

## MEDIA RELEASE

### NHL Players Back to Bat For JoeAnna's House

**KELOWNA, BC, April 10, 2019** – It was a weekend that saw some of pro hockey's greatest step up to bat for a local cause. Last year's inaugural HOMEBASE Charity Slo-Pitch raised over \$117,000 to help build JoeAnna's House. Now, with the house build well underway, they're back for more.

The KGH Foundation, along with presenting sponsor, Raymond James Ltd., has announced the second annual Gorges-Comeau HOMEBASE Charity Slo-Pitch Tournament will take place Friday, June 28 and Saturday June 29, in Kelowna.

The fun-filled weekend will feature an all-star match complete with autograph signing Friday night, followed by tournament play all day Saturday. In addition to tournament spokespeople Josh Gorges and Blake Comeau, confirmed NHL players in attendance include Carey Price, Shea Weber, Brendan Gallagher (Montreal Canadiens) and Luke Schenn (Vancouver Canucks) with more announcements coming soon. Proceeds from the two-day affair will support the ongoing operation of JoeAnna's House, which is currently under construction and set to open by the end of 2019.



*Hockey stars, Josh Gorges and Blake Comeau*

“We couldn’t be more excited to be back,” said Gorges, recently retired NHL player (Buffalo, Montreal) and Kelowna Rockets alumni. “This city has given me so much, I’m just thrilled to give something in return. And to have fun with some friends and members of the community at the same time ... it’s a win-win.”

Comeau (Dallas Stars), who set the homerun record during the all-star match last year, echoes Gorges’ sentiments. “It’s a great group of guys, to come together with our families in support of others who are in a tough place – I’m happy I have an opportunity to help out.”

When open, JoeAnna’s House will be a much-needed home away from home for the thousands of families each year who travel for care of a loved one. Kelowna General Hospital is now the largest referral hospital, serving approximately 1 million residents in the BC interior. From new moms and dads requiring specialized care for a premature baby to the families of vulnerable adolescent mental health patients to a husband or wife caring for an ailing spouse, JoeAnna’s House will be a safe haven – a place to refuel and

recharge. Located steps from KGH at the corner of Abbott St and Royal Ave, families will be able to focus on getting better together.

“JoeAnna’s House is an example of how great this community is,” said Brendan Willis, branch manager from the event’s presenting sponsor, Raymond James. “When we work together with the KGH Foundation to build and soon operate a home like JoeAnna’s House, we’re showing what this community is capable of.”

He adds with a smile, “Team Raymond James’ batting practice has already begun!”

In addition to Raymond James’ presenting sponsorship, the KGH Foundation would also like to acknowledge the support of Diamond Sponsors: August Mazda, August Luxury Motorcars, DKL Financial Services Inc./Todd Simpson Team, Player’s Choice Sports, RBC Dominion Securities.

Team registration is now open. For more information, visit [www.kghfoundation.com/homebase](http://www.kghfoundation.com/homebase).

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#### **About KGH Foundation**

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.

#### **About Raymond James**

Raymond James is a leading North American independent full service investment dealer offering an extensive range of professional investment services and products, including: private client services, financial and estate planning services, portfolio management, insurance, equity research, investment banking, and institutional sales and trading. Through its network of approximately 7,800 financial advisors across Canada, the United States and key international centres, Raymond James serves individual clients and families across more than three million accounts and manages more than US\$725 billion in client assets under administration. For more information about Raymond James, please visit [www.raymondjames.ca](http://www.raymondjames.ca).

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