



Winter, 2019-2020 Newsletter

IMPORTANT NOTES FROM THE BOARD...

FROM THE CHAIR:

As we leave 2019 behind us and look forward to a new year we celebrate all of our families. Those of you who continue to be part of our HACS family and those that are new to HACS. Our hope is that we managed to make your journey a little less difficult. In the new year we are committed to continuing that vision with continuing that support. I reflect back as I write this proud of the dedicated group of Directors we have on our Board who do everything from fundraising to delivering our supports to families. This year we added a number of new family events as we keep exploring different activities, we continued our core supports such as providing all families with parking at Mac during treatments, fertility banking, our magical trips to Disney and many others. Watch for some exciting new things in 2020.

On behalf of HACS we want to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year. We hope that your families experience a year full of smiles and we will be by your side throughout. – Nelson Mota, Chair

NEW WEBSITE:

The new website is finally here, come take a look! Old favourites such as Smile Stories, photo and video galleries, newsletters, and articles have gotten a face-lift, and we've got entirely new sections like Bulletins, Resources, and an interactive calendar.

Also included in the new site is the ability for families to log into their HACS profile, which allows them to keep their family details up-to-date. Any changes in family dynamics no longer need to be emailed to one of our board members, simply log in and update your profile on the spot!

As with all new technology, we're still working out the occasional kink in the system, so if you run into any problems with the new site please send an email to support@helpachildsmile.com and let us know what happened. Come visit <http://www.helpachildsmile.com> and check out our new look!

ATTENTION HACS TEENS:

Feel like our activities are mostly directed at younger children? Feeling bored? Have ideas about something that would be fun for a group to do? We'd like to hear from you! Please submit your activity ideas to info@helpachildsmile.com.

FAMILY PICTURES:

Do you have a favourite photo from a HACS event? Perhaps from your trip to Give Kids The World village? We want it! We're launching a new photo album on our website, called "Family Favourites", and we need your help. We'd like you to submit 1 photo that you want to share, along with a short explanation of what's happening in it, or why it's your favourite. We'll collect all the photos you send into one album and post it on the Photo Galleries page on our website.

Please email your photos and explanations to support@helpachildsmile.com. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy at support@helpachildsmile.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

SAFARI NIAGARA:



Families gathered at Safari Niagara on August 11 for a day full of adventures, animals and fun at new heights! The weather cooperated and families had a beautiful day to explore the Safari, laugh at the animals, climb the ropes and even feed the giraffes!

(These 2 articles missed getting included in the September newsletter.)

HACS FAMILY PICNIC:



Despite the tragic fire that completely destroyed Colton's Fun Farm's barn and everything in it earlier this summer, our families had a heap of fun at our 3rd Annual Family Picnic! While everything that made up the 'farm' experience and haunted mansion were gone, the camaraderie and laughter were



certainly still there, loud and clear. All around you were plenty of giggles, enthusiastic voices and excited squeals. The 'pony' rides (Clydesdales are VERY BIG ponies!) were a huge hit and will be a part of our picnics from now on. The foam pit and water slide were also extremely popular with kids and adults alike so, yup, we will bring them back too along with the reptile zoo. Then of course there were the Princesses, the face painter, the balloon artist, laser tag, axe throwing, bobbing for apples, pumpkin decorating and great music. So. Much. Fun.



While the food truck did its best to keep up with the orders, there were often long lines and wait times. As it past years, it was the only 'down side' to the day. So we have come up with a solution for next year's lunch that will mean nobody will have to wait! Just walk up and eat. It will be great - you'll see! ☺

We can't thank the Gallant Family enough for everything they have worked so hard to create over the past few years. We are sincerely grateful to them for being there for us and allowing us to just take over their entire property! We hope everything comes together and they get their new barn soon.

continuing to host this event in spite of the loss of

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

This year's Christmas Party was truly amazing - but how could it not be? First, the Smudge Fundaes rocked the stage and got our families singing, dancing, and in the mood to par-tay!





While they were cranking it up, Freeway was dazzling everyone with his super cool balloon art and Stacy's Face Painting was impressing all with her creative talents. Along with all that, volunteers from Camp Trillium and the church played games and helped our kids fashion beautiful crafts to take home. Of course, the Big Man himself popped in to check with each of our kids in case there were any last-minutes changes to their Christmas lists. To top it off, the illusionist Lucas Wilson absolutely blew everyone's minds with his incredible magic! There was the stunning floating table, Woody's mysterious dancing scarf, the huge broken card trick and of course Floyd, the amazing vanishing elephant. Wrap all that excitement up with some great food and thoughtful gifts and, like we



said, it was a truly amazing party! Our heartfelt thanks go out to the church, Camp Trillium, and all their respective devoted volunteers for making this day possible.

