



Fall 2016 Newsletter

Notes from the Editor: The fall season (my favourite time of year) is approaching with cooler temperatures and wonderful autumn colours. We hope that you all had a terrific summer season and came out to enjoy the many activities that were scheduled during the summer months. Before we know it, the cold weather and the Christmas season will be upon us.

In the December newsletter, a new section entitled '**Family Forum**' will be introduced. Do you have ideas on activities that you would like to see? Maybe you have thoughts for the newsletter. If so, please send your comments/thoughts, ideas etc to me at the following email address: newsletters@helpachildsmile.com.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT YOUR NEWSLETTER: This is a reminder that if you currently get your newsletter **IN THE MAIL** and want to continue to get the actual paper version, you **MUST** contact us by email at newsletters@helpachildsmile.com or by leaving a message at 905-385-4227 with your child's name and your street address. As of January we will **ONLY MAIL** newsletters to those families who have requested that we mail their copy. If you have already notified us, thank you, you do not need to contact us again. If you already receive your newsletter by email, you do not need to contact us. You will automatically continue to get them by email and keep in mind that they are always available on our website. If you are receiving them by mail and would like to get them by email please provide us with your email address.

Family Picnic! - We would like to see an old-fashioned family picnic be organized for next summer. We are looking for someone to head up a committee and volunteers to organize a HACS family picnic. Place (Hamilton or Niagara area), time, etc. would be decided by your group and you will have the support of the HACS Board. Families have been asking for more opportunities to get together to chat and have fun but we need people to take charge of an event such as a picnic or any other idea you may have. There could be games for the kids (and adults too, if you feel like joining in) such as a 3-legged race, wheelbarrow race, sack race, balloon toss, bobbing for apples and more.

A Message from the Board Chair: This past year was an exciting one for HACS. It was a year of transition. New Board members, new Chair and Vice-Chair, new roles, responsibilities for some and most important a new energy with many new initiatives and introductions of new events and supports for our families.

We would also like to thank our stakeholders..... our donors - you are truly remarkable people; our volunteers - we would not and could not do what we do without you, and the team at McMaster Children's Hospital, especially Claire O'Halloran for being our direct link. To Jane Cassano and Cindy Van Halderen the social workers, we thank you for your time and commitment in administering our programs at the hospital. We know it's a lot of work but much appreciated by so many.

This has been an amazing year of change for HACS. When we truly look back at what we accomplished it is overwhelming and I am not really sure how we did it.

Last fall the Board spent a full day together in formal meetings to discuss its strategic plan for the next few years. We accomplished so much in one day not only discussing new and old ideas but actually agreeing and making some decisions that would change what we do and how we do it. It was easy really. Most of us were either parents or patients at one time or another and it's never forgotten. We also listened to our families we have been supporting for 30 years. This made for some consensus moving forward and today we have implemented those changes. We are so excited to now be supporting our families in so many new ways.

- ❖ Paying for families parking while on treatment
- ❖ Providing financial assistance with meals to families on long clinic days
- ❖ Supporting families while in Toronto for bone marrow or stem cell transplants
- ❖ Financially supporting adolescent patients through egg and sperm banking
- ❖ Adding new family events on a yearly basis
- ❖ An automated on line registration for family events
- ❖ Adding to our granted trips to Disney and a new focus on individualizing trips to meet families' needs

We also continue to:

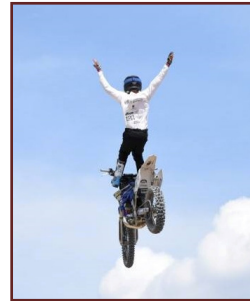
- ❖ Grant a trip to Disney's Give Kids the World
- ❖ Support oncology clinic needs for resources
- ❖ Family events throughout the year for the entire family
- ❖ Christmas party with gifts
- ❖ Parent Bereavement Groups
- ❖ Teen Support Groups
- ❖ And so much more.....

We can't say we know exactly what our families are going through but we can appreciate your journey. We will be there with you through that journey and for years down the road. Nelson Mota, Board Chair

What's Happened?

