

April 2015 Newsletter

Notes From The Editor:

Spring is FINALLY here and we are gearing up for a fantastic lineup of events for you! The online family event registration page continues to be upgraded to make it as quick and easy as possible for all of our families to sign up. If you have any technical difficulties please email us as soon as possible at our new email address: info@helpachildsmile.com and we will address them immediately. While on that subject, please send us your comments on the new system - likes, don't likes, comments, suggestions - email or call our new 800 line at **844-770-4227**.

Just a heads-up. To lower our printing/postage cost, starting with the next edition, we will only mail out newsletters to families who have registered within the last 10 years. We will continue to email them to every family for whom we have a current email address. If you are in the 'mail my newsletter' group, have been with us for MORE than 10 years, and want to continue to receive hard copies, let us know with a quick email or phone call that you want to remain on the mailing list.

Reminder to all: if you change your email or home address, telling the hospital does NOT automatically change your contact info with us. Please let us know by calling or emailing your new info to us.

What Happened?

Disney On Ice was a huge success. Our attendance was way up from prior years and our families had a blast. The 'meet and greet' after the show was an extra special treat!



What Have Our Partners Been Doing?

The Jim Walsh Bike Ride Kick-Off Party in Brantford was an entertaining and exciting evening. Many thanks to Marc



Dubeau and Denis Larocque for master-minding the entire event. The talent was top-notch! Kudos to MC Dan Marchuk and singers Randy Alonzo, Gord Taite, Marc Dubeau and featured performer Nicole Faubert. Oh, and a very special thank you to Marc's 'friends' for lending their special talents. Thank you to all who came out - over \$2,000 was raised for our kids. And speaking of our kids, Nicholas Hickey's family was surprised and delighted to be awarded a Give Kids The World Disney trip. There were smiles everywhere all night!

Casa Dante Lodge 19 in Welland served up a lot of delicious pasta to raise \$1500 to donate to us! Most sincere thank you goes out to the Lodge membership for their hard work and dedication. It is greatly appreciated.

Another \$1000 has been donated to our cause as a result of the **Scotiabank Game Changers** program. Kim Pinczel, who nominated our Volunteer Co-ordinator Beth Walsh, was selected to receive the cash but generously opted to turn it over to us instead! Thank you just doesn't seem to cut it.

Food For Thought...

October through April is traditionally a very slow time for events. Aside from the Christmas Party, there is not much going on for our families. The unpredictability of the weather, of course, makes it hard to make plans. Keeping that in mind, the Board is interested in hearing any suggestions for outings your family would like to see added to our roster, either indoor or outdoor. Whatever your idea is, throw it out there and let us hear it.

Along the same lines, in the very near future we will post a questionnaire on our website inviting you to let us know if there are more ways we can help our families. What areas of your hospital visits, for instance, might we be able to make less stressful or more pleasant. The questionnaire will go online before the next newsletter reaches you so please check our website weekly starting mid-May.

Donations In Memory Of...

Jerry Bisette, Barbara McAllister, Enzo Rainer, Peter Doan, Alice Delano, Carol Traver, Mary Gonschior, Nelson Lamontagne, Bill Lisicky, Tony Ricci, Fernando Tristani, Ellen Hoy, Maria Monaro, Majorie Jenter, Donna Stuart, Joseph Tommels, John Butz

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

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, African Lion Safari and Merrittville Speedway to name a few. Ultimately, your family may choose to enjoy an all 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:

Dear Help A Child Smile:

I want to thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to go to the Give Kids The World Village and Disney, this February. My family and I had an amazing time both at the village and at all the parks. The weather was beautiful, the village was incredible and the parks were so much fun! The week went by so fast because of all the awesome things we got to do and we were all very sad to have to leave. None of it would have been possible without the help of your incredible foundation and we cannot thank you enough!

Thank you!!

Jenna Harpur and family



Send us your pictures, stories, videos - we'd love to share them with everyone!

What's Coming Up?

Jeff Wall and the Ontario Kayak Fishing Series is hosting the **HACS Family Fishing Derby** again this year. Last year was a ton of fun with every kid catching fish. This year promises to be an even better day! Not only is the pond stocked, but adults are also invited to cast their lines (2 fish limit per person). AND the event has been moved to a more central location. Find The Sportsman Club (Galt) at 6542 Gore Rd, Puslinch, N0B 2J0 on your map - just outside of Cambridge. On **May 9th**, the day starts off at **9am** and ends after lunch at **1pm**. There will be prizes in various categories and loaner rods for kids who don't have their own. Check here for an online map and directions: <http://www.ontariokayakfishingseries.com/hacs-derby.html>



This event is open to all active and alumni families. While there is no charge, pre-registration **is required** to ensure there are enough poles and supplies. The cut-off for registering is **May 2nd** so email, **OR** go to our online registration page **OR** call leave a message on our toll free line **1.844.770.4227** - pick one. Your message should state clearly your child's full name (your family is registered in the **child's name**), the total number of family members planning to attend, how many of those are kids, and how many fishing poles the kids need to borrow.