THE INSIDE RIDE:

This year's Coast to Coast Inside Ride was a huge success - our biggest one ever. We had a record amount of teams as well as individual riders. Thank You to all of you who participated and, of course, fundraised for the teams. This year's event once again was held at CF Limeridge Mall who added to our success with their own \$5,000 donation to HACS. We also awarded a special Disney trip to a very special family. We hope to see all or our teams and participants back next year and encourage others to join in. In total this year's event raised over \$36,000. Thank You!



WHAT HAVE OUR PARTNERS BEEN DOING?

BERTIE AND CLINTON:

Trenton Sebastian and his family had a blast at the annual Bertie & Clinton Employee Fundraiser that was held last month. These wonderful folks hold a *fundraising* event (emphasis on fun) for us *instead* of having a company Christmas Party. Talk about the spirit of giving! This year it was a skating party held at the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines. Needless to say, a good time was had by all while they raised \$1000. Our sincere thanks and Merry Christmas to their entire Staff.

KNIGHTS HALL BREAKFAST:

Well, our volunteers did it! We set a goal to top the amount that the previous charity had raised at the Knight's Hall breakfast and they beat it by \$70 -- way to go team!! The total donated to HACS from the Knights was \$2,030 and it was topped up by Joanne Smith with a donation of \$40 for a grand total of \$2,070! It was a fun morning, as usual when we get together, and we kept the volunteers of the Knights very busy in the kitchen. Our





own volunteers, new ones at that, handled the dishwasher with great skill and we never ran out of dishes. Our warm thanks to Donal O'Shea, Alex Doumani, all of the Knights' volunteers, and our HACS volunteers as well.

THE WALES FAMILY:

Great Wolf Lodge was once again the scene for the family's annual 'Putting Awareness Into Childhood Cancer Month' fund-raiser held on September 7. All of the Participants gathered pledges to support HACS,



Camp Trillium and Heather's Heroes. HACS received a generous donation of \$1,365. Many thanks to Reed Wales and his family for putting the fun in fundraising!



THE MORAN FAMILY:

Kyan Moran's family held their own fundraiser recently and surprised Bertha at the Christmas party with a cheque for \$550! What a wonderful gift – thank you Moran Family!

BRANTFORD SANTA CLAUSE PARADE:

Some of our families were brave enough to face the freezing cold and winds to be a part of the Brantford Santa Claus Parade and ride on the Jim Walsh Bike Ride for Kids with Cancer float. Denis Larocque and team did a fantastic job on the float again this year. And our driver, Mike Edwards and his son Dan were also back to



support us again. Dan Marchuck played wonderful Christmas tunes. Many thanks to the O'Shea family and Auto Elite for providing an area for the float to be assembled and warmth in the garage when needed. Denis treated everyone to pizza afterward at the Knight's Hall.

TOY DRIVE:



The 2019 Toy Drive was incredible! Several Brantford charities (including Help A Child Smile) are blessed to have so many people with HUGE hearts who want to make sure everyone is looked after at Christmas. The volume of toys collected at different locations in the city was unbelievable. Help A Child Smile is grateful to the businesses that put out collection boxes, and also to Abate8 who held a drive of their own and then added their toys to this drive. Brett Davidson, Don Wolan, Lou Anne Tessier and our Secret Santa, plus many others worked together to make this all happen and we thank each of you! Words can't express how thankful we really are and how much the kids at Mac will appreciate all you have done for us & them again this year.

PICTURES WITH SANTA:

It was a fun and festive morning at the Knights Hall in Brantford when Santa stopped by for photo ops with our kids (young ones and not-so-young ones). This was our 1st annual 'Photos with Santa' fundraiser but it will NOT be our last! Many thanks to photographers Andrea Hilhorst and Carolyn Reid for capturing the moments on film and the Knights for hosting the event. Of course, thank you, Santa, for taking time out of your very busy schedule to help out. Despite the nasty weather we were still able to raise \$430!



Our most sincere 'thank you' to all 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.

We are always looking for people to either lead or assist in annual fundraising. If you have a suggestion or would like to help with a fundraiser in your community, we would love to hear from you!

Just send a quick note to info@helpachildsmile.com

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF...

Sandy Lou Lavallee, Joan Rose, Kaitlyn Cox Bekendam, Connie Kellett, Patrick Fletcher Rose, Eileen Savage, Jack Sevier, Diane Wieschowski, Karl Faerberboecj and Frank Antonio

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

OTHER DONATIONS RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM...

Brass Inc. Golf Tournament	\$15,000	BSC Team at Intria	\$430
Estate of Susan Tuller Hajdu	\$2,287.90	Elkin Wellness Centre	\$300
Crazy Bill's Gifts & Novelties	\$600	Kreative Khaos	\$100
Watershed of Brantford	\$100	Toronto Tank Lines	\$500
Extend Communications	\$177.50	Abate Chapter 8	\$5,000
		Colton's Fun Farm	\$1,300

WHAT'S COMING UP?

The **NHL Alumni Hockey Game** promises to be even bigger and better than ever and has been moved to the FirstOntario Centre, 101 York Blvd, Hamilton. The doors open at 1 and the puck drops at 2 pm on Sunday, February 16th. This exciting, fun-for-the-whole-family event is free to all HACS families and their guests but you must register before game day. Watch for details soon on the Family Events page and Events Calendar on our website.



