

Fall, 2019 Newsletter



Our fearless leader 'safety-testing' the foam pit!

FROM THE CHAIR: Summer comes to a close and fall begins on September 23rd. We have had such a memorable summer full of great events and some fantastic weather to go with them. I write this today after spending the day with my family and all of our HACS families at Canada's Wonderland. The day was hot, the food was incredible and walking around the park and at our lunch pavilion I saw a lot of smiling faces. This summer it seemed like we had a record amount of summer family events, a little bit for all ages and families to enjoy. We hope that you were able to join us for a few of them. We will continue to have plenty over the fall and winter months to join in on.

As you all know HACS is a charity and we rely on the generosity of our community and families who give generously to pay for all we do. HACS continues to operate through a voluntary Board of Directors who do everything from fundraising to family events to licking stamps and everything else in between. I want to thank our incredible Board for giving so much of themselves for a very successful summer. I encourage you to visit our newly designed website to meet and get to know your Board of Directors.

How can you help? There are lots of ways that our families can help. Reach out to a Board member and we would love to chat about how you can help. This October 24th is one of our major fundraising events and a real good one for families to get involved. The Coast to Coast/Help a Child Smile Inside Ride is a super energetic stationary bike relay held at Limeridge Mall in Hamilton on the evening of Thursday, October 24th. What a great way to give back. Enter a team of 6 family members, co-workers or friends. If you cannot enter a team take it to your workplaces, neighbours and friends. Challenge your hockey association or your church group. Let's all make this our biggest event ever. You can register at Hamilton.theinsideride.com or e-mail at nmota@helpachildsmile.com

NEW WEBSITE: Finally, our new website is live! It has been a long, slow journey as there is much to consider due to our event registration integration components. And while that final piece is not yet available, everything else is now functional. If you haven't been there lately, go have a look! Keep in mind this is a work-in-progress as we continue to develop it. We will send you an email as soon as the integration is complete so that you can register for upcoming events. We welcome your feedback. Please email your comments to info@helpachildsmile.com

And in conjunction with the new website, we have also implemented a major overhaul of our members' database – your information recorded in our system. We won't go into detail here as you will be receiving written instructions soon. But in a nutshell, it will now be your responsibility to keep your record up-to-date. If you move, get a new email address, have an addition to the family, stuff like that - we need to know. Always have. But until now, we usually have had to reach out to you when your email bounced back, or a call to your phone number no longer went through, or you signed a child up to attend an event and we had no record of that child. All of those details about your family need to be current so that you can continue to attend events. Our new event registration system will not only check that the patient's name is in our records as it does now, but will also confirm the names of every other member of the family that you are

signing up to attend an event. In the case of siblings, it will also check their ages to ensure they are eligible to attend. (More about new eligibility rules to follow.) So for your family to continue attending events, it will be necessary for you to log in to your account and confirm that the information we have on record is accurate and current. You will be given a secure login id and password when the time comes.

One final note about changes. We are more than 30 years old. We realize that many of you are now adults with families of your own. So instead of bringing your siblings to events, (that's what we have on file) you should be able to bring your spouse and kids. And that's the main reason for the database overhaul! More on that later – watch for details to follow, possibly by email, possibly by Canada Post, soon.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

HACS FISHING DERBY The day started out overcast and threatened to dampen the spirits of our little fisher-people, but the rain held off and the fish were hungry – just the combination we needed to guarantee our families had a great day at our annual fishing derby. The fishing derby held again this year at the Galt Sportsmens Club near Cambridge, where we were hosted by Jeff Wall and the Ontario Kayak Fishing Series volunteers. There were a lot of smiles and squeals of delight as our kids reeled in fish after fish. Well, mostly smiles, with maybe a few grimaces here and there! Q-Dogs arrived and set up their giant BBQ just as tummies were starting to rumble. It wasn't long before they were handing out delicious sausages, hot dogs, burgers and the like. Fast AND delicious! Our sincere thanks once again to Jeff and his crew for giving us this great day. More and more families are coming out each year and telling us they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. And not only were the Sportsman Club members perfect hosts, as usual, but in addition, Matt Moser also presented us with their very generous donation of \$2,000.00 - sincere thanks indeed!



