

October 2015 Newsletter

Notes From The Editor:

Fall is in the air and frankly, after the extreme heat of this summer, it's a pleasant change. And speaking of change, after 29 years of doing what we do the way we do it, your Board is looking to change it up. We think it is time to update and expand the services we provide and events we organize for you. And for that, we need suggestions from you, our families - active and alumni both. We want your input. What outings would interest your family? What more can we do to make your journey easier? We are working out the details of how best to get your feedback. Stay tuned to our FB page and website for more info to come on a survey of some sort - perhaps included in the next newsletter, or maybe an online version. We will get back to you on that.

What Happened?

Wow - just wow! What a great way to wind up the summer. Our families came out in droves to enjoy all of the events and they had a blast. The numbers have never been better - Canada's Wonderland saw attendance of 300; the surprise Blue Jays game was limited to 200 seats but every one of them was filled; 215 of you were at Merrittville Speedway and a whopping 435 attended African Lion Safari! We suspect the surge in numbers is because you are all getting the hang of the new online registration process. Maybe not. But no matter what the reason was, it was awesome to see so many of you this summer! Pictures to follow on pages 3 and 4.

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month. Thanks to a dedicated team of supporters, two more communities in our region held **Go Gold** events to help raise awareness. We are proud to say our own Beth Walsh and Michelle Read were instrumental not only in expanding this year's **Go Gold** celebration in Brantford, but also in enlisting the support of Mike Konderka and Neil Rourke to encourage the cities of Welland and Burlington to also **Go Gold**. Jordan Thorne shared his journey fighting multiple cancers at Brantford's event. Visit our FB page or website for photos and videos.



What Have Our Partners Been Doing?

Working very hard over the summer to raise money to help us fund our programs, that's what.

- ☺ The Cowboy Classic Golf Tournament raised \$16,500
- ☺ The Erie Shores Chapter 129th Annual Charity Ride donated \$17,500
- ☺ Sparrow Lakes Men's Golf Association contributed \$500
- ☺ The Sandra Allen Memorial Golf Tournament earned \$6,207
- ☺ The FBI Seniors Golf Tournament gave us \$805
- ☺ Economy Auctions Fort Erie (Glen Finbow and The Big E Team) raised \$1,000
- ☺ Julia's Journey Annual Run/Walk in Memory Julia Dinnocenzo (Froggy Princess) donated \$2,000
- ☺ The LanHack Golf Tournament drew in \$33,754
- ☺ The Kiefer Memorial and Brant Valley Golf Club event totals are not available at this time

Our most sincere 'Thank you' to all of our partners for their dedication, hard work and support. We couldn't make any of the great events happen for our families without all of you.

Donations In Memory Of...

Anita Napper, Riley Montgomery, Eva Czuppon, Peter Bodnar, Anna Varga, Nello Celotto, Darcy Sault, Larry Whitty, Walter Kamwendo, Maria Maletta, Vera Cirlicic, Marina Fritz, Wayne McNeil, James Marshall, Antonio Cola, Grant Barkley, Frank White, Violet Tomori, Joseph Alfono, Robert John Guest

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 bravery beads, Ronald McDonald House accommodations, Emla cream, parking passes 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 and African Lion Safari to name just 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...



Hello Help A Child Smile Members!

We apologize this is so late but we were waiting to send along a Disney photo with our thank you note and it has finally arrived! Our family had the privilege of staying at Give Kids the World at the end of April. We had an incredible time! We can not thank you enough for allowing us to have this experience together as a family. Family time was much more needed than we thought, life seems to have been in over drive since Abbye finished chemo so it was really nice to have the time to reconnect and really enjoy each other's company. It really put things into perspective for us and made us realize how lucky we truly are. Thank you and GKTW for making this amazing opportunity, not only for our family but for so many families. Thank you

cannot begin to express our gratitude! Sincerely, **The Stea Family**, Welland.

What's Coming Up?

Hamilton's Coast-To-Coast Inside Ride is fast approaching. October 21st will be here before you know it so if you are planning to put in a team (6 people who ride stationary bikes at their own pace for 5 minutes each) then you better register now! All the details are available by visiting www.helpachildsmile.com and following the link at the bottom of the page. If you aren't putting in a team, please consider sponsoring one of the teams that have already signed up by following the same link.

There are only a few tickets left for the **Spirited Night Out** event with Psychic Mediums **Kerrilynn Shellhorn** and **Emma Smallbone** at Glenhyrst Gardens in Brantford on Nov. 8th at 6 pm. There is limited seating at \$50 per person, which includes refreshments. Contact Linda at 519-753-3797 to reserve your ticket now. For more details visit our Fundraising Events page here: <http://helpachildsmile.com/html/events.shtml> or our FB page.

