

Summer 2014 Newsletter



FAREWELL, SANDRA

As many of you know, Help A Child Smile and the Allen family suffered a tremendous loss with the sudden passing of President and long-time Board member Sandra Allen. Her calm, thoughtful demeanor coupled with her quick wit and sense of humour made Sandra an ideal leader. She had the unwavering ability to stay focussed on the issue at hand, and make fair, unbiased decisions. Her primary goal for over 20 years was always what was best for our kids.

Sandra was introduced to HACS in 1990 when her daughter Lindsay was diagnosed with Leukemia. She and her husband Jim quickly learned first-hand the value of an organization that offered so many forms of support to families struggling with the trials, fears and pain that are part and parcel of battling childhood cancer. They wasted no time joining the Board and serving as Members At Large until Sandra was elected Vice-President in 1996. She held that position until she moved on to become President in 2002. Her dedication to HACS never faltered as she continued to lead and guide the organization until her passing.

Sandra's generosity and passion for helping others extended beyond her HACS role and into the community. In 2011 she was nominated by her fellow employees at Hamilton-Niagara- Haldimand-Brant Community Care Access Centre to receive the local 'Citizenship Award of Excellence'. Not only did she earn that distinction, she was also chosen from over 800 candidates from 14 CCAC offices to receive the same award at the Provincial level. Her passing creates a void on the Board that will be difficult to fill, and a hole in our lives that will remain forever. We know all of our families join us in sending condolences to the Allen family, Jim, Lindsay (Kevin) and Rhiannon.

Claire O'Halloran, RN - Interlink Nurse for HHSC writes: *"I have some really good memories of Sandy and her family. I met them when I was a staff nurse on Ward 3B at McMaster. As you know, their daughter Lindsay was diagnosed with Leukemia in 1990. It was a pleasure to help this lovely family. I got to know them quite well. We developed a really great working relationship, partly because Sandy and Lindsay were lovers of the soap opera All My Children, as was I. It was wonderful to reconnect with Sandy when I joined the Board of Directors at Help a Child Smile in 1999. I became the hospital representative for HACS when I became the Interlink Nurse at McMaster. Sandy and I enjoyed a great relationship from that time onwards. She was so dedicated to HACS and the families it served. Her famous line, said over and over, was, "We are here for the kids". When the Board encountered a problem or difficult situation, Sandy would always say, "Whatever is best for the kids. Remember, that is why we are here". Her simple clarity helped to solve any problems HACS faced. Sandy, you were a pleasure to work with and I will certainly miss you. To Jim, Lindsay, Kevin and Rhiannon, your wife and mom was a true inspiration. It was an honour to know her."*

Thoughts from Nelson Mota, Director of Public Relations, Board of Directors: *"In our day-to-day lives, we meet so many people. Many of them are remarkable. But sometimes it takes reflection and friends sharing stories before it all comes together and we realize just how truly remarkable they were. A lot of broken hearts in the Allen household, and among her fellow past and present Board members and friends at Help a Child Smile. Not only was she our leader, she was a compassionate woman and parent who also had to watch her child go through the ordeal of childhood cancer. Sandra cared deeply about each and every family that was diagnosed and wanted the best for them... all of them. We will miss Sandra, our leader.... our friend. Goodbye for now, Sandy."*

Bertha Bertrand, Director of Family Events, Board of Directors writes: "She had such a willingness to help any of us with any task regarding HACS, especially the Extravaganza. She and Jim would sit at the front gate greeting all of our families for hours and make them all feel welcome. She would laugh with them as well as cry with them. I will miss her greatly."

On Behalf Of HHSC:



Department of Pediatrics
1280 Main Street West, Hamilton ON L8S 4K1
Tel: 905.521.2100



The members of the hematology-oncology team at McMaster Children's Hospital (MCH) extend our sincere condolences to the family of Sandy Allen. We knew her both as the parent of one of our patients and as a long-standing contributor to HACS (Help a Child Smile). Sandy was a compassionate and caring advocate for children with cancer and she played an important role in fostering a strong and enduring relationship between HACS and our team at MCH. Sandy was a really remarkable woman; we will miss her very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronnie Barr".

Ronald D. Barr for the hematology-oncology team

From all of the people whose lives you touched in so many ways....

... our most heart-felt 'Thank You' for all that you stood for and everything you did to enrich the lives of others. May you forever Rest In Peace, Sandra.



