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PROUD TO CARE – PROUD TO SHARE

4th Annual Mountain of Hope Gala to take place at Panorama Mountain Village

Panorama Mountain Village, B.C. – Monday, January 4 – Panorama Mountain Village is honoured to once again host the “*Mountain of Hope*” gala. Now in its fourth year the annual event takes place on January 30th 2010.

The gala, was envisioned by Panorama and Invermere community members who felt there needed to be a more stable and reliable reserve of funds available “to assist persons in the community who have suddenly come upon difficult times and who do not have other resources to call upon”.

Spokesperson Neil Carey recalled that “back in 1997, before *Mountain of Hope* was formed, when awareness was raised about someone in immediate need, the Panorama and Invermere community would rally together in a quick effort to raise some money”. Carey on many occasions spearheaded and organized the effort to help out in aiding the person(s) in need. He said, “the standard response was to have a bar night with donated door prizes and raffles”. After a few years he came to the conclusion, with the help of the community, that there needed to be a “more formal fundraising effort in order to have available finances in reserve, so that he and others could react more quickly when there was a time of need”.

“The event will be an evening of cocktails, dining and silent auctions” described Carey. He went on to say that there are special guests such as Outdoor Life Network’s Terry Grant aka Mantracker who attended the event in prior years and plans to do so again this year. As well, the dinner will have the Panorama Fire Department waiting on tables.

The community has been “very generous” says Carey. “Not only are they in support by attendance to prior events, they have also contributed both financially and through gift donations; the gifts in turn become items for the silent auction”. At previous galas auction items have included a week’s stay at a vacation property in Mexico, snowmobile tours, North Face jackets and jewellery.

Over time, the six member board has built up many “allies” in the local community who make them aware of certain cases and the circumstances revolving around that person(s) need. Once brought forward, the board then reviews the case and determines the extent of help they can assist with according to the *Mountain of Hope* mandate and funding reserves. In special situations when the case does not confirm entirely to the mandate the board might offer a “Gift of Hope” to assist the person(s).

Tickets are still available for the gala and those wishing to attend or would like information on how to make a donation are encouraged to contact Neil Carey ncarey@inrawest.com or board member Nancy Brush nbrush@inrawest.com.

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ABOUT PANORAMA MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

Panorama Mountain Village, located in the Purcell Mountains, has one of the longest vertical descents in North America. Quad chairlifts give access to the summit and 120 trails, including former heliski terrain in Taynton Bowl. Panorama is also home to Greywolf, ranked British Columbia's best golf course by Golf Digest. For more information, visit www.panoramaresort.com and www.greywolfgolf.com.

ABOUT INTRAWEST

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