

MEDIA RELEASE

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KGH Foundation Announces HOMEBASE, First-Ever Gorges Comeau Charity Slo-Pitch Tournament for JoeAnna's House

KELOWNA, BC – If you've ever wanted to rub elbows with some of professional hockey's greatest hometown stars, you just might get your chance this Canada Day long weekend!

The KGH Foundation, along with presenting sponsor Raymond James, is thrilled to announce the first-ever Gorges-Comeau Charity Slo-Pitch tournament, taking place on Friday, June 29 and Saturday, June 30, in Kelowna. Proceeds from the tournament, aptly named HOMEBASE, will be in support of the KGH Foundation's campaign to build JoeAnna's House, a home away from home for families of patients travelling to Kelowna General Hospital for advanced medical care.



Josh Gorges (#4), Buffalo Sabres

The slo-pitch tournament will welcome co-ed teams of all levels to compete against two teams of hockey players on Saturday, June 30th.

A family-friendly celebrity exhibition game will take place the evening of Friday, June 29th featuring current and past hockey legends, NHL player autograph signing and live music.

The idea for HOMEBASE came last year from former Kelowna Rocket's captain and current Buffalo Sabre's defenceman, Josh Gorges, who grew up in Kelowna and returns to his hometown every summer with his wife, Maggie and their two young children.



Blake Comeau (#14), Colorado Avalanche

"This community has given me so much, I've wanted to find a way to give back for a really long time," says Gorges. "When I heard about JoeAnna's House, I knew it was the right thing to do. I talked to a few of the guys and they were into it, and here we are!"

Indeed, Kelowna has become the summer home town for many past Rockets who've now gone on to great success in professional hockey. Gorges approached his good friend and fellow Rockets alumni, Blake Comeau, and together they have rallied 14 additional hockey players, and their wives, including Shea Weber, Ryan Johansen, Brendan Gallagher and Jordin Tootoo.

The event is attracting support from a wide range of corporate teams and sponsors also wanting to support the KGH Foundation's \$8 million campaign to build and operate JoeAnna's House.

“JoeAnna’s House will be a game-changer,” says Raymond James Kelowna’s Branch Manager, Brendan Willis with a smile. “Not only will it help keep families together when they need it the most, but by building it together, we are demonstrating that this is a community that really cares about the well-being of one another.”

“This is a really fun way for friends, family or colleagues to come out and help us raise the funds necessary to build and open JoeAnna’s House,” says Mischa Mueller, Director of Philanthropy at the KGH Foundation. “Josh and Blake are great guys. They really want to make a difference in their hometown.”

A limited number of corporate sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information or to register your team for HOMEBASE, visit www.kghfoundation.com/homebase.

The KGH Foundation is an independent, volunteer-driven charitable organization committed to enhancing the delivery of healthcare to the patients of Kelowna General Hospital and its associated facilities.

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