they provide are totally without charge, and no insurance or government funds (federal, provincial/state or local) are sought or accepted for any of the medical care or services they offer**
- Remarkable, too, is that Shriners Hospitals presently make the single largest contribution, on a continuing basis, to the care of children with challenges of any organization or private healthcare system in the world.

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