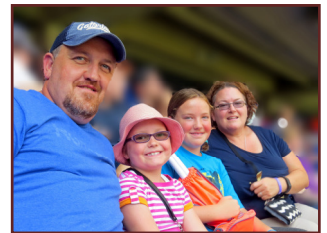
☺ ***Bulls & Bikes Stampede Days at the Paris Fair Grounds***

Our families loved the thrill-a-minute show that ran for 2 days and was put together by Mystique Event Marketing. Program sales and a barbecue also helped to raise funds for the event. Another exciting event



taking place was a motocross performance by local talent Jordan Szoke. Jordan defied gravity with death defying jumps and turns. The motocross team of Tyler Davidson and Rick Janesky gave the audience thrills and chills as they put on a spectacular high-flying show.

- ☺ ***Blue Jays Game*** - This was an exciting game that pitted the Blue Jays against the Boston Red Sox. Our Jays came out with a 3-2 victory! Stephen and Robin Smith and their two girls, Abbey and Ashley enjoyed the afternoon game at the Help a Child Smile baseball outing. Makena Noble was very excited to attend her first Jays game with her brother Caiden and parents Julie and Chris. Both families wanted to express their thanks to HACS for making this outing possible. They had a great time!



☺ ***Go Gold - Childhood Cancer Awareness Month Kickoff***

was held at Harmony Square. This event is one of the reasons HACS was formed – Childhood Cancer. Go Gold is growing in all parts of the world and we need to keep this going in our city and surrounding area. We are grateful that the city of Brantford has come forward and given us a grant to cover expenses and proclaimed September to be Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in our area.



Our event started at 4:00 with music by our volunteer Marc Dubeau. We also had face-painting, Brent – the balloon artist, Don Stiles with his many flashing lights that the kids can work, Camp Trillium with crafts for the kids, Canadian Blood Services was there to do swabs and give information, dancers and surprise guests from Studio A. The Works Restaurant donated a portion of their supper sales, and our HACS kid Noelle Austin was our guest speaker. Joining her was Councilor John Utley, MPP Dave Levac, MP Phil McColeman and our Town Crier –



Dave McKee. Maria's Pizza brought in a HUGE HACS pizza for everyone to share. At 8:00 pm Harmony Square's fountain was changed to gold and will continue to glow gold for the month of September.

We are looking for *volunteers* to take over Help A Child Smile's - Childhood Cancer Awareness Month Kickoff for next year in Brantford. It does not have to be held at Harmony Square but should be somewhere where "something" can be changed or lit to Go Gold!. The groundwork has been done for you and the HACS Board will still help. Please give it some thought!



What Have Our Partners Been Doing?

- ☺ **Recognizing an outstanding volunteer** that has gone out of her way for Help a Child Smile! **Audrey Boudreau** has spent countless hours at Sugar Loaf Marina Port Colborne picking up beer and liquor bottles at the dumpster and recycling bins and bringing them in weekly to the Beer Store and getting the money for them. She started late in the year but managed to donate \$709.50. We cannot thank her enough for all her efforts. She has promised to start when the season opens next year and her goal next year is between \$2,000 and \$5,000.



- ☺ **CanJam Revived in Honour of Sandra Allen** was an all-day event featuring Kid's Zone, fun, food, and music. This was a family day starting at 10 am with a water slide & water games, a cartoon artist, crafts, live animals from a rescue centre, stone painting and lots of fun for the kids until 2 pm. There was a variety of music consisting of Blue Grass, Country, Easy Listening, Classic Rock, and Grand River Cloggers starting at 1 pm and continued until 11. Thank you to all the entertainers, volunteers and the Knights of Columbus for always supporting our events and to all those that turned out to CanJam Revived and made this event a success for Help A Child Smile .



- ☺ **Powerfest Car Show & Street Festival** - This free



day-long event in Brantford's Harmony Square had something for everyone. There were awesome cars, trucks, mighty mach-ines, events, displays, games and demonstrations in Harmony Square and music of the 50's through the 80's to match the vehicles. Much appreciation to the organizers Chris & Trish Biro, Ray Knight & Pam Stoutenburg, Donny Hill, Brad Villamere and all of our loyal volunteers for the hard work and dedication they put into making this a great event. The \$8,000 they raised for us will bring huge smiles to the faces of so many of our kids!

- ☺ **The 2nd Annual Cowboy Classic Golf Tournament** - was held on August 12th. A fun-filled day was had by all. The event totaled a whopping \$19,400.00 for the day. Big thanks to Mike Konderka of Enviro-Niagara, Jamie West and Rod West, Highway Clearing & Guardrail and all the sponsors, participates, donors and volunteers.



