

January 2016 Newsletter

Notes From The Editor:

Happy New Year to all of our families from everyone on your Board! As we reflect on the past year, our hearts fill with happiness as we recall fond memories of the fun we had with all of you at our events. Looking forward to the new year just beginning, we are excited to announce that we are adding even more fun-filled family events to our lineup. Trust us when we say 2016 will be the best year yet for our families!

By the way, we are still printing and mailing out 250 newsletters every quarter. Let's make 2016 the year that we finally eliminate hard-copy mailing costs and help the environment by getting everyone on our email list! You can simply send a quick note to info@helpachildsmile.com with 'please update my record' in the subject line. That's it. We will then add your email address to your record and change the method of delivery for your newsletter from mail to email. We will also be able to notify you quickly if there are event time/date changes.

One more reminder: If your family would like to volunteer at events in your area, please send an email to our Volunteer Co-ordinator Beth Walsh at volunteer@helpachildsmile.com with 'sign me up to help' in the subject line. She will get in touch with you to make sure she has all the details of your availability. Like, can you only come out on weekends or are you good anytime? Can you give rides to other volunteers or do you need a ride? Are you good with standing and lifting, and so on. You get the picture. This information enables us to match the volunteer with the tasks that need to be done at the event. We strive to make the experience as enjoyable for you as possible because we want you to want to come back! And in case you didn't know, high school kids who volunteer for us can count their time towards their required community service hours.

What Happened?

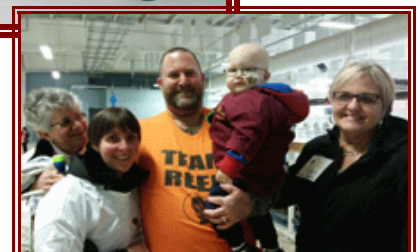
The Annual NHL Alumni games in Hamilton and Niagara Falls were a huge hit (no surprise) with our families again this year. Walter Gretzky and the players went all out to make sure there was lots of action, plenty of laughs and surprises galore on the ice to ensure that everyone in attendance had a great time. But for two HACS families, there was an extra special surprise right down there at centre ice! Cambridge's Evan Conway and his family and Reed Wales' family from Niagara Falls thought they were just representing HACS by dropping the ceremonial puck to start the game. Instead, the kids were surprised and delighted to be awarded a week-long vacation to Give Kids The World in Florida. And the crowd was thrilled for them too! And on top of all that, the games raised almost \$6,300!



The Conway's drop
the puck in Hamilton



The Wales family
with Bertha Bertrand
at the Niagara game



This year's **Annual Christmas Party** was outstanding! The church's volunteers outdid themselves with the festive decorations - such a fun room to walk into! And from the moment the party started it was constantly filled with the happy hubbub of kids having fun and activity everywhere. Of course all of our fave's were there - the Smudge Fundaes, Don Styles with his lights and sirens, Camp Trillium's craft tables and of course the big man in red himself. As if that wasn't enough, there was a very tall tin soldier (aka Doug The Great) who somehow morphed into a tricky magician; a very talented face paint and body artist (aka Katie The Great) and some very exotic four-legged creatures (nope, none of Santa's reindeer got in) who wandered about, making themselves quite at home. (I think he wants you to share your pizza, Shirli!) Many thanks to Ringtail Rescue Animal Farm for bringing them to join the party. We are deeply grateful to the Church Of Jesus Christ Of The Latter-Day Saints and their volunteers for once again going above and beyond to make sure our kids have the best Christmas party.



Hamilton's Coast-To-Coast Inside Ride was a wonderful event again this year. There were so many teams with so much energy that had so much fun while generating so much money for our kids! A whopping \$8,255 was raised in a mere 1 hour of peddling. Many thanks go out to our friends, the Coast-To-Coast team, for putting it all together, as well as to the CF Limeridge Mall for hosting us this year. And extra-special thanks to

all of the participants from Makena Noble's family for making it possible for them to receive a trip to Give Kids The World Village. It was just a wonderful day for all!



What Have Our Partners Been Doing?