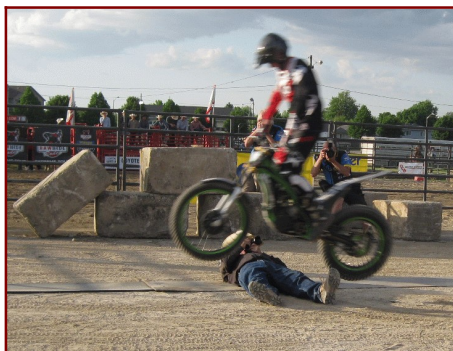
Notes From The Editor: It has certainly been an active summer and we have enjoyed seeing so many of you at various events. We could tell by the smiles on your faces that our favourite summertime outings were a hit. And that makes us smile! Meanwhile, your Board has been busy too and exciting changes are in the works. Like this one introducing our new online Event Registration! <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/> TADA! It has been a long time coming, but it's finally here. The goal is to make the process of registering for events faster and easier for everyone. Although the upcoming events listed right now are free ones, you will still be able to get a feel for the new process. By the time we are ready to list events that have a cost we will be able to accept most forms of electronic payment. Stay tuned - more to come on this one.

Another long-overdue process is also in the works - updating our records! Many of you have moved and/or changed your contact info, like phone numbers and email accounts since you first registered with us. Although we work closely with the hospital, we DO NOT share databases, so giving them your new info does not automatically update your info in our files. So, to fix this problem, a representative of the Board will contact you in the near future (if you have not already been contacted). She will ask you to take 5 minutes to confirm that we have your most current information. If you would like to continue to receive newsletters and event info from us please give her a few minutes of your time. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please ask her to check the 'Do Not Contact' box in your record.

There will soon be enhancements to our website as well. Although this project has fallen behind schedule, it is still high on our to-do list. You will see the Gallery replaced by albums by event so it will be easier to find and view pictures, and there will be a spot for video clips too. We encourage you to submit yours if you would like to share them with all of our families. We are also open to suggestions - anything in particular you would like to see on our website? Please drop us a line and let us know.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Family Fishing Derby: While the return of the Fishing Derby didn't bring the turnout we would have liked, the families who were there had a blast. We could not have asked for a more beautiful setting, nicer weather, a more bountiful pond, or better guidance from the Ontario Kayak Fishing Series volunteers. Absolutely everyone caught lots fish. The food and prizes were top-notch too! Many thanks to Jeff Wall and his volunteers for putting this together. Watch for this event early next May - it's well worth the drive to Belwood Lake! There will be videos on the website soon.



Stampede Days WOW! No other word describes the level of edge-of-your-seat excitement at this event. Between the powerful bucking broncos and bulls and the utterly amazing Jordan Szoke's Stunt Team it just never stops. Just... WOW! Many thanks to our volunteers who manned our booth and worked the stands to sell 50/50 tickets and raised \$1160. Good on you!

Fun Expo, Wonderland, Marineland, Merrittville Speedway...

So much fun for so many families! Don't you think this would be a good place for a picture of YOUR family? We do. Just email your favourite one to us at helpachildsmile@bellnet.ca and we will share it for you.

WHAT HAVE OUR PARTNERS BEEN DOING?

The Jim Walsh Bike Ride



What a great day! The ride was lead by Jim's grandsons and Jordan Szoke. The turnout was double that of last year and everyone loved the new venue and route. After the ride there was plenty of fun, food and entertainment. Paige Miller had the highest total sponsorship with \$829 - way to go Paige - to help the event bring in over \$7,280! This is a family-friendly trail ride so come out and join in next year. Our most sincere 'Thank you' to the event organizers Denis Larocque and Marc Dubeau for another job well done. Special thanks to Jordan Szoke and his family for their participation and support. Can't wait for next year!

CanJam 2014



The 30th edition of CanJam was an amazing all-day event that raised over \$10,000 for our kids! There was a huge selection of live music, excellent food, lots of great silent and online auction items and tons of things for the kids to do. Another fantastic day hosted by the Knights of Columbus in Brantford. The addition of a petting zoo and Kidz Zone with a spirited group of in-character voluntolds really made the day. To Ray Knight and his merry band of voluntolds - soooooo many thank you's! A happy Beverley Speechley won the WestJet tickets.