Disney On Ice is always super popular so be sure to register early for the 7 pm show on March 20th at Hamilton's FirstOntario Centre. Tickets are free for all **immediate** family members, and guest tickets are available at \$28.50 each. Remember – you **cannot** bring more guests than immediate family attending. Registration will open on January 15th and close on February 29th. Children **under 2 sitting on a lap** do not need a ticket.

March Break Magic is returning to Brantford's Sanderson Centre on March 16th with shows at 2 and 7 pm. This must-be-seen-to-be-believed performance is free to all HACS active and alumni immediate family members, and

guest tickets will be available at \$15 each. Register before 9 pm on February 14th to have your family entered into a draw for VIP seating and a personal backstage experience with Lucas and Kelly before the show! This special family event is also a fundraiser for Help A Child Smile so share it with all of your friends. Let's fill every seat!

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 Marineland, African Lion Safari, Wonderland, Disney On Ice, Blue Jays games and NHL Alumni games as well as 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 **living in the home at the time of diagnosis plus additions to the family since diagnosis who are living in the home.**
- ☺ **Alumni** families are those whose child was diagnosed or relapsed **more than 4 years ago.**
- ☺ **If a child passes**, the family remains Active for **1 year** then become Alumni.

ALL online payments are sent to treasurer@helpachildsmile.com. The security 'question' **FOR EVENTS is always** your child's name plus the name of the event (ie: Mary Smith Wonderland or Bobby Jones Disney On Ice). For 2019 events, the security answer **is always hacs2019**. NOTE: When completing your registration, check your input carefully **BEFORE** 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: If you try to register for an event and receive a message stating your event registration privilege has been revoked it means that your family was 'No Show' (did not call, email or text to let us know you could not make it **prior** to the start of the event) for 3 events, therefore you are no longer eligible to register. If you feel this was done in error, email us at events@helpachildsmile.com immediately.

NEW HACS STUFF:

You have been asking, and we have been listening. We now have new hoodies, tee-shirts and trucker mesh caps. Check them out!

Our new swag can be yours as a reward for a donation! For \$15, you can have a HACS-branded ¾ or short-sleeved tee or a stylish trucker mesh cap. A \$20 donation can get you a grey youth hoodie and for \$25 you can choose a navy or black adult hoodie. (These hoodies are made of very soft yet water resistant fabric!)

We have 3 pickup locations: **#1**=Hamilton, **#2**=Fonthill, **#3**=Brantford. Sorry, no deliveries.



3/4 & short sleeved baseball tees - \$15

Trucker mesh cap - \$15



Grey Youth hoodie - \$20

Black or Navy Adult hoodie - \$25

You can donate using your bank's e-transfer feature, or by mailing a money order to the address below. Please direct your e-transfer donations to treasurer@helpachildsmile.com following these directions:

1) For the security question, put **your email address plus the # for the pickup location you want.** For instance, **yourname@youreemail.com#2** (all one word) would mean we contact you at the email address you used here and you want to pick up your swag in Fonthill.

2) Use **HACSswag** as the answer. Your info will be sent to the Board member in the area you indicated (in this case Fonthill) and they will contact you for the details about your donation reward choice.

FOR MONEY ORDER DONATIONS:

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 Please complete this section, tear it off and include it in the envelope with your money order in the amount of your total donation. Make it out to Help A Child Smile, and mail it to P.O. Box 871, Welland, ON L3B 5Y5

Name: _____ Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____ City: _____

Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____ TOTAL DONATION: \$ _____

Item 1: _____ Item 2: _____

Item 3: _____ Item 4: _____

Item 5: _____ Item 6: _____

(Attach list if more space is needed.)

Mail registration forms to **Help A Child Smile**, 61 Canboro Rd, PO Box 1262, Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0

NHL Alumni Hockey Game
FirstOntario Centre
101 York Blvd, Hamilton, L8R 3L4
Sunday, February 16th
2 pm

Patient's Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

of family coming: _____

of guests coming: _____

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March Break Magic
The Sanderson Centre
88 Dalhousie St, Brantford, ON N3T 2J2
Monday, March 16th
2 pm & 7 pm

Patient's Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Family Member: _____ **Family Member:** _____

Family Member: _____ **Family Member:** _____

Family Member: _____ **Family Member:** _____

Family Member: _____ **Family Member:** _____

of Guests: _____ X \$15 = \$ _____ (Attach list if more space is needed.)

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Disney On Ice
FirstOntario Centre
101 York Blvd, Hamilton, L8R 3L4
Friday, March 20th
7 pm

Patient's Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Family Member: _____ **Family Member:** _____

Family Member: _____ **Family Member:** _____

Family Member: _____ **Family Member:** _____

Family Member: _____ **Family Member:** _____

of Guests: _____ X \$28.50 = \$ _____ (Attach list if more space is needed.)