

Press release

For immediate release

Ometz raises \$452,000 at annual gala, A Chance to Shine
Audience mesmerized by Canadian premiere performance by Le Petit Cirque™

Montreal, May 28, 2015 – Ometz is proud to announce that the fourth edition of its annual gala, A Chance to Shine, was a wonderful success raising \$452,000. Held on May 27 at Place des Arts, the 1,150 guests in attendance rose to their feet in applause after a first-ever Canadian performance by Le Petit Cirque™, an all-kids circus troupe from Los Angeles founded by Quebec-born Nathalie Yves Gauthier. 100% of the proceeds from A Chance to Shine will help Ometz continue to deliver social services to hundreds of vulnerable children and youth in Montreal. Financial contributions will assist Ometz with:

- Ensuring that children have access to speech and occupational therapy, tutoring, mentoring and play therapy programs;
- Helping financially vulnerable families' access additional learning resources so that their children with special needs can remain in school and work towards academic success;
- Enabling continued support and resources for adolescents and young adults to encourage them to complete high school and pursue post-secondary studies;
- Supporting young people struggling with addiction, violence and mental illness through crisis intervention, training and employment counseling, family counseling and communal connections.

"At Ometz, we take to heart our commitment to families living in dire situations, and we seek to develop innovative services for the children and youth of our community," said Director of Development, Alicia Salama. "We are deeply thankful for the generosity of the Montreal community which will contribute to the long-term success of these programs."

A Chance to Shine benefited from the generous patronage of philanthropists Véronique and Herbert Black for a fourth consecutive year, and from the dedication and energy of returning Event Chair Mrs. Ruth Bensimon Choueke.

About Ometz

Founded in 1863, Ometz is a charitable organization which supports and strengthens individuals and families by offering a range of employment, immigration, school and social services. Serving more than 13,000 people annually, Ometz provides intervention, prevention, support services and programs aimed to enhance quality of life. Whether supporting a student who is struggling at school, a family in crisis, an individual coping with mental illness, a person looking for a new career or starting a new life in Montreal, Ometz helps change lives. To find out more, please visit www.ometz.ca

-30-

For information:

Maria D'Andrea
Publicist
Notre Cause
mdandrea@notrecause.ca
(514) 592-5486

Mahalia Verna
Manager, Marketing & Communications
Ometz
mahalia.verna@ometz.ca
(514) 342-0000 (#3468)