FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Wheel Women of the West in the Race for Dignity

Mississauga, ON – The bicycles were stationary, but participants reached the finish line several thousand kilometres away in Africa. On June 9, Lesley Carlberg, a REALTOR® with Sutton Group - Quantum Realty Inc.*, took part in the fourth annual *Race for Dignity*. The event benefits Dignitas International, a non-profit organization. This year, the goal was to raise $300,000, which would provide 1,250 HIV-positive Africans with medicine for a year. Lesley and her team (named *Wheel Women of the West)* collected more than $6,000 with $1,500 coming from a luncheon organized by Lesley.

"The feedback from everyone at the luncheon on May 27 was extremely positive. I invited a doctor from Dignitas International to speak about her work. Although everyone knows that HIV and AIDS are devastating in Africa, it was enlightening to hear about the situation and solutions from someone who is personally involved."

After countless emails and hours organizing and soliciting prize donations from businesses, Lesley welcomed 42 diners at the Tu Casa Restaurant. They enjoyed the guest speaker, lunch and a chance to win raffle prizes such as gift certificates for haircuts and manicures, which raised $600. The cost to attend the luncheon was $45 with half of the money paying for the meal and half a charitable donation. The raffle, luncheon and other contributions totalled $1,500. Lesley also gathered approximately $200 in pledges for the spin-a-thon on June 9.

The *Wheel Women of the West* team consisted of a dozen women and teenage girls. They held their *Race for Dignity* at the Ontario Racket Club. Lesley kicked off the event with a comedy routine related to spinning. (Last year, she tickled funny bones to raise money so that children with cancer could attend camp.) Lesley reminds everyone that although the causes are serious, "fun" is a key part of fundraising.

The main *Race for Dignity* took place on Saturday, June 5 at Yonge-Dundas Square in downtown Toronto. During the eight-hour event, hundreds of people who had donated and/or collected pledges hopped on stationary bicycles. As they pedalled, they enjoyed live entertainment. Everyone who participated, including Lesley and her teammates, are helping to provide medicine and HIV prevention education to thousands of people in Malawi, Africa.

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