



PRESS RELEASE

Toto Too Theatre Fundraiser for Ten Oaks Project a Smash Hit!

OTTAWA – September 14, 2015 – This past June, Toto Too Theatre hosted an inaugural fundraiser in honour of the Ten Oaks Project. In just five performances during Toto Too's production run of the Tony Award winning musical, *Avenue Q*, the show raised \$3,200.00 for Ten Oaks. That is the equivalent of sending three children or youth to one of Ten Oaks' summer camps.

The donation is the start of an exciting new partnership between the two organizations, with the objective to inspire children and youth from LGBTQ+ communities with educational and mentorship opportunities based in theatre arts.

To maximize the impact of this partnership, Toto Too Theatre and the Ten Oaks Project are exploring opportunities such as Toto Too staff and volunteers hosting theatre arts workshops at camp, Ten Oaks staff and camp participants volunteering on Toto Too Theatre productions, and exploring a future show exclusively featuring Ten Oaks participants.

Fast Facts:

- **The Ten Oaks Project** is a registered charity and volunteer-driven organization that empowers children and youth from LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, two-spirit, queer) communities through its two outdoor education camping programs, **Camp Ten Oaks** and **Project Acorn**, both of which were held at RKY Camp near Kingston, Ontario, this past July and August.
- **Toto Too Theatre** is a registered, not-for-profit theatre company for Ottawa's LGBTQ+ community, producing three plays per season. The company's next show, the 1995 Tony Award winning play, "**Love! Valour! Compassion!**" is part of its 2015-2016 season, and will be staged at the **University of Ottawa's Academic Hall, October 7-10, 2015.**

Quotes:

"At Ten Oaks, our mission is to engage and connect children and youth from LGBTQ+ families, identities, and communities through programs and activities rooted in play. Theatre arts, especially LGBTQ+ themed works like the ones produced by Toto Too, will encourage our participants to express themselves, build confidence, positively challenge societal norms, think critically, develop new skills and explore untapped talents. We are grateful that Toto Too Theatre took on us on as their

charity of choice. It's an exciting adventure for us and our campers." - **Dawn Moore, Board President, Ten Oaks Project**

"Toto Too has been looking for a partnership opportunity with an organization that aligns with our vision and values. When the Ten Oaks Project approached us, we saw the synergies of what our two organizations were trying to achieve. We are first and foremost "community" theatre and we want to challenge the stereotypes of how LGBTQ+ characters are developed and presented on stage. It's vital that children and youth from the LGBTQ+ community see representations of their lives and experiences in Ottawa's theatre arts." – **Ted Chartrand, Board Chair and Managing Director, Toto Too Theatre**

For More Information:

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