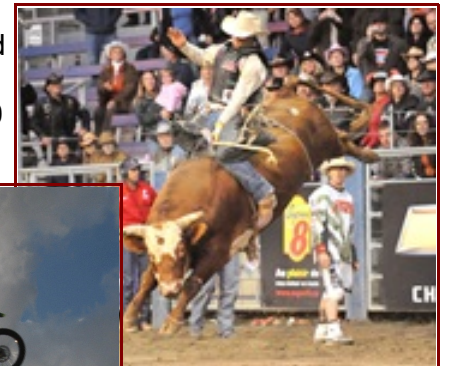


The **Jim Walsh Bike Ride** takes place on **May 31st** starting and ending at the Knights Of Columbus Hall on Catharine Ave. in Brantford. We invite all of our families to grab a pledge sheet or sign up online (or both if you like), get some sponsors, then come on out and enjoy the day. The entrance fee is \$10 per rider, and that gets you a meal and a t-shirt. Or raise \$75 in pledges and ride for free! This is a leisurely ride along the trails to Cambridge. Although the complete route covers 80km, you are welcome to turn around at any point. There will be family-friendly entertainment, food and activities at the Hall. If you don't ride but want to come out and support the event, join us for the entertainment, food and fun starting at 1pm. For more

details, check our event page at <http://helpachildsmile.com/html/events.shtml>

Moonstone Rising Music Festival will be held in Brantford, at the Knights Of Columbus Hall on Catharine Ave on **June 12th** and **13th**. Friday night music fills the air from 5pm until 11pm, and it is a 19+ event. There will be lots of great music, vendors, silent auction, and a 50/50 draw. Admission is \$10. **Saturday 10am until 4pm is a family day full of activities and is FREE.** There will be a petting zoo, games, crafts, community entertainers, vendors, silent auctions, and a whole lot more. Something for the young, old, and everyone in between. Saturday evening from 5pm to 11pm returns to a 19+ event. More great rock and roll, vendors, and a 50/50 draw and we will welcome the Ride for Smiles riders from their day-long journey. Admission is \$10. Check out this site: <http://www.moonstonerising.com/about-us.html> for more info and <http://www.rideforsmiles.ca/> for ride details.

Stampede Days & Extreme Motocross returns to Paris **July 18th** and **19th** and your family won't want to miss the heart-pounding action of these dangerous sports. Gates open at 4:30, thrills start at 6 on Saturday, gates open at 12:30 and show starts at 2 Sunday. Free to all HACS families and guests but **pre-registration is required**. Leave a message in your child's name on our toll-free line **844-770-4227** and tell us how many tickets you need. Then check in with the volunteer at the gate. Or **register online** on our family event registration page. This year a dance has been added with a silent auction, door prizes and 50/50 draw. So put on your best boots and mosey on down past the corral to the dance hall. Just follow the sound of the toe-tapping tunes of Old Chicago and Marc Dubeau.



Admission to the dance is \$15 at the door.

Brant Valley Golf Club, 128 Governors Rd E, St George, ON N0E 1N0 in conjunction with **Freedom House** is hosting a fun-filled fundraising family-style event on **July 18th** starting at 6pm. There will be bouncy castles, kid's games, a family movie and so much more. Watch our events page for more info as it becomes available.

Quick, circle **June 20th** on your calendar so you miss our annual trip to **Marineland**! This day is for our active families and their guests only. Family members are free and guests are at \$38.50 each. Lunch is at 1:15 so get there early! Registration due by May 17th.

While you have your calendar out, be sure to put a big 'CW' on **July 18th** for **Canada's Wonderland**. Lunch is at 1:30 sharp. This event is open to all Active and Alumni families. The cost is \$10 each for active family members and \$20 for alumni members. Registrations due by June 2nd.