- ☺ **Smile for Miles Poker Run** - Another great ride was held on August 20th at Tons of Bike Gear of St Ann's. The day was sponsored by Erie Shores Chapter 129 and this year's total raised was \$11,283.10. This makes a grand total from the start of \$67,245.31 donated to Help A Child Smile! Way to go everyone ... Jamie, Sylvain, Niagara Paramedics, Becky, Peter, Chris, Marry Anne, Carol, Gail, Lisette, Kerry, all the sponsors, donors and participates for making this such an awesome day. Our children's hearts go out to you in so many, many ways. Thank you all!



- ☺ **The 2nd Annual Sandra Allen Memorial Golf Tournament** held recently was a great day of fun and a fine tribute to Sandra. Many thanks to the volunteers and golfers who came out to support HACS and enjoy the day. Special thanks to Don Wolan of BYO and Fescue's Edge Staff for their continued outstanding support and assistance. Besides raising the spirits of everyone there, the event also raised over \$1000 for our kids.



- ☺ **2017 Daytona 500 Raffle -- WE HAVE A WINNER!!!** A very excited young driver named Tyler Mayhew came out of the pits on Sept. 3rd to claim the Daytona 500 Ultimate Fan Experience prize! Flamboro Speedway owners John and Frank Casale rolled the drum and made the draw. Also pictured are Beth Walsh, Tyler's girlfriend Larissa Spencer, HACS supporter and racer Eric Crow and Joyce Hutson. Many thanks to all of our volunteers who spent much of their summer selling tickets, to the kind folks who purchased tickets and the venues that allowed us to attend their sites to promote the draw.
CONGRATULATIONS TYLER!



- ☺ 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.

We are always looking for people to either lead or assist in annual fundraising. If you have a suggestion or would like to help with a fundraiser in your community we would love to hear from you! Just send a quick note to info@helpachildsmile.com

Donations In Memory Of...

James Dakil, Mark Blair, Stella Crews, Jacqueline Charrois and Ron Scott

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

Other Donations that have been recently received from

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☺ Kelly Montgomery | \$500.00 |
| ☺ Ronald Parker | \$150.00 |
| ☺ Michell Fleming & Danny Gilbert | \$150.00 in lieu of Wedding Favors |

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 parking passes, gas cards, food and lodging vouchers, and paying for medical procedures that are not covered by OHIP - just a few of the services we fund to support the families. And, of course, we offer

adventures to places like Marineland, African Lion Safari, Wonderland, Disney on Ice, Blue Jays and NHL Alumni games and a week's stay at Disney's Give Kids The World in Florida to help our children smile!

What's Coming Up?

☺ **Johnny Bee and the Mystics** show on **Nov. 5th** at the Polish Hall in Brantford. This group started 50 years ago and toured the U.S and Canada when they were in their teens. The band dispersed after several years and they all played in different bands but decided late last year to have another "one time" show. The show was sold out in a few days so they did one for HACS in March and now another for us. Tickets are \$15, no reserved seating and food will be available for purchase from 7:30 - 9:00 when the show starts. For tickets call Joyce @ 519-900-3447 or Beth @ 519-753-2224.

☺ **The Inside Ride - October 21st** at Limeridge Mall in Hamilton is Canada's first indoor cycling celebration that raises funds in support of children and their families living with and beyond childhood cancer. This team-based, indoor-cycling challenge is fun, safe, and energizing for participants and volunteers! Please consider gathering a team of 6 participants and register your team for the Inside Ride. 100% of the proceeds raised for this event will go directly to Help A Child Smile and MAC Kids.



Please help this year's event be the biggest ever. For registration details see the link attached:

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registrant/LocationHome.aspx?eventid=194330&langpref=en-CA&locationID=205826&Referrer=direct%2Fnone>

☺ **2016-2017 NHL Alumni Benefit Tour** is back! Hockey fans rejoice as your favorite former NHLers skate into the **Dave Andreychuk Mountain Arena** on November 18th for **Hockey Night in Hamilton** and **The Gale Centre** on November 20th for **Hockey Night in Niagara**! The 2016-2017 NHL Alumni Benefit Tour features NHL legends from Stanley Cup winning teams, classic original 6 hockey teams battling local former NHLers representing your hometown all in support of Help a Child Smile! The **NHL Alumni Benefit Tour** gives fans a unique experience and an evening to remember that showcases top-shelf hockey skills, on-ice pranks and old-fashioned hockey nostalgia. This great evening provides something for fans of all ages and offers an exciting opportunity to see the lighter side of these hockey greats while raising money for our kids! This event is free to all HACS families and their guests but **pre-registration is required**. Mail the attached form or go to: <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/>



