

APPLAUSE SUSAN SCHWARTZ

High-tea event held in lovely garden settings

And Big O was venue for children's fundraiser

The Loft Hotel was a haven for tea lovers during the first fundraising International High Tea organized by the Miriam Foundation and the Unicorn Children's Foundation. About 250 people attended the May 6 event that, after expenses, raised just over \$30,000 to go toward a collaborative project of both foundations.

Guests could choose from several tea varieties, all from David's Tea, and from different environments in which to enjoy it: with scones and cucumber sandwiches in the English garden, where a harpist played and a portrait artist was on hand; with Asian delicacies and traditional Chinese music in the Chinese garden; or with Indian nibbles in the India-themed garden while getting a mehndi henna tattoo as star and tabla played in the background.

The main sponsors were the Mike Rosenbloom Foundation, Reitmans and Osler Lawyers. Among in-kind sponsors were Le Piment Rouge, Restaurant Sahib, Le Maître Chocolatier, Nococchi, Isis Bitsi, Flore and Enzyme.

Tango Martini created the Chinese tea house decor. Shaadi Styles created the Taj Mahal decor; Flore created the English garden decor and floral arrangements for all the tables; and Jasleen from Boutique Oriental sponsored the henna artistry.

The event was enceed by CIAD's Eramelinda Bogue. Guest speakers included Diane Guerrero, president of the Miriam Foundation; Valeria Rosenbloom, treasurer of the Unicorn Children's Foundation; Sharon Alexander, executive director of the Unicorn Children's Foundation; and Nathalie Garcin, executive director of Centre Gold, which is under the umbrella of the Miriam Foundation.

All spoke passionately about the need for more awareness of autism spectrum disorders and more funding for treatment.

Among those attending were Maria and Jonathan Birks, Beta and Paolo Cattalan, Ginger Petty, Peggy Ann Turner, Aurelien Guilory, Warren Greenstone, executive director of the Miriam Foundation, and Geeta Suchak of Events by Geeta Suchak, with co-organizer Nancy Smith of the Miriam Foundation. It was Suchak who came up with the concept for the International High Tea.

A Night to Remember, which took place on June 2 at Montreal's Dompark Complex, raised more than \$41,000 for the Alzheimer Society of Montreal. Co-presidents were brothers Scott and Mark Broady, whose father has Alzheimer's disease, and David Gold, Gold's father, who died 18 months ago, had Alzheimer's disease for many years.

Louis Leblanc of the Montreal Canadiens and John (the Bull) Makdessi, a Canadian professional mixed martial-arts fighter competing in the lightweight division, lent

their names to this first edition of the event.

Its goal was to raise funds to support the society's programs and services, to help the society broaden its scope and to work more effectively with health-care professionals who work with people with dementia and their families.

"My family, my friends and I are using our skills and tapping into our network of contacts to make this happen," said Scott Broady. "It is a way not only to give back, but also to help educate people about this disease and the support services that are available for those families affected, just like mine."

A recent fundraiser for the Peter Hall School raised \$80,000 to support educational programs. Three hundred people attended the event, held May 24 and co-chaired by Johanne Arduin of RBC Royal Bank and Mario Desautels of RBC Private Banking.

The Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec sponsored the cheeses; Canadian wines were served. Peter Hall is a bilingual St. Laurent school for students age 4 to 21 with intellectual disabilities.

The Tarkett Sports Fundraiser, an event benefiting Starlight Children's Foundation Quebec and the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation, took place June 2. This was the 10th annual edition of a multi-sport fundraiser organized by Games for Hope, a not-for-profit organization run entirely by volunteers. Tarkett Sports, a division of the multinational Tarkett Group, was this year's title sponsor.

For the first time, the event was held at the Olympic Stadium; in previous years, it was held at Vanier CEGEP and at Lindsay Place High School.

The event featured ball hockey, soccer, indoor volleyball and basketball, and raised about \$225,000 — up considerably from \$156,000 in 2011.

The money is earmarked for emergency kits and Great Escape Programs for Starlight Children's Foundation Quebec and for the purchase of neonatal equipment and infusion pumps at the Montreal Children's Hospital and support for the autism and trauma programs.

Among key contributors, either through their teams or through corporate sponsorships, were AON, Aeroplan, BDO, Cantor Central Station, CBRE, Deloitte, Desau, Domino's Pizza, Ecodomus Construction, Ericsson, Ernst & Young, Excelexis Professional Recruitment, FieldTurf, Garda, GE Real Estate, KPMMG, Les Immeubles Charisma, MIKEFM 105.1, Oxford, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton, RBC, Sanimax, SAP Standard Life Investments, SimboliQ, TD Commercial Banking, Telus, The Beat 92.5, TSN990 and UPS Canada. The city of Montreal donated boards for three rinks for the ball hockey games.

In all, more than 1,000 people attended the event — including 65 corporate teams who participated, their families and friends, guests, volunteers and supporters. It's more than a sports tournament, as organ-



The Starlight Children's Foundation team competed at a fundraiser for the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation and the Starlight Children's Foundation Quebec.



PETER HALL SCHOOL FOUNDATION
Kishon Marshall, a student at the Peter Hall School, which benefited from a wine-and-cheese fundraiser.

izers wrote to Applause: it's also a way to bring people and their families together for a day to help less fortunate children, and it's about unity and working together for a single cause.

All net proceeds go to two children's charities every year, as board member and event spokesperson Ylota Polirakis explained to Applause. Each year, the board votes on which two charities to support, she said. Polirakis, who works for SAP, started out as a volunteer some years ago with Games for Hope, played on a volleyball team for a few years and joined the board of directors of 15 this year. SAP contributed more than \$10,000 to this year's event, through employee donations and a matching donation by the employer.

Go to gamesforhope.com for more information.

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ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF MONTREAL
Scott Broady, David Gold and Mark Broady at A Night to Remember fundraiser for the Alzheimer Society of Montreal held at the Dompark Complex on June 2.

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