

Peel Children's Centre host annual Gala fundraiser

Written By JASEN OBERMEYER

Peel Children's Centre will host their annual Evening of Hope Gala to raise much-needed funds to help youth struggling with mental health problems.

The gala, with this year's theme being 'Laughing Matters', will take place on Saturday, Nov. 24, at the Mississauga Grand Banquet Hall on 35 Brunel Road. There will be cocktails, a silent and live auction, dinner, and live entertainment provided by comedian and author Susan Stewart.

"This is our fourth year as a gala," said Andrea Peca, The Centre's spokesperson. "Prior to that, for 24 years we had a brunch, and we turned it into a gala because every year we were being sold out."

Since 1985, Peel Children's Centre (PCC) is one of the largest children's mental health treatment organizations in Canada and lead agency in the child and youth mental health sector under 18 for the Region of Peel, servicing more than 4,100 children, teenagers and their families.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the important programs that PCC including sexual abuse, group programs, and summer camp.

"It is a very important event," noted Ms. Peca. "It will provide funding to programs, many of the programs that aren't funded by the government."

She added that the gala is one of the organization's largest fundraisers, with their goal being \$65,000. According to their website, one in five children will experience issues with mental health before they reach adulthood. They also offer counseling services, residential treatment, and school-based services.

Ms. Peca said the gala has a very friendly and intimate atmosphere, enjoying it for the people. "They're all passionate about children and to help them."

The event is being sponsored by Bell, through their Bell Let's Talk program.

Tickets are \$150, with cocktail reception starting at 5:30 p.m., with the ballroom doors opening at 6:30 p.m. For Sponsorship Opportunities and to purchase your Ticket, please call 905-795-3500 Ext. 2298 or email fundraising@peelcc.org.