

David Foster benefit concert packed with popular artists

BY AMY HIBBERT

The Christmas season is a time for giving to others, so it is appropriate to schedule a benefit performance during the holidays.

On Thursday, Dec. 22, CBC presents *David Foster & Friends: For the Children*, a telecast of a concert to raise money for the David Foster Foundation.

"(The foundation) is in its ninth year and it is in support of children's organ transplants," producer Carol Reynolds explains.

The holiday benefit concert features performances by Celine Dion, Kenny G, and Paul Anka, with Ed McMahon as the master of ceremonies.

"All the major talent is donating its services," Reynolds says. "Celine, David, Kenny G, Paul and Ed McMahon are donating their services and their time to the charity and waiving their fees."

Dion says she is pleased with the

opportunity to perform for such an important cause. She not only performs some of her own work, but also gets into the holiday mood through music.

"I'll be singing a Christmas song with David Foster that we recorded together," Dion comments. "It's going to be a great pleasure to be sharing the same stage with him."

Foster started the foundation after a visit with a family whose daughter was having an organ transplant.

He found out the operation was a success, but it had been difficult for the family to be with their daughter during this time, due to costs.

The foundation raises the money to keep the family with the patient throughout the entire procedure.

Reynolds is excited about this fund-raiser for the foundation.

"For nine years, (Foster) has helped more than 70 families be

with the children when they are having the transplants," Reynolds says. "He's raised more than a million dollars."

For the first eight years of the foundation's existence, Foster put together the David Foster Foundation Softball Celebrity Tournament. Many celebrities have participated in this event and attended the small dinner concert afterwards.

"This year, he decided instead of having the softball tournament he would go to a 5,000-seat arena called the Memorial Arena in Victoria, open the doors to the general public and stage this incredible performance," Reynolds comments.

Besides staging a different type of fund-raiser, Foster also has decided to film it for television.

"There have been news crews that have come in and taken all of this wonderful news footage shots of the celebrities at the softball tournament," Reynolds says, "but this will be the first time for television."

"We are just lucky enough to be able to go in there and shoot it for television so that we can share it with all of Canada."

Reynolds says she believes this concert will reach many and help the foundation, especially with the airing time of the show.

"We are doing this at a very special time of year, the time of giving," she comments, "so when it goes on the air Dec. 22, people are thinking about giving, and the real spirit of Christmas will be there in the show."

The telecast of the concert is preceded by a three-minute mini-documentary describing and explaining the reason for the foundation.

"This is a very important message that David and we want to get out to the audience, and that is - All of these children are in need and there is a lot of hope there," Reynolds says. "But, we all do not think about something very precious that we have and that we can give. A lot of us don't stop and think about something that we can do to help these kids without actually going to our checkbook and writing a check."

"So the message really is we all can participate and we can all give, and give these children the hope and the second chance at life."

YOU COULD LEARN A LOT FROM A DUMMY.
BUCKLE YOUR SAFETY BELT.



SUBURBAN

KITCHEN & BATH

Increase the VALUE of Your Home by REFACING not REPLACING your Kitchen!

Give Her a Unique Gift this
Holiday Season. . . . A Refaced Kitchen

Holiday Special
Any Refaced
Kitchen
\$200 OFF

Exp. 1-30-95

For a FREE ESTIMATE Call
(313) 513-5390

Or Visit Our SHOWROOM
32548 FORD ROAD - GARDEN CITY

