



Press Release

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Contact:

Kelly Bray, Marketing Communications Manager
(206) 695-3234, kellyb@chs-wa.org

SweetHearts for Kids Luncheon Raises \$63,000 to provide help and hope to children and their families in the Walla Walla Valley

Walla Walla – February 25, 2011 - Children's Home Society of Washington held its *SweetHearts for Kids* benefit on Wednesday, February 16 in Walla Walla. More than \$63,000 was raised and 360 people attended this heartwarming event that raises funds for the children and families in the Walla Walla Valley.

"As evidenced by the outpouring of support received at today's luncheon, our community continues to make the well-being of children and families a priority," states Meagan Anderson-Pira, Children's Home Society of Washington Community Service Manager. "We could not do what we do without the support of volunteers, staff, and donors."

Held at the Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center, *SweetHearts for Kids* included a luncheon, silent auction, and program. The keynote address was given by Lawson Knight, the Director of the Blue Mountain Community Foundation. Dave Aerni delivered a moving speech on the impact the agency had on his life.

"This year's record-breaking success for Children's Home Society's *SweetHearts for Kids* luncheon demonstrates the true caring and commitment of our community – at a time when kids and families need it most," said Scott Peters, chairman of the event and master of ceremonies.

SweetHearts for Kids was sponsored by Coffey Communications, Kibble & Prentice, Land Title of Walla Walla County, Providence St. Mary Medical Center, Banner Bank, Columbia Rural Electric Association, Davis Apartments, Doyle Electric, and many other community sponsors.

Save-the-Date! Volunteer Session on March 15

The HomeTeam Parent Aide Program, a partnership with the Walla Walla Exchange Club, builds healthy families by mentoring parents who are experiencing stress through life challenges and parenting. Services focus on child safety, problem solving, parenting skills, and social support. Learn more about how you can help build a supportive community one family at a time. Meal provided. March 15 from 12:00-1:00 pm or 6:00-7:00 pm. Located at Children's Home Society of Washington at 1612 Penny Lane, Walla Walla. RSVP to Stephanie Biegel (509) 529-2130.

About Children's Home Society of Washington

CHSW's mission is to develop healthy children, create strong families, build engaged communities, and speak and advocate for children. Last year in Walla Walla, over 1,100 children and families were helped through early learning, counseling, family support, and mentoring programs. For more information, visit www.childrenshomesociety.org.

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