We also want to thank these partners for their fundraising work this summer:

The Whitney Houston Tribute's Raffle and Yard Sale - \$2179.37; St Martins School - \$3023.367 in Memory of Austin Davis; McKinnon Park Secondary School - \$1000.00; The Jeff & Debbie Haines Celebration - \$700; The Brantford HACS Giant Yard Sale - \$1972.37 ***Awesome job everyone!***

Donations In Memory Of...

Wendy Minor, Richard Koable, Mike Krizon, Barbara Hemovick, Felix LaChance, Denise Carpenter, John DaSilva, Tony Ricci, Ralph MacDonald, Victoria Fazzari, Iva D'Amato, Anna Renda, Stefania Boda, Alfonsina Palmiero, S. Rotella, Sue Lefluer, S. Laine, D. Carpenter, E. Tristani, Pat Sutherland, Shelly Young and Louise Carrier.

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

Special Note: We are saddened to hear of the passing of long-time volunteer Louise Carrier. She was dedicated to the organization for over 28 years. She will always be remembered as 'The Ice Cream Lady' at our Labour Day Extravaganza and will be missed by all. With condolences to her family, we share these words in her memory:

To be a volunteer, it takes...

Generosity, a willingness to give your time to others

Understanding, because their lives might be very different from your own

Empathy, an ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes and feel what they must feel

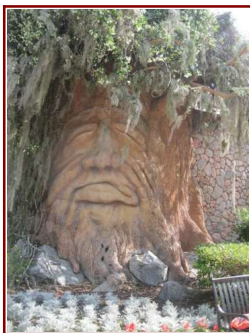
Compassion, to truly care about making someone else's life better

Patience, because the process doesn't always go as smoothly as it might

Dedication, to stick with the project and see it through

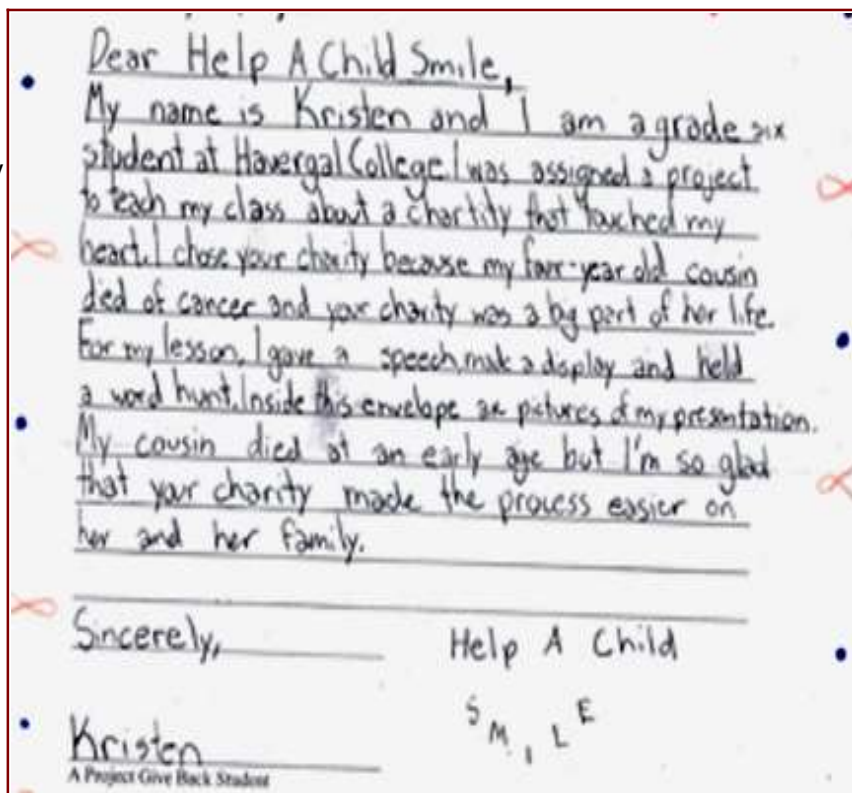
In Other News: Our Volunteer Coordinator Beth Walsh recently volunteered at GKTW. Here is her story.

