

## Winter 2015 Newsletter

### Notes From The Editor:

First things first - **Happy New Year!** We hope your Christmas Season was filled with the warmth of good times spent with family and friends and we wish you all the best in 2015.

Now on to business. As most of you know, in an attempt to save money, we decided to reduce the number of newsletters from four editions per year to three. Well that didn't work. We learned that it is more important to have regular communication with you than to save a few hundred dollars in printing and postage costs. So you can expect to hear from us every three months. But if you have an email address, PLEASE let us send your newsletter electronically! We are still mailing about 400 copies per edition at 85¢ each for postage plus the cost of paper, printing and envelopes! And remember - If you change your email address you need to let us know! Just send a quick note to [helpachildsmile@bellnet.ca](mailto:helpachildsmile@bellnet.ca) with 'new email address' in the subject line and we will update your record.

On the subject of addresses, you may recall that I mentioned in the last newsletter that we would be getting in touch with you to confirm your contact info in our database. It was a busy summer, and we didn't get as far as we planned with this project but we are getting back on track now so expect to hear from us. Some of you have moved and didn't tell us, which has resulted in newsletters coming back marked 'Not at this address'. Of course, this could mean that your family may have missed out on some great events. Let's fix that! And if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know and we will check the 'Do Not Contact' box in your record.

By now some of you have used our online event registration - how did you like it? As with any new process, we understand that it will take a little time to get used to and there may be small 'bugs' to work out, but in the big scheme of things it will make the process easier, faster and save money. If you have any comments or suggestions, please email them to us.

### Remembering Claude - *The Cowboy rides off into the sunset*

It saddens us to announce the passing of HACS's longtime supporter and friend, Claude Poulin. He peacefully passed away on December 10, 2013 after a short battle with cancer.

Since HACS' inception in 1987, Claude has been a founding benefactor, was an original board member and instrumental in making the organization what it is today. He dedicated most of his efforts on the Labour Day Extravaganza held annually at Club Richelieu and the annual HACS golf tournament. He was the man behind the scenes and helped to make these events a success for over 28 years.



Claude was a compassionate, humble man that never asked to be recognized for his of his contributions. He generously gave his time, financial support and business resources, simply because he could and never with the expectation of receiving anything in return except maybe the smiles on the faces of the children he helped.

His generosity extended beyond HACS, he was also a long time supporter of his local Food Bank, Toys for Tots, World Vision and was always willing to extend a helping hand to someone.

Claude was a great husband to his wife Janice, beloved father to his daughters Jamie and Amanda, and a wonderful grandpa to Xavier and Elyza. All of his family remains involved with Help A Child Smile to this day.

He was a man that truly believed that "A man never stood so tall as when he stooped to Help A Child Smile."

*He will be greatly missed by all his family, friends and the community.*

## What Happened?

Well, quite frankly, LOTS of things since the last newsletter waaay back in August. Let's see, Mother Nature wasn't nice to us on **African Lion Safari** day but that didn't stop those who braved the weather from having a whole lot of fun anyway. Many thanks, once again to the Management and Staff who dedicate their time and energy to make this a wonderful event each year.

Roaring engines, dust and excitement were the order of the day for all of our HACS families and friends as **Merrittville Speedway** hosted us for another fun-filled evening. It was great to see so many of our families turn out to enjoy the show. Thank you, Merrittville Speedway Staff - our evening with you never disappoints!



The **Inside Ride** held at McMaster was a monster success and we have pictures to prove it. Here is one of many - check out our Facebook page and website for more. Our teams peddled hard and fast and at the end of the day raised an amazing \$7,826. Not bad for an hour's work!



As always, our families came out in force to enjoy the **NHL Alumni Hockey** games in Niagara and Hamilton. And why wouldn't they? What's not to love about the fast-paced action, crowd-pleasing antics and hilarity that the players always bring to the ice. Hockey's greatest Dad was also on hand to help out a centre ice as Steve Ferlatte presented Elijah Langerdoen and his family with a GKTW trip. This year, besides giving freely of their time and talents, the players even raised over \$500 among themselves to donate to us. We just can't thank you enough guys!