Sooooo much to help us, that's what! Just look:

- ☺ The **15th Annual Kieffer Douglas Memorial Golf Tournament** brought in another \$12,509 raising their total contributions to Help A Child Smile to well over \$100,000! What an outstanding accomplishment and awesome way to honour Kieffer's memory. Our sincere gratitude goes out to the Douglas family for their continued support.
- ☺ Jeff Sayles presented Joyce Hutson with a cheque in the amount of \$4,500 that was raised by the **Hamilton & District Electrical Contractors Association** at their 2015 annual golf tournament. Many, many thanks to all.
- ☺ Brantford's **RMP Kids First** held the first PowerFest Car Show & Street Festival Fundraiser and divided the proceeds among several local charities. Co-Founders Ray Knight and Chris Biro proudly presented Joyce Hutson and Beth Walsh with a cheque for \$6,000! Totally awesome job guys!
- ☺ We would like to thank Tom Dancavitch and Brett Davidson for organizing '**The Helix Toy Drive**' in Brantford again this year. Many boxes of gifts were collected dropped off for the Oncology Ward at Mac.
- ☺ **BRAVA** members of Brantford opened their hearts and wallets, generously donating a large number of toys for our kids at Mac this Christmas. Thank you from us all.
- ☺ A **Spirited Night Out** with mediums Kerrilynn Shellhorn and Emma Smallbone was just that. The night was full of high-spirited energy, touching and sometimes funny messages. The evening raised \$2,260 as well as the spirits of everyone there. Many thanks to Kerrilynn and Emma for donating their time and talents, and to Linda Pickering and her staff at Glenhyrst Art Gallery's Golden Tea Pot Tea Room for hosting the event.
- ☺ The **Niagara Detention Centre** representatives came out to enjoy the Niagara NHL Alumni game and present Peggy Charron with a \$2,000 donation at the same time! So very appreciated - thank you!
- ☺ **Core Dance Studio** in Stoney Creek held a 'Dance The Night Away' fundraiser and donated the proceeds to us. Thank you, Darlene Benic, for the gift of \$500.
- ☺ **ArcelorMittal Dofasco** employees in Hamilton held a series of BBQ's and donated the entire proceeds of \$5,000 to our kids. Wow! They ate a LOT of hamburgers to raise that much and we really appreciate it!
- ☺ 7-year-old **Kyle Warren** gave up coming to the Christmas party in order to take part in the 'Santa Walk' in Burlington and raised over \$900! Thank you Kyle - you should be proud. What a wonderful thing to do!
- ☺ Brantford's **Studio A, Academy of Performing Arts** donated the proceeds from their Christmas Recital to us. Thank you Abbey Giard and your students for the \$500!
- ☺ Thank you to **Vivide Eye Photography** for donating \$350 from their calendar sales.
- ☺ **Silvestri Sports Ltd** collected \$320 for us during the grand opening celebration of their new store in Welland.



Donations In Memory Of...

Marina Fritz, Joseph Alfano, Violet Marois, Chuck Lagreca, Pearl Cote, Pauline Whittaker, Elio Silenzi, D. Maini, D. Sabucco, Josepine Liski, Conietta Certo and Avarello Maddalena. Donations also gratefully received in memory of Patricia Dale from Leslie & Dan Boyd, Alexandra Boyd, Joshua Boyd, Victoria Boyd, Christine & Eros Peterson, Kathryn & Patrick Graham, Rosie Hiemstra, William Dale and the Administration & Staff of Park Lane Terrace in Paris.

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 to families by funding such things as parking passes, gas cards, family support groups and more. And to help you and your family smile, we sponsor outings to events like Disney On Ice, African Lion Safari, Wonderland, Blue Jay games, Merrittville Speedway and a rodeo 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 DisneyWorld, Sea World, Universal Studios, Epcot Centre, Kennedy Space Centre and more **on us.**

What's Coming Up?