AFRICAN LION SAFARI Even though the weather wasn't perfect for the whole day, that didn't prevent us from enjoying all that the park has to offer. Like this little monkey, who was just checking to make sure our Vice-Chair Amy Watson and her family were having a great time. And how could they not with a personal guided tour? Really, *everyone* at African Lion Safari went above and beyond again this year to make sure we had the best day ever! So much gratitude to Staff who came in on their day off to guarantee we had a wonderful day. Our families thank you.



BIKES AND BULLS What a great way to spend a beautiful, sunny day! So many of our families came out to enjoy the thrills and spills that are the essence of bull riding and daredevil motorbike stunt riding. And what an extra thrill for our very own Charette family to win the 50/50 draw! A whopping \$356 of found money – we hope they had fun with it.



BINGEMANS BIG SPLASH and **EMERALD LAKE** were both hits again this year. Having lunch served in Emerald Lake's banquet hall was much better than last year's bbq lunch out in the park and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. And moving to the larger tents at Bingemans was definitely the right way to go as well. The numbers were really good and the feedback great for both events. Look for them to stay on our summer family event lineup for a long time!

WHAT HAVE OUR PARTNERS BEEN DOING?

CANJAM FOR KIDS WITH CANCER was awesome even though the weather didn't cooperate. The kids had a blast in the huge foam pit, which was a new addition to Kid's Zone this year. Foam spewed from the cannon into the pit covering the kids and even Deadpool. The Slip 'n Slide and laser tag were also huge hits.



Our bands were amazing – people were dancing, singing and having a grand time. Our thanks to all the bands that donated their time and talent to raise funds for Help A Child Smile. The silent auction tables were full with many donated items to help our cause. Many thanks to our community for their support.



Rockin' Ray Michaels was on site this year doing his Road Show live. He did interviews with one of our families, Noelle Austin (one of our kids who also did a speech and volunteered for us), Joyce & Beth to talk about HACS, Stephanie Moyer to talk about A.B.A.T.E 8 (the group that had the motor bike ride to raise funds for us) and people that were attending CanJam.



During the breaks in the music, Joyce and Beth spoke about the things HACS does for our families and the reason for CanJam's name change. There was lots of applause when we said that we were going to keep Sandra's memory attached to a scholarship. She will not be forgotten.

We are very pleased to have raised \$11,800.00 from CanJam. We could not have done it without our sponsors, monetary donors, gift donors, A.B.A.T.E 8, the Knight's Hall and our precious volunteers. We thank you all.

THE JIM WALSH BIKE RIDE enjoyed a rare sunny day this spring! There were lots of family-oriented fun activities going on at the Knights Hall during and after the Ride. Families and friends came out to enjoy the sunshine, free kidz zone, music by Pierre Maher, motorcycles, classic cars, fire trucks and a cement truck. And food! There was plenty of good food for all! New to the festivities this year was a magic tournament organized by Kevin Wojcik that raised almost \$300! Add that to the riders' sponsorships, donations, corporate support and 50/50 draw revenues, and event organizer, Denis Larocque, was able to proudly hand over more than \$2000 to help our kids smile! We are very grateful to Denis, the Knights of Columbus and everyone who supported the Ride. Thank you!



THE 2ND ANNUAL HARPUR FAMILY & FRIENDS BASEBALL GAME was held on July 6, 2019. Despite miserable weather and a few bumps and bruises, they had a lot of fun and through the generosity of their friends and family raised \$1,055.00, which was almost \$300.00 more than last year.

We are grateful for their generous support and hope the sun shines for them next year!

RIDE FOR SMILES A.B.A.T.E.8 held their Ride For Smiles again this year in support of HACS and CanJam For Kids With Cancer. About 75 riders took to the streets and back roads on a drizzly Saturday morning. The riders were out for 3 hours, starting and ending at the Knight's Hall. When all was said and done A.B.A.T.E.8 donated \$3,500.00 to Help A Child Smile. We can't thank you enough, Ray Knight and Stephanie Moyer for organizing the ride, all the riders who participated, and the non-riders who stayed at the Knight's Hall to help out during the ride. A.B.A.T.E.8 will also hold a ride in the fall for HACS – we are truly grateful for their loyalty and friendship.



THE BRANLYN NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION holds an annual baseball tournament and winning teams are asked to donate their prize money to a charity of their choice. This year William Street Eyecare and The Mushroom Producers chose the Jim Walsh Bike Ride to receive their winnings and handed me a cheque for \$1,000! Deepest thanks to Michael and Tracy Adrian, Colleen Jorda and Joe Rejdych for organizing such a great event and your commitment to your community!