The **AGM** was held in September and we are pleased to announce your returning Board of Directors for the next 3 years are Nelson Mota and Joyce Hutson as Co-Chairs, Peggy Charron as Treasurer, Bertha Bertrand as Family Event Co-ordinator, Shirley Surridge as Secretary, Chris McCullough as Director at Large, Beth Walsh as Volunteer Co-ordinator, and Claire O'Halloran as Hospital Liaison. We are pleased to introduce new members Brenda Nicholls as Co-Treasurer and Steve Ferlatte (not pictured) as Director at Large.



Back: Bertha Bertrand, Brenda Nicholls, Peggy Charron, Chris McCullough, Shirley Surridge. Front: Beth Walsh, Joyce Hutson, Nelson Mota

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, at Brantford's Harmony Square, when the call went out for childhood cancer survivors, their siblings and family representatives of kids who didn't survive, more than three dozen people climbed the steps. It was a poignant moment as they counted down from 10 before the square's fountain was lit up in gold to mark **Childhood Cancer Awareness** month. "I just hope people realize the significance. We're doing this because it affects so many children and they face those harsh treatments,"





said Michelle Read, co-organizer of the event that drew more than 100 participants. Volunteers handed out gold ribbons and car window stickers and the City of Brantford declared September to be Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the city.



17-year-old cancer survivor Sam Loslo of Brantford shared his story with the crowd, who applauded when he said he's been free of cancer since finishing treatment in March 2013. Beth Walsh presented an expenses-paid Give Kids The World to a grateful Eugene and Jessey Burbine and their five-year-old son EJ, who has been cancer-free for two years.

The Jim Walsh Bike Ride for Help A Child Smile was well represented at Brantford's 2014 Santa Clause Parade. It is an

evening event, so the floats presented a stunning display of sight and sound as they made their way through town. Many thanks go out to Denis Larocque, Marc Dubois, Nicole Faubert and all of their volunteers for a job very well done!

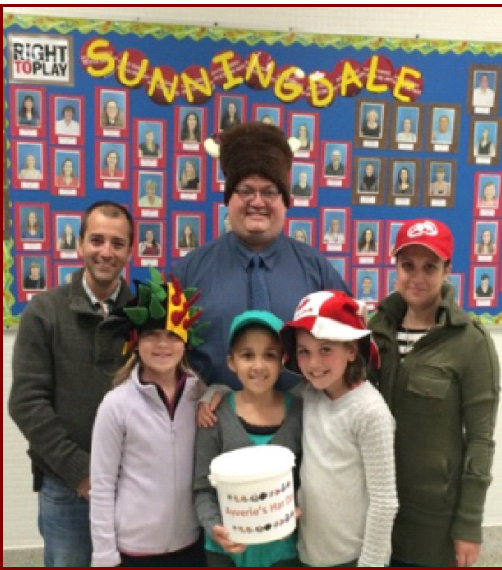


This year's **Christmas Party** was a wonderful way to wrap up another smile-filled year. The hall was filled corner-to-corner with fun activities for the kids and they had a blast! No surprise, the Smudge Fundaes rocked it - again! And of course, the man in red himself, dear old Saint Nick took time out of his busy schedule to pop by and personally chat with every one of our kids. Thank you just doesn't seem to express how grateful we are to receive so much support from so many people to make this party so special for our families. An extra special thank you to Jim Schmidt for saving the day!





## What Have Our Partners Been Doing?



Back row: Nelson Mota, Loui Silvestri, Valerie Caster. Front row: Ayverie (holding bucket) with classmates Jade and Jamie

When **Ayverie Caster-Smith** returned to Sunningdale Public School after 18 months away due to fighting brain cancer, she requested that her Oakville school hold a toonie drive to raise funds for Help A Child Smile. She wanted to say thank you for the support she and her family received from HACS throughout her treatment process. The fundraiser also brought awareness to the HACS and to paediatric cancer.

