



Toronto Hong Kong Lions Club
多倫多香港獅子會



1956
2006

50 years. United T.O.gether

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NEWS RELEASE

Sold out Blossom Ball promises to ‘wow’ guests with world-class entertainment and new venue

TORONTO, September 7, 2006 – Gravity-defying contortionists and world-class musicians will entertain over 600 guests at United Way’s sold out Blossom Ball gala, at the Liberty Grand Entertainment Complex on September 24, 2006.

Celebrating eight years of community partnership between United Way and the Chinese community, the 2006 Blossom Ball gala will feature a ‘harvest’ theme.

“This year’s gala will be the finest ever as we celebrate our 8th anniversary and the successful culmination of community support and volunteerism over the past eight years,” said Blossom Ball Co-chairs Frank Luk and Ken Tam. “Together as community leaders, residents, sponsors and donors, we have made a significant difference in the lives of Torontonians.”

The Toronto Hong Kong Lions Club partnered with United Way to host this year’s Blossom Ball. “In honour of our 20th anniversary and United Way’s 50th anniversary, it is a pleasure to host the Blossom Ball gala. The gala truly represents the meaning of strong community partnerships,” said Tony Fong, President of Toronto Hong Kong Lions Club. Chartered in 1986, the Club has sponsored and supported numerous charitable projects locally and overseas.

Guests will be thrilled by Canada’s most sought-after contortionist troupes – Cirque Sublime –who will perform Canada’s only aerial pole routine “The Mast.” Powerful music will draw guests in as artists perform gravity defying acrobatics. Guests will also enjoy live jazz, lush ballads, lively swing and contemporary show tunes performed by one of Canada’s finest ballroom ensemble – Orchestra Copacabana. In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to bid on extravagant auction prizes such as a Mercedes Benz, exotic vacations, and one-of-a-kind artwork.

“Guests will have an out-of-this-world experience with our acclaimed entertainers, mouth-watering cuisine, and fabulous auction and raffle items,” said Blossom Ball Honourary Chair John Man.

“It is a wonderful evening to come together with family and friends and support United Way and its work in Toronto,” said Past-Chair Esther-Fung-Yeung.



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The Legend Chinese Restaurant is the presenting sponsor for the third year in a row. "We are proud to be the official presenting sponsor of the 2006 Blossom Ball. As a newcomer, I appreciate first hand the wonderful services and programs United Way agencies offer in Toronto and in particular to the Chinese community," said Michael Lo, Legend Chinese Restaurant.

The gala has become one of the top social events in the Chinese community and has raised more than \$1 million over the past seven years for United Way's 200 community agencies, including 46 specifically serving Toronto's Chinese community.

"As founding chairs, we are extremely proud of the support the Chinese community has provided over the years," said Founding Chairs, Sharifa Khan and David Poon. "The Blossom Ball is symbolic of what can be achieved when people work together to make a difference in their community."

"The continuing success of the Blossom Ball gala is a direct result of citizens, leaders, and businesses in the Chinese community working together to build strong neighbourhoods," said Lyn Whitham, Vice-President of Marketing and Communications, United Way of Greater Toronto. "It is through this support that United Way has been able to make lasting change in the lives of Torontonians for the past 50 years."

For 50 years, United Way of Greater Toronto has been working to create lasting change in the lives of Torontonians. Through research, partnerships with government, volunteers, labour, and business, and by funding a network of 200 health and social service agencies, United Way identifies needs and takes action to support people and develop strong communities.

For a member list of the Blossom Ball Committee, Toronto Hong Kong Lions Club, Chinese Leaders Council and sponsors, please see the attached appendix.

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