Christmas is coming! And that means the Church Of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is once again hosting our annual HACS **Christmas Party**. Mark November 28th on your calendar right now. Registration starts at 12:30 and the fun starts promptly at 1pm. Your family **MUST BE REGISTERED** by Nov 2nd.

NHL Alumni Hockey Games are right around the corner. This is a great night out for the whole family! Soooo much fun stuff going on down on the ice. Oh, and they play a little hockey too! Don't miss this **FREE** event. You can bring guests too - just be sure to register ahead of time.

IN OTHER NEWS:

We are looking for affordable indoor storage (a small garage, perhaps?) in the immediate Brantford area. It does not have to be heated, just secure and dry. If you have or know of available space please email info@helpachildsmile.com with 'storage space for rent' in the subject line.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

Active families have a child who was diagnosed or relapsed within the past 4 years.

Alumni families are those whose child was diagnosed or relapsed more than 4 years ago.

Immediate family members are parents and siblings at the time of diagnosis.

Register By dates mean 'in our hands by' **not** 'post-marked by'.

Family Event Registration Form

If you received a printed newsletter and prefer to mail your registration form to us, please send it to:

Help A Child Smile, PO Box 871, Welland, ON L3B 5Y5

OR you can register **online** at: <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/> BUT NOT BOTH!

NHL Alumni Hockey Games

Registration is required **no later than 2 days prior to the day of the event** - your tickets will be at the door.

Hamilton - Friday, Nov. 20th

Dave Andrychuk Mountain Arena
25 Hester Street, Hamilton, ON L9A 2N3
Doors open at 6pm - Puck drops at 7pm
of tickets (family & guests – no limit) _____

Niagara Falls - Saturday, Nov. 21st

Gale Centre
4171 Fourth Ave, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 4N2
Doors open at 5pm - Puck drops at 6pm
of tickets (family & guests – no limit) _____

Christmas Party

Saturday, November 28th 12:30 - 4:00

Family name: _____

Patient's full name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

Postal Code _____

Home phone: () _____

Cell phone: () _____

Email: _____

A) Can we email newsletters to you?

Y N (circle one)

B) Is this a new mailing address?

Y N (circle one)

C) Is this a new phone number?

Y N (circle one)

of Adults (over 18) attending _____

How many of these adults are Vegetarian? _____

Names of HACS Family Children Attending (under 18)

Age

Vegetarian? (Circle one)

T-shirt Size (Circle One)

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

- | Yes | No | Adult | Youth |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Children **not in hospital** must be in attendance to receive the give-a-ways.

T-shirt sizes are: **Youth** XS, SM, MD, LG or **Adult** SM, MD, LG, XL, 2XL, 3XL

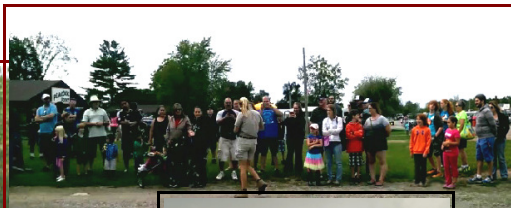
All family members participate for free at this event (includes freebies for all siblings under 18)

Important note:

The organizers of this event request that guests **PLEASE do not bring** outside food or drink into the building (ie Timmy's)



2015 African Lion Safari



Welland Goes Gold

Jordan Szoke thrills the crowd at Bikes & Bulls





↩ The 15th Annual Kieffer Memorial golfers are ready for the fun to begin.

Golfers release hot air lanterns as a final act of remembrance of Kieffer.



↑ Kaleb Hitchcock & his family were presented with their Give Kids The World trip at Brantford's **Go Gold** event, which included a giant HACS ribbon pizza donated by Rose Risi of Maria's Pizza. ➡



'Team Allen' (Jim, Lindsay, her husband Kevin and Rhiannon) won best team score at the **Sandra Allen Memorial Golf Tournament**.



Jordan Szoke joins Beth Walsh in the ring to surprise Noah Dickens with a Give Kids The World trip at **Bikes & Bulls**.



↑ Peggy Charron accepts a cheque from Jamie West and Mike Konderka at **The Cowboy Classic** where Bertha Bertrand presented Colton Ossadnik with a trip to Give Kids The World.



↩ Al Pooley, Greg Baetz, Beth Walsh, Michelle Read, a club volunteer, Barb Plomley and Matt Annis are ready to raise money at the **Brant Valley Golf Club** fundraiser for HACS.