Students and staff were encouraged to wear their favourite hat during the day of the drive as a symbol for Ayverie, who had lost her hair during treatment, so she wore fashionable hats during her recovery. The school raised more than \$1,500. "I'm happy, excited and proud," said Ayverie. "I'm impressed because we raised more than \$1,000." Thank you Ayverie, from our families and the Board.

Cancer survivor Tayler Diamond, left, presents Caleb Brand's family with an all-expenses paid Disney trip to Give Kids The World at the **Bonfire Nights** fundraiser held in the Brantford area in September.

Event organizer Steve Ferlatte

(background) regularly opens his home and beautiful rural property to welcome fellow outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy music, food, fun and fund-raising around a crackling bonfire. The popular event raised \$1,210 including their bottle drive - Your efforts are greatly appreciated Steve, thank you!

Julie English was the very excited winner of a Coor's Bar Fridge (well-stocked, I might add) drawn at **The Mudmen Concert** held in December in Brantford, which raised \$1,250. Many thanks to Ray Knight and his team for organizing the evening. Your continued support is very much appreciated, Ray and we look forward to your next event, the ever-popular Can-Jam For Cancer this June.



When the third annual Helix Toy Drive was held at the Army, Navy Air Force Club in Brantford, hundreds of new toys, games, puzzles and the like came pouring in, thanks to the hard work and dedication of organizer Brett Davidson. He calls it 'a labour of love' and it was a tremendous success. The bounty was split up among several local area children's charities, and this year a large portion went to our Clinic at McMaster. Soooo many thank-you's Brett not only from our kids, but from the hospital staff as well for including us!



### **We are grateful to the following partners for their fundraising over the past 6 months:**

Julia's Journey in Memory of the Froggie Princess - \$5,000; Smile for Miles Poker Run in Co-Operation with the Southern Cruisers Riding Club, Erie Shores Chapter 129 - \$13,000; FBI Seniors Golf Tournament - \$913; Enviro-Niagara Golf Tournament - \$12,000; Kieffer Memorial Golf Tournament - \$8,000; Sparrow Lakes in Memory of Bob Hodgson - \$1,500; Larry Dilts Golf Tournament - \$5,000.

### **Donations In Memory Of...**

Anne Sharpe, Pat Sutherland, Louise Carrier, Alison Mui, Randy Fawkes, Gladys Tonnos, Chery Neabo, Anita Mayne, Pat Broughton, Sandra Allen, Grace Roberston, Aronad Leslie, Marlette Boulet, Yvonne Labbe, V Walsh, Lotta Fretz, William Lisicky, J Whitmer, Elizabeth Birekenstock, Allen Benn, Frances Madere, Susan Reavere, Frances Madere, Ruth Burns, Millie Drobny, Heneritta Houk, Brian Smith, June Linn, Leo Pichard, John Fashette, Claude Poulin

*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, and African Lion Safari 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.

**In Other News:** Although our Volunteer Co-Ordinator Beth Walsh was not the grand prize winner (she is in our books!) in the Scotiabank Game Changers Program, she was awarded \$1,000 in the final round. Her nominator, Kim Pinczel, was chosen from all of the nominators to receive a cheque for \$1,000 and 2 tickets for the upcoming Ti-Cats season valued at \$1,500!! And guess what she did? Yup, she donated the money and the tickets to us!!! WOW! Thank you, thank you, thank you Kim! (PS: watch for some exciting info on these tickets in the near future. Just sayin.....)



### **What's coming up?**

**Disney On Ice** - March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, COPPS Coliseum in Hamilton. There is a very exciting addition to the event this year. You are invited to stay behind and meet all of the characters immediately after the show! If you have 20 minutes to spare, stay in your seats (or move up if there is room closer to the front) and say 'hello' to your favourites. There is no charge and you don't have to sign up for this 'meet & greet'. This event is free for all HACS



Active and Alumni families. Guests are welcome at \$17.95 per ticket. The attached registration form **MUST** be in our hands no later than February 15<sup>th</sup> with a money order if you are bringing guests, or go to our online registration page for faster processing and more payment options.

