

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, July 5, 2018

Inaugural NHL Slo-Pitch Tournament A “Massive Hit”

KELOWNA, BC – Canada Day weekend saw the likes of Josh Gorges, Blake Comeau, Carey Price, Luke & Brayden Schenn, and other hockey royalty trade their sticks for baseball bats – all for a great local cause.

The KGH Foundation, along with presenting sponsor Raymond James, held the first-ever Gorges/Comeau HOMEBASE Charity Slo-Pitch Tournament, **raising \$117,385 for JoeAnna’s House**, a home away from home for families travelling to Kelowna General Hospital.

The event, which featured an NHL All-Star Match Friday evening at King’s Stadium and tournament play the next day at Mission Sports Fields, was a culmination of unique expertise and teamwork, thanks to all the event sponsors, dozens of volunteers, 16 co-ed teams, and lastly, the NHL players, all of whom put on quite a show. From Carey Price opting to play an entire game with his goalie glove, to Josh Gorges asking Mayor Colin Basran to be his pinch runner, to Blake Comeau’s double home run in the bottom of the 9th (yes, you can do that in a charity game) the level of fun and humour was evident, and it was a joy to watch.



NHL player and former Kelowna Rocket Josh Gorges upon winning the Friday night All-Star Match

In his blog, radio announcer Regan Bartel, co-host of the Friday night All-Star Match described it as “the best charity event I have been involved with in my time in Kelowna ... it was a massive success.” He goes on to reference his connection to the cause having spent two weeks in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at KGH after the birth of his twin boys in 2003. “Had we not lived in Kelowna, how could we afford to see our babies on a daily basis while facing the challenge of the high risk pregnancy?”

Indeed, the road towards building JoeAnna’s House has some new pavement thanks to the weekend’s slo-pitch success. The 20-bedroom house located steps from KGH is set to break ground this fall with an estimated completion of fall 2019.

The KGH Foundation would like to thank all the HOMEBASE sponsors, especially presenting sponsor Raymond James, diamond sponsors Turner VW and DKL Financial Services & Todd Simpson Team, and media sponsors Bell Media, KelownaNow and the Capital News. And of course all the volunteers without whom the event would simply not be possible. To you, the community, who came to watch and support the cause, and lastly, Josh Gorges and Blake Comeau for bringing together their NHL friends who gave of their time and drove home the message of true community – that when we work together, we can accomplish big things. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.



The final score from the NHL All-Star Match at King's Stadium, Team Gorges 19, and Team Comeau 14. Special thanks to our bat boys & girls!

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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