



## Sunnybrook gets \$8M gift

**Toronto philanthropists Aubrey and Marla Dan make donation to support hospital's high-risk birth program**

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Music stars Josh Groban, Bryan Adams, Jann Arden, Sarah McLachlan and identical Canadian twins RyanDan gathered at the Air Canada Centre today ahead of their concert tonight to talk about babies.

They are scheduled to perform at One Night Live, a benefit concert to raise funds for the Sunnybrook Foundation and a new home to support the mother and babies program at Sunnybrook, which specializes in high-risk births.

Groban was the front man this afternoon as he participated in the announcement of an \$8 million donation from Toronto philanthropists Aubrey and Marla Dan.

"This is such a landmark event," Groban said at a media event.

The gift will be honoured by naming the Aubrey & Marla Dan Program for High Risk Mothers & Babies at Sunnybrook.

Groban said he was happy to come to perform in Canada because he feels such a connection to Canadians.

The pop singer noted that it was Canadian David Foster who discovered him.

An entertainer who has his own foundation to raise money for children, Groban said he believes that it's important to give babies "the best possible start in life."

He said he felt "extremely inspired" by the \$8 million donation of the Dans.

That gift, along with \$4 million already raised in pre-concert revenues, will go toward constructing a state-of-the-art, 150,000-square-foot facility within the four-floor M-wing addition currently under way at Sunnybrook.

Dan is a theatre titan in Toronto and the president of Dancap Private Equity Inc.

He and his wife went through a difficult time with the birth of their daughter

Alyse 15 years ago and they wanted to give back to the hospital.

Marla Dan said that Alyse was only one pound, six ounces when she had to give birth just after her 29th week of pregnancy.

She said she was "shocked" during a recent visit when she saw that there had been no improvement to the dark and cramped facility where she gave birth.

"My heart went out to each of the parents," she said.

With this \$8 million infusion, the program at Sunnybrook will be able to deliver 4,500 more babies than the 4,000 babies it now delivers each year.

Dr. Jennifer Blake, chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Sunnybrook, said there was a "gasp" among staff when they learned today of the \$8 million gift.

"People have wondered if this day would ever come," she said.

Aubrey Dan was asked what changes he would make to the world to make it a better place.

"Society is based on me, me, me," he said. "We need to change it to we. By changing the focus, we'll all be better off."

The new home, which will be complete in 2010, will have a new birthing unit, a new neonatal intensive care unit, a breastfeeding clinic and a clinic that will care for women expecting twins, triplets and quadruplets.

More than 12,000 tickets have been sold for tonight's concert.