☺ The **Christmas Party** is coming up on **December the 10th, 2016** at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints on Stonechurch Road in Hamilton. It will take place from 12:30 to 4 pm with lots of fun, games and songs. The Man in Red will also be attending. This year we are giving each Cancer Child (age 1 to 18 only) a beautiful hoodie, so we need your child's size by **October 14th**. There will also be HACS T-shirts and hoodies available for free on a first-come-first-served basis.

A Message from your Family Event Director:

☺ **Marineland** was very well attended this year. The weather co-operated and everyone had a fabulous time.

☺ **African Lion Safari** was a fantastic day with NO RAIN for the first time in 3 years so I think we will keep this event in June.

☺ **Canada's Wonderland** was 'any day' this year so that our families could go when it best suited their schedules. How did you like it? Should we leave it as an 'any day' event or would you prefer we go back to making it a group outing on a specific day?

☺ **Flamboro and Merrittville Speedways** were both popular with our families and the weather was perfect for both evenings.

☺ Both the **Ti-Cats** and **Blue Jays** games were huge hits - wow! And I am sure the Jays won because we were there!

☺ We are always looking for new opportunities to get our families together for a day of fun. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please don't hesitate to email me at: bbertrand@helpachildsmile.com

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**.
- ❖ **If a child passes**, the family remains on our active list for **1 year after**.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

If you sign up for an event that has a charge, please process your payment no more than 7 days after registering. If we have not received online payments within 7 days or money orders within 14 days, we will assume that you have changed your mind and cancel your registration. This is to avoid buying tickets for your family that you must have decided you no longer want. If you have a problem with the online payment system, please notify jhutson@helpachildsmile.com immediately to resolve the issue before your registration is deleted.

If you are mailing your registration to us, pay strict attention to the deadlines - they are NOT 'mail by' dates. They are when the registration forms with money orders (no cheques) **MUST** be in our hands! Failure to get them back in time will result in not enough tickets being ordered! Don't let your family miss out on these memory-making adventures! **Money orders are to be made payable to: Help A Child Smile**

PS: You may find the process much easier and faster by using our **online event registration page**! We can accept MasterCard, Visa and now, e-Transfer payments as well! (Most financial institutions only charge \$1-\$2 per transfer which is cheaper than sending money orders!)

Mail forms (with money orders when applicable) to...

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

If you received this newsletter by email, please register online at <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/>

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. This event is free to all HACS families and their guests but you **MUST** pre-register!

Hamilton - November 18, 2016

Dave Andrychuk Mountain Area

25 Hestor Street, Hamilton, ON L9A 2NG

Doors open at 6 pm - Puck drops at 7 pm

No. of tickets (family & guests - no limit) _____

Niagara Falls - November 20, 2016

The Gale Centre

4171 Fourth Ave, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 0A2

Doors open at 1 pm - Puck drops at 2 pm

No. of tickets (family & guests - no limit) _____

Christmas Party December 10, 2016

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

Address: _____ City: _____ Cell #: (____) - ____ - ____

Postal Code: _____ Is this a new mailing address? (circle one) Yes No

Names of HACS Family members attending

Age:

(Circle One)

For cancer child (Circle One)

Vegetarian?

Hoodie Size

(please give age for members 1-18):

1) _____

Yes No

Adult Youth _____

2) _____

Yes No

3) _____

Yes No

4) _____

Yes No

5) _____

Yes No

6) _____

Yes No

Children **not in hospital** must be in attendance to receive the give-a-aways. All family members participate for free at this event (includes freebies for all siblings 1- 18).

Hoodie sizes: **Youth:** XS, SM, MD, LG or **Adult:** XS, SM, MD, LG, XL, XXL. You **must** register by **October 14th, NO EXCEPTIONS** to ensure we can place the order and have the hoodies in time for the Christmas party.

NOTE: Our hosts respectfully ask that you please do not bring coffee, tea or pop into the building.