ERIE SHORES SOUTHERN CRUISERS held their 11th annual Poker Run in July. It was a great day for a ride and at the end of it all, they raised over \$13,000. Adding that to their donations since the first ride brings their total donated to HACS to over \$135,000! Thank you just doesn't seem to be enough. So much gratitude to you all from the Board and our families.



Our most sincere 'thank you' to all of our partners for their dedication, hard work & support. We couldn't make any of the great events happen for our families without all of you.

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF...

Nancy Gillespie, Mary Boda, Hilda Stroud, Andre Paquel, Bev McSween, Marja Bukvir, Elsie Bernst, Scott Wood, Aldo Yollin, Michael Iannandrea

We are sorry for your loss and are grateful for your generosity.

OTHER DONATIONS RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM...

- ☺ Ray Knight 53rd Birthday (donations in lieu of gifts) - \$350
- ☺ Ted Girard 80th Birthday (donations in lieu of gifts) - \$80
- ☺ Kauth Family Charitable Fund - \$1,483.85
- ☺ Julias's Journey (Donny D'Innocenzo Family) - \$5,000.00
- ☺ Oddfellows Union Lodge 16, Niagara - \$500.00



Everlee Watson accepts a cheque from Charles Harkness of the Oddfellows.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

INSIDE RIDE - October 24, 2019 Once again Coast to Coast and Help a Child Smile are joining forces for the INSIDE RIDE. This is a super fun, energetic fundraising event that goes so far in supporting our HACS families. There are several ways you can help:



- Create a team. Could be your family, co-workers or just a group of friends.
- Share this event with as many others as you can. Spread the word at work, social gatherings, social media, schools, churches, and other places encourage people to enter a team.
- Visit our official INSIDE RIDE website and donate to an existing team

Please help us on to make October 24th our biggest event ever. A great way to have the whole family participate and dedicate it to someone special to you. Please visit our Ride web site to register at <http://hamilton.theinsideride.com/>

TO OUR NEW FAMILIES....

We are saddened to hear your child has cancer. We hope you will find encouragement, fun and support through the activities, programs and camaraderie that we have to offer. Since 1986, Help A Child Smile has been providing parking passes, gas cards, food and lodging vouchers, and paying for medical procedures that are not covered by OHIP - just a few of the services we fund to support the families. And, of course, we offer adventures to places like Wonderland, African Lion Safari, Bingemans, Disney On Ice, Blue Jays games and NHL Alumni games and more. We also ensure every family has the opportunity to enjoy a week's stay at Give Kids The World in Florida to help our children smile!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:



- ☺ **Active** families have a child who was diagnosed or relapsed within the **past 4 years**.
- ☺ **Immediate** family members are parents and siblings **at the time of diagnosis**.
- ☺ **Alumni** families are those whose child was diagnosed or relapsed **more than 4 years ago**.
- ☺ **If a child passes**, the family remains on our Active list for **1 year after**.

ALL online payments are sent to treasurer@helpachildsmile.com The security 'question' **is always** your **child's name** plus the **name of the event** (ie: Mary Smith Wonderland or Bobby Jones Bingemans). For 2019 events, the security answer **is always** **hacs2019**. NOTE: When completing your registration, check your input carefully! Once you click on 'PROCEED' you **cannot go back to change anything!**

If you sign up for an event that has a charge, process your online payment **no more than 7 days after registering**. If we don't have your payment within 7 days (or money orders within 14 days) we will cancel your registration to avoid buying tickets for families that are no longer planning to attend. If you have any problems with the online registration, notify jhutson@helpachildsmile.com (519-770-8088) immediately.

If you are mailing your registration, pay attention to the deadlines. They are NOT 'mail by' dates, they are when your registration form with **money order MUST** be in our hands! Failure to get them back in time will result in not enough tickets being ordered! **Money orders are to be made payable to: Help A Child Smile** and mailed to **Help A Child Smile**, 61 Canboro Rd, PO Box 1262, Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0.

NOTE: As our Chair mentioned, we had a particularly busy summer! There were so many family events, fundraisers and community awareness events going on that we can't cover them all in this edition of your newsletter. So included in this issue is everything up to the end of July. Things that have taken place since then will be included in the next issue. So don't be disappointed if you don't see something you thought you would – unless it happened between May and July, in which case, please let us know by emailing newsletters@helpachildsmile.com

