

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Facilitating the Connections that Matter Most – TELUS Gives to Support JoeAnna's House**

**KELOWNA, BC, March 5, 2019** – While construction on JoeAnna's House advances at a vigorous pace, the fundraising campaign to support its operation and the families who will stay there continues to be buoyed by remarkable community support.

Since first learning of the need for JoeAnna's House to support the families of patients travelling to Kelowna General Hospital for specialized medical care, the TELUS Thompson Okanagan Community Board knew that it was a cause they could get behind. Since 2017, TELUS and its Community Ambassadors have given over \$70,000 to JoeAnna's House.

As a leading national telecommunications company in Canada, TELUS recognizes the importance of connecting people to one another and the technology, educational opportunities, and healthcare services that they need to reach their full potential. Since 2000, TELUS and their 80,000 team members and retirees have contributed more than \$1 billion of value to Canadian charities, through \$650 million in financial support and 1.2 million days of volunteering. Guided by their philosophy to 'give where we live', TELUS has consciously chosen to connect to the communities they serve in increasingly more personal ways. This includes getting involved in grass-roots fundraising initiatives and providing much-needed financial support and services for local causes that facilitate human connections for the betterment of the community.

In the spring of 2017, the TELUS Okanagan Community Ambassadors, comprised of current and retired TELUS employees, engaged in fundraising initiatives to raise \$3,000 to support JoeAnna's House, which will serve as a home away from home for KGH patient families. The role of the Ambassadors is facilitating community connection through acts of kindness and service.

In addition to giving a \$50,000 gift to support the day to day operation of JoeAnna's House, TELUS is also outfitting the home-away-from-home with internet and Optik TV, ensuring families can stay connected and unwind with in-home entertainment after long days at the hospital.

"In times of crisis, families should be able to place all of their focus into helping their loved one get better, and JoeAnna's House helps eliminate the added stress of looking for accommodations so that families can stay together and focus on their loved ones live-saving treatment and recovery," said Steven Jenkins, TELUS General Manager. "TELUS is recognized as one of the most giving companies in the world, and we believe that we have a responsibility to give back to the communities where we live and work. The TELUS Okanagan Community Board and our Ambassadors are so proud to support the dedicated team at JoeAnna's House, and in turn the many families that will benefit from their support."

“TELUS is so genuine in their desire make a difference in our community,” says Allison Ramchuk, Director of Philanthropy for the KGH Foundation. “And they are. We are incredibly grateful for their partnership.”

Since launching the campaign to build and operate JoeAnna’s House, the project has received unprecedented community support.

“To date we have raised just over \$8 million dollars and our efforts will continue,” notes Doug Rankmore, CEO of the KGH Foundation. “As construction progresses, our focus shifts to helping families, now and for years to come.”

Once open, JoeAnna’s House will be funded and operated by the KGH Foundation. The KGH Foundation hopes to complete construction by Christmas 2019.

*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.*

**Media Contact:**

Shauna Nyrose  
Communications Director  
KGH Foundation  
p| 250-862-4300 ext. 7058  
c| 250-801-0886  
e| [shauna.nyrose@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:shauna.nyrose@interiorhealth.ca)