"My curiosity got the better of me each time I heard a HACS family say what a wonderful time they had at Give Kids The World - so off I went to see just what all the excitement was about. When I entered the village I was greeted at the Welcome Hut and given directions to Volunteer Services. Here I met many friendly Staff who welcomed me as if they had known me for years. As I got to explore my surroundings and do a variety of "jobs" this place became even more magical than I expected. The trash cans spoke to me, I became a train conductor, a taxi driver to deliver food, the cookie cart driver and a decorator for the Halloween party and Mayor Clinton's birthday party. One night it became Christmas complete with snow, and Hallowe'en, and the magic just kept happening. The laughter from the kids and the adults was a sure sign that everyone was enjoying themselves. The villas are like castles and the surroundings are beautiful. The kids have plenty to do, swimming, mini golf, train rides, pony rides twice a week, a party every night, ice cream any time of day - what kid wouldn't be happy there? Seeing what we give our families makes me even prouder to be a part of HACS. Believe me, our time put into events, the canvassing we do to put our name out there, the work we do at home for HACS is all very worthwhile when you have a chance to see first-hand the enjoyment our families experience at GKTW."



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 support such as parking passes, gas cards, teen outings and more to families who have a child being treated for cancer at McMaster Children's Hospital. And to help you and your family smile, we fund outings to events like Disney On Ice, Wonderland, Marineland, and African Lion Safari to name a few. Ultimately, your family may choose to enjoy an expense-paid week at Florida's Give Kids The World Village, including day passes to Disney World, Sea World, Universal Studios and more on us.

Notes From Our Families...



WHAT'S COMING UP?

The Inside Ride is returning on October 21st to the McMaster University Student Centre. There are great prizes such as a pair of WestJet tickets, restaurant certificates and much more. Please enter your team and spread the word. Below is the link to the team registration page which will also allow you to invite others to sponsor you. There will be **prizes** for individuals and teams who **register early** so sign up now! For more info email Nelson at nmota@bartimaeus.com Register and/or sponsor a team at www.hamilton.theinsideride.com



The Scotiabank Game Changers awards program is in full swing and our Volunteer Coordinator **Beth Walsh** has been nominated! If she receives the most votes by October 19th HACS could receive \$25,000!!! **That's 5 Give Kids The World trips !!!** You can vote once per day from each email account you have - one at home and one at work maybe? On the www.scotiabankgamechangers.com page click the **Nominees** tab, then click on **Next Page** under the Tiger Cats logo, then scroll to the bottom of the page. You can read about Beth's extensive volunteer work to see how deserving she really is! You need to create an account before you can vote, but it only takes a minute. You can check the box that exempts you from getting promotional emails from Scotiabank (or not - your choice) and check the box that says 'Remember me' so you don't have to enter your login info every day. (But you will need to 'refresh' the page each day.) **Please share this with everyone and ask them to vote EVERY DAY until October 19!**

The 2014 Christmas Party will be on Dec 6th, 12:30 - 4:00 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 701 Stone Church Rd. E., Hamilton, ON L8W 1A9. Our hosts respectfully ask that you please do not bring coffee or tea into the building. **Register BY November 15th!**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is 7pm on Sept. 16th at Carmen's C Hotel, the Dolce Rooftop Lounge, 1520 Stone Church Road E, Hamilton. Active and Alumni family members are encouraged to attend. Your input is important to us. RSVP **no later than Sept. 12th** by email to: helpachildsmile@bellnet.ca if you plan to be there.

NHL Alumni Hockey Games

Detach, complete and mail this registration form to HACS, PO Box 871, Welland, ON L3B 5Y5 . Or you can email your ticket request to c.mccullough@mystiquemarketing.ca with 'HACS Family Ticket Request' in the subject line. Be sure to include your family name, the number of tickets you need and the city for the game you want to attend. Registration is required **prior to the day of the event** - your tickets will be at the door.

Niagara Falls - Nov. 20st Gale Centre
4171 Fourth Ave, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 4N2
Doors open at 6pm - Puck drops at 7pm
of tickets (family and guests--no limit) _____

Hamilton - Dec. 20th Dave Andrychuk Mountain Arena
25 Hester Street, Hamilton, ON L9A 2N3
Doors open at 5pm - Puck drops at 6pm
of tickets required (family and guests--no limit) _____

Christmas Party

of Adults (18 & over) attending: _____

How many of these adults are Vegetarian? _____

List the name and age of each HACS Family Child (under 18) & immediate siblings attending and circle Vegetarian Y or N

_____	Y	N	_____	Y	N
_____	Y	N	_____	Y	N
_____	Y	N	_____	Y	N
_____	Y	N	_____	Y	N