All of these family events and even more to come: (our goal is to have 1 per month)

- ☺ Disney On Ice - Friday is March 18th at 7 pm, FirstOntario Centre in Hamilton. This event is free for all of our families, and guests are welcome at \$18 each. Whether you register online or by mailing the attached forms, the cut-off date is Feb. 15th. **Reminder:** money orders are the only acceptable method of payment for mailed-in forms if you are paying for guests. Online registrations offer credit card and e-Transfer payment options.
- ☺ Family Fishing Fun is May 14th - free for all families, pre-registration is required.
- ☺ African Lion Safari is June 4th. We moved this to earlier in the season in the hope of getting better weather! Free for all families, \$22 for guests, lunch is included and pre-registration required.
- ☺ Flamboro Speedway is new and is on June 11th - free to all families. We have been working with the staff to ensure that this will be an unforgettable experience for all of our race car enthusiasts - young and old!
- ☺ Marineland is June 18th. Free to Active families. Guests and Alumni families are welcome at \$44 each - lunch included.
- ☺ Wonderland is now an Any Day event. So, on the down-side, lunch is no longer included but on the up-side, you can go whenever is best for you! Tickets will be \$10 for each Active family member and \$20 for each Alumni family member.



NOTE: Full event details and registration information will be announced in April's newsletter. To register online for Disney On Ice go to <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/> or print and mail the attached form.

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

What's happening out and about?

- ☺ If you find yourself in the Brantford area on April 9th plan to come on out to the Knights Of Columbus Hall, 12 Catharine Ave for a relaxing evening of music and dancing at the **Annual Jim Walsh Bike Ride Kick-Off Party**. Doors open at 7 pm and the entertainment gets underway at 8 - tickets are \$10. The festivities will include a silent auction and draws. And this is a good time to remind you that the **Jim Walsh Bike Ride** itself will start and end at the Knights Hall on June 5th. This annual fundraising event is great for the whole family - leisurely ride the groomed trails between Brantford and Cambridge. Food, music, kids' entertainment and more after the ride. Details to follow.
- ☺ The Polish Hall on Pearl Street in Brantford is the place to be on March 19th. There you will be able to enjoy the musical magic of Elvis, Patsy Cline, Whitney Huston, Tom Jones and so many more great talents! Well, ok, not the real ones, but some of the best tribute artists you will ever see! This **Cavalcade of Stars** fundraiser is in memory of Hap Johnson who passed away in December. Hap and his buddy Jim Walsh were huge supporters of Help A Child Smile and together put on many fundraisers for us. Advance tickets are \$20 including a light buffet and the doors open at 8pm. Email bethwalsh@sympatico.ca to reserve yours.

FYI

The Jim Walsh Bike Ride float won the Best Theme Award again this year in Brantford's Santa Clause Parade - that's twice in 4 years! Kudos to the dedicated team led by Denis Larocque and Marc Dubeau. Thank you for helping get our name out there!

Hey - did you know...

- A) That 2016 is our **30th ANNIVERSARY**? Well it is and we are pretty excited! Stayed tuned for lots of changes that we know you are going to LOVE!
- B) That if you are planning any sort of public awareness or fundraising event that relates to HACS or childhood cancer, we can help you get the word out? Just email us the details and we will get it into our newsletter, post it on our Facebook page and our Events page on our website. And include pictures if you like!
- C) That if you change your address, phone number or email address, you need to let us know so we can keep in touch with you? Just a reminder to email these changes to us directly at info@helpachildsmile.com

Spring 2016 Family Event Registration Form

Mail completed registration forms with money orders made payable to HACS to:

Bertha Bertrand, 61 Canboro Rd. PO Box 1262 Fonthill, ON L0S1E0

If you received your newsletter via email, you can either print this page, fill it out and mail it to the address above
or

visit the event registration page on our website to sign up online: <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/>

DISNEY ON ICE: Friday, March 18th, 7pm, FirstOntario Centre, 101 York Blvd, Hamilton - Register **BY Feb 15th**

of immediate family (parents and children) members attending [Free]: _____

of guests (no more than the number of immediate family, please) [\$18 each]: _____

Total number of tickets:

NOTE for your guests: Children 24 months and under are free as long as they are sitting on a lap. If you want them to have their own seat they must have a ticket.