The **Jim Walsh Bike Ride Kick-Off Party** will be held at Knights of Columbus Hall, 12 Catherine Ave., Brantford on April 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a great evening filled with very talented performers. There will be a silent auction/raffle table and door prizes. The event focuses on the upcoming ride (May 31<sup>st</sup> - more about it in the next newsletter) and funds raised will cover the expenses of the ride.

**Marineland** - June 20<sup>th</sup> with lunch at 1:15. This event is free for Active families only. Guests are welcome at \$38.50 per ticket. The attached registration form **MUST** be in our hands no later than May 17<sup>th</sup> with a money order if you are bringing guests, or go to our online registration page for faster processing and more payment options.


**Wonderland** - July 18<sup>th</sup> with lunch at 1:30. Active families are \$10 per person (immediate only) and ALUMNI family members are \$20 per person. Guests are welcome - look for guest pricing and details in the next issue.


**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

**Online Fundraisers** - Shop from the comfort of your home and we all benefit! These kind supporters who also happen to be vendors of top-of-the-line products are making donations to us for every purchase all through the month of February! Please check out their online catalogs and share with your friends, family and co-workers.

**Renee Proulx** is donating 20% of your purchases on most of the current  line (exceptions will be noted at checkout). Visit <https://reeneproulx.scentsy.ca> and enjoy shopping! When you are ready to check out, be sure to click on 'Help A Child Smile' to add your order to our party. **NOTE:** For FREE SHIPPING within 60 kms of Brantford, simply email Renee at [Reneeproulx@hotmail.com](mailto:Reneeproulx@hotmail.com) or call her at 519-774-8381 to place your order directly and she will arrange delivery or pickup at no charge!

**Christina Doucette** is donating 20% of your purchases on the complete  line of products. Visit [www.arbonne.ca](http://www.arbonne.ca) then click on the 'Join Arbonne' link in the top right corner of the screen to have your purchase tracked under Christina's account. On the next page you are given 3 ways to join - click the 'Select' button in the 'Client - FREE' box. Scroll down and make sure the country and language are set correctly, then type Christina's code **115672056** in the 'Sponsor's Arbonne ID' box. Now enjoy your shopping! And as an added bonus, for every item ordered, you will be entered into a draw for a free gift at the end of the month! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Christina at [ibelieve-18@hotmail.com](mailto:ibelieve-18@hotmail.com) or 519-865-8084.

**Shelley Dowe** is donating 25% of your purchases on thirty-one merchandise. To view all of her products please visit <https://www.mythirtyone.ca/sdowe/> and happy shopping! If you have questions or need more info you can contact Shelley directly at [organizeinstyle@outlook.com](mailto:organizeinstyle@outlook.com) or call her at 905-483-1393.

*Many thanks to all of you for your generosity and we wish you continued success in your endeavours!*

### Family Event Registration Forms

If you received your newsletter via email, you can print this page, fill it out and mail it to the address below or visit the event registration page on our website at <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/> to register your family online.

Mail (with money order made payable to HACs) to Bertha Bertrand, 61 Canboro Rd. PO Box 1262 Fonthill, ON L0S1E0

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

- 1) **DISNEY ON ICE: Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 7pm** - COPPS Coliseum, Hamilton - **Register BY Feb 15<sup>th</sup>**

# of immediate family (parents and children) members attending [Free]: \_\_\_\_\_

# of guests (no more than the number of immediate family, please) [\$17.95 each]: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of tickets:

Mail (with money order made payable to HACs) to Bertha Bertrand, 61 Canboro Rd. PO Box 1262 Fonthill, ON L0S1E0

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

- 2) **MARINELAND: Saturday, June 20<sup>st</sup> - FREE** for **ACTIVE** families only - lunch at 1:15 sharp. Guest tickets \$38.50 include lunch. Kids under 5 - Free! (You 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 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 17<sup>th</sup>**