Families, start you engines! **Merrittville Speedway** is the place to be on **August 8th** for a whole lot of roaring good fun. Check their website at <http://www.merrittvillespeedway.com/> for details on how your kids can get in on the action and compete in Box Car Races. Gates open at 5:30, races start at 7. This exciting night is free to all HACS families and their guests. But of course, as always, **pre-registration is required** by July 6th. Leave a message on our toll-free line **844-770-4227** stating your child's full name and how many tickets your family needs or sign up at our family events registration page: <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/>

Something to consider: We trust that you enjoy all of the events and support we are able to provide to your family. Please remember that we are still volunteer-run, get no government funding, and have no corporate sponsorship. That means all of the money needed to support our programs comes from third-party fundraisers and donations. While some communities that serve our HACS families are blessed with an abundance of people willing to host fundraisers and look for donations, other areas are not so lucky. We are looking for a handful of people who are willing to work with the Board to help develop fundraising events in their communities. It could be as simple as a car wash or yard sale. It could be a dance or talent show. Anything you can think of. We are here to help and support you. All you need to do is let us know you have an idea and we will do everything we can to help you succeed. Call our toll-free line **844-770-4227** and leave your name and number or email us at info@helpachildsmile.com with your contact info and we will contact you.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

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

Marineland 2015 Family Registration Form

❖ Money orders are to be made payable to: Help A Child Smile

❖ Mail forms with money orders to Help A Child Smile, 61 Canboro Rd, PO Box 1262, Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0

For your convenience and more payment options, you can register online at <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/>

Family Name: _____ Patient's Name: _____ Phone: (____) ____ - _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code) _____ Is this a new mailing address? (circle one) Y N (So we can update our records)

Saturday, June 20th for ACTIVE families only. Lunch at 1:15 sharp. Family members FREE, guests \$38.50 each, includes lunch. **Kids under 5 Free!** (Can upgrade to Season Tickets at the gate for \$5 + HST)

of immediate family adults attending _____ Are you Joining us for the lunch provided? Y N # of vegetarians _____

Names of immediate family children attending: Age: Check } Regular Vegetarian Halal Burger
Meal } BBQ Food Burger (Chicken)

1) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

of guests (adults + children): ____ X \$38.50 each = \$ _____ # of kids **under 5** _____

Registration forms with money orders (if requesting guest tickets) **MUST** be returned by **May 17th**

Wonderland 2015 Family Registration Form

❖ Money orders are to be made payable to: Help A Child Smile

❖ Mail forms with money orders to Help A Child Smile, 61 Canboro Rd, PO Box 1262, Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0

For your convenience and more payment options, register online at <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/>

Family Name: _____ Patient's Name: _____ Phone: (____) ____ - _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code) _____ Is this a new mailing address? (circle one) Y N (So we can update our records)

Saturday, July 18th - lunch at 1:30 - ACTIVE families \$10 ea (*immediate only*) ALUMNI families \$20 ea. Guests are welcome - see guest pricing below.

of immediate family adults attending ____ Are you joining us for the lunch provided? Y N # of vegetarians ____

Names of immediate family children attending: Age: (under 3 free) 48" or taller? (circle) Vegetarian?

1) _____	Yes	No	Yes	No
2) _____	Yes	No	Yes	No
3) _____	Yes	No	Yes	No
4) _____	Yes	No	Yes	No
5) _____	Yes	No	Yes	No
6) _____	Yes	No	Yes	No
7) _____	Yes	No	Yes	No

Total # of ACTIVE immediate family members attending (adults + children) ____ x \$10 each = \$ _____

Total # of ALUMNI immediate family members attending (adults + children) ____ x \$20 each = \$ _____

Total # of guests ages 3-59 years and over* 48" tall ____ x \$42 each (includes meal) = \$ _____

Total # of guests age 60+ or under 3 years and under** 48" tall ____ x \$38 each (includes meal) = \$ _____

Registration forms with money orders (if requesting guest tickets) MUST be returned by June 2nd

Note: If your child will be in treatment/hospital on July 18th please let us know and we can offer you 'Anyday' passes at the same rates as above and guest passes at \$41* (ages 3-59) or \$35** for each - sorry, no meals with 'Anyday' passes.

Merrittville Speedway 2015 Family Registration Form

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

For your convenience you can register online at <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/>

Family Name: _____ Patient's Name: _____ Phone: (____) ____ - _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code) _____

Is this a new mailing address? (circle one) Y N (So we can update our records)

Total # of tickets required: _____

Registration forms MUST be returned by June 2nd

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Making the arrangements to move the Family Fishing Derby took a wee bit longer than we anticipated. The result is there just isn't enough time for you to mail back a registration form. For this event you MUST let us know by email, phone or online by May 2nd.