

## Spring 2020 Newsletter

**FROM THE CHAIR:** On behalf of the Help a Child Smile Board of Directors we want to let everyone know that we are thinking of you. We know that for many of you, especially those of you who are currently on treatment these are stressful times. We would like to ensure you all that we will continue to support as we always have been with parking, and other supports that we provide. Over the next few months we know that there will most likely be some disruption to our family events. We have already had to cancel Disney on Ice and the Magic show has been postponed and seen a hold on our Disney Trips for now. Help A Child Smile will continue to evaluate our family events and follow recommendation that are put forward. We will continue to plan for spring and summer and update as needed. We hope we will slowly get back to normal soon. The Board continues to be active and meet regularly with our “virtual” Board meetings.

We would also like to welcome and introduce Patti Berardi who is our new administrator. She is full of energy and will be a huge asset to HACS. Over the next few months we hope that you will have an opportunity to meet her and say hello. She is just getting started with us and has already fit in nicely.

Please stay well. Although difficult at times we will get past this. Stay connected. Patti is posting some fun ideas for self isolation on Facebook. If you have not yet liked our page, now would be a great time. Stay well and we will see you soon.

Nelson

### WHAT'S HAPPENED?



Thousands of hockey fans of all ages enjoyed an NHL Alumni Hockey Game at the FirstOntario Centre on Sunday, February 16 in support of Help A Child

Smile and the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Amy Watson, the Vice-Chair of the Help A Child Smile Board of Directors and Nelson Mota, the Chair of the Help A Child Smile Board presented Elijah Verhoeven and his family with a trip to Give the Kids the World in Florida. Fans had a chance to watch Toronto Maple Leaf greats Wendel Clark, Shayne Corson, Nik Antropov and Rick Vaive hit the ice with Montreal Canadien Mark Napier. The Law Enforcement All Stars couldn't beat the NHL Alumni Team and lost 7-6, but the overall winners were Help A Child Smile and the Special Olympics and the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Help A Child Smile raised over \$3 thousand with our 50/50 draw and raised more awareness of childhood cancer.



## WHAT HAVE OUR PARTNERS BEEN DOING:



It wasn't all fun and games at the North Pole, when trouble appeared and Santa needed help from the elves to save Christmas with rock and roll! *Elfis and the Rockin' Elves* was a fun-filled holiday musical held over the Christmas season. **Sean Hauk** generously donated \$300 from the performance to Help A Child Smile! A special thanks to Rick Locke and Brian Grosvold from the Polish Hall.

***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.***

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](mailto:info@helpachildsmile.com)

## DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF...

Frances Lee, Dave Moore, Angelina Perrella, Linda Hecimovich, Florence Hart, Tina Bielecky and Rosalina Bommarito.

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

## OTHER DONATIONS RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM...

- 😊 Adidas Canada - \$1800
- 😊 Casa Dante Lodge Welland - \$2000
- 😊 Jeanne Bucci - \$1000

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

### **Junk in the Trunk "Yard Sale"**

Saturday, May 23  
10:00am – 2:00pm  
12 Catherine Avenue  
Knight's Hall Parking Lot  
Purchase your parking spot for \$25  
by calling Beth at 519-757-7258  
This is a family friendly event  
and the kitchen will be open starting at  
10:00am  
No food or beverage sales  
Set-up your space starting at 9:00 am

\*Parking spaces are limited and  
must be reserved in advance\*

### **The Jim Walsh Bike Ride for Kids with Cancer**

Sunday, May 31  
Registration: 8:00am  
Ride: 9:00am  
Starts and ends at  
The Knights of Columbus Hall  
12 Catherine Avenue, Brantford  
\$25 per rider or \$75 per family  
E-mail: [jimwalshbikeride@gmail.com](mailto:jimwalshbikeride@gmail.com)  
Or register online at  
<https://raceroster.com/events/2020/30761/jim-walsh-bike-ride-for-kids-with-cancer>

For more information all Denis Larocque  
at 519-209-8136

**CanJam for Cancer**  
 Saturday, June 13  
 Kick-off and registration for 10:00am  
 with Ride for Smiles  
 kickstands up at 11:30am  
 Kids Zone – 12:00pm-5:00pm  
 Music – 1:00pm – 5:00pm  
 Knight's Of Columbus Hall  
 12 Catherine Avenue, Brantford  
 Volunteers needed for the Kid's Zone



**FAMILY EVENTS....**



**March Break Magic (rescheduled)**

Saturday, May 16  
 2:00pm  
 & 7:00pm  
 The Sanderson Centre  
 88 Dalhousie Street,  
 Brantford



**Fishing Derby**

Saturday, May 30  
 Galt Sportsmens Club  
 6542 Gore Road,  
 Cambridge  
 Rods provided for kids  
 that don't have one.



**African Lion Safari**

Sunday, June 28  
 Bertha will be at the gate  
 From 9:30am-12:00pm  
 Lunch is at 1:00pm  
 If you can't make it to the park by noon,  
 Call the HACS events phone  
 905-385-4227

**August 9th, 9:30 am- 4 pm  
 Safari Niagara Family Fun Picnic**

Bertha will be at the gate  
 from 9:00am – 12:00pm  
 Lunch is 12:00pm-1:00pm  
 2821 Stevensville Rd, Stevensville, ON  
 Call or text the event phone (905-385-4227)  
 if you are going to be late or can't make it.  
 Guests are welcome at \$30 each which includes lunch.  
 Register online before August 1<sup>st</sup>

<http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/default/register/82>

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Safari Niagara – Sunday, August 9  
 Emerald Lake – Sunday, August 16  
 Bulls & Bikes – Sunday, August 23

## 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 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 **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](mailto:treasurer@helpachildsmile.com) The security 'question' **is always your child's name** plus the **name of the event** (ie: Safari Niagara or Bobby Jones Empire Lake). For 2018 events, the security answer **is hacs2020**. 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](mailto: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.

On a technical note, we have become aware that many families are not getting our emails. At least, they don't think they are. Truth is, if we sent out an email about an upcoming event, for instance, and we have your current email address on file, then you got it even if it does not appear in your Inbox. Depending on what email program you use, there is likely preset filters that have blocked our message for some unknown reason. Just because you got a message from us, say, last week, that does not guarantee that you will get the one we sent today. Why? There is no apparent reason. I have had cases where someone has sent me 3 emails over the space of a day. Two made it to my Inbox, one went to my spam folder. There is no logic. If you are missing emails, you may want to check your spam folder regularly! And depending on your email program, you may have to snoop around. For instance, Gmail has a folder called 'Categories' that is automatically created when you open your account. If you expand it, you will find sub-folders 'Promotions' and 'Updates' among others. Look in them. You will no doubt find messages that you should have gotten – ones people swear they sent to you, but Gmail's filters decided to file them in these folders instead of delivering them to your Inbox.

And as a side note but not unrelated, if you have changed your email address since you last registered for an event, be sure to log in to your profile and update your info. If you need help with that process, follow the steps on our website under 'For Our Families', 'Update Your Details' <https://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/session?backlink=tre21&fid=nq38> If you still have trouble, email [support@helpachildsmile.com](mailto:support@helpachildsmile.com) for more assistance.