



## Winter 2018 Newsletter

### IMPORTANT NOTES FROM THE BOARD...

**FROM THE CHAIR:** In January the Board of Directors met for a day to review our mandate and plan for our future. We discussed the programs we deliver, how they are delivered and of course, how we plan to financially sustain what we do. Over the past few years HACS has added new supports to families. We are currently covering all parking costs for our kids that are undergoing treatment; we continue to add new and exciting family events every season and our trips to Disney have a fresh look with an emphasis on creating that unique experience for our families. A thank you goes out to our Board for the oversight of all this. Because of their efforts, we are well-positioned to not only continue what we do, but rather add to our supports.

We continue to help our families in so many ways that perhaps many of you may not even be aware of, and too much to write at one time. Over the next few newsletters I will focus more on these individually. Until then we encourage you to explore our website (which will have a brand new look soon), read through our newsletters and familiarize yourselves with what HACS offers. We hope to see many of you at a family event soon.....

**CHANGE IN NEWSLETTERS:** Effective immediately, we will only send out 3 newsletters per year. In each edition, we will list the events that are planned for the following 4-month period. We will include as many details as are known at that time. Six weeks prior to each event, the additional information will be emailed to you and the online registrations will open. For those of you who have requested printed copies of the newsletter, we will include a paper registration form for you to fill out and mail back. However, if there are a limited number of tickets for an event, we CANNOT GUARANTEE that there will be any left by the time we receive your registration! Event details will also be made available on our website's Family Events page and on Facebook. Check your 'Spam' or 'Junk' folders in case our emails got caught in them.

**NEW THINGS TO DO:** We are actively searching out new events to offer our families. We have come to realize that there are many fun venues in communities all across our jurisdiction. But historically, we have only focused on the 'big ones' such as Wonderland and Marineland. As Board and team members identify new opportunities for our families to get together, perhaps in smaller groups and in closer-to-home locations, we will make sure you all know about them. That doesn't mean that your family can't register for an event that is being introduced in a community other than your own – it just means we think you will appreciate having outings that don't involve you driving an hour or more from home to attend.

On another related note, more events equal more expenses. We mentioned in the last newsletter that tickets to events are not free, and that we have noticed significant waste at some events due to families registering but not showing up. To ensure that we can stay within budget while adding new events, we have established a monitoring system that will allow us to track attendance. All event details will include contact info for the Board member responsible for that event. If you have a last-minute situation that prevents your family from attending, let us know. We will note that you were excused. If you don't attend and don't notify us, and it happens 3 times, we will no longer invite your family to events. Please understand that we are not trying to be mean; it's simply a matter of minimizing wasted ticket fees.



On January 20, 2018, Help A Child Smile's Joyce Hutson and Beth Walsh drew the winners for the **Help a Child Smile / Vision Travel / FM Audio Raffle**. Vision Travel's Brenda Pascoe (blue sweater) accompanied by Joyce (left) and Beth (far right) presents raffle winner Shelley Doyle of Delhi with the \$5,000 travel voucher. The presentation was extra special to Brenda

since she sold Shelley the winning ticket!



Beth and Joyce were also present at FM Audio when owner Greg Forrest presented Joyce Wiersma of Brantford with the voucher for her 55" HD TV!

Once again, many thanks to Vision Travel, FM Audio and to all our HACS families and others who sold tickets or bought tickets! Together, we raised over \$7,000!

### WHAT'S HAPPENED?

#### HELP A CHILD SMILE FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Many thanks to the **Church Of Jesus Christ Of The Latter-Day Saints** and their wonderful volunteers for



opening their hearts and church to our families again this year. They decorated the hall splendidly for the perfect Christmas Party. And it was! The **Smudge Fundaes**



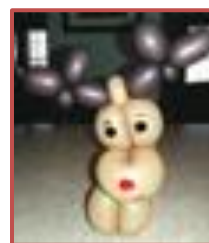
got the party rockin' and kept it hoppin' right through until **Santa** arrived. **Camp Trillium** Staff came up with amazing crafts, games and activities for all ages.



**Don Stiles'** table was lit up, well, like a Christmas tree! Kids big and small loved playing with his collection of flashing lights of all colours, shapes and sizes.



**Travis Kruis** amazed absolutely everyone with his outstanding balloon-art skills.







And what can we say about the face-painters? Father and son duo **Derek and Peyton Stonier of Niagara Face Painting** decorated faces young and old with stunning creations of all sorts. There were beautiful faces and scary faces and everything in between! The duo even painted whole heads! And last, but not least, **Smiley** was there to mingle with our families and enjoy the afternoon too. Many thanks to Ray Knight for his help too!



### NHL ALUMNI BENEFIT TOUR JAN 11 AND JAN 12



HACS families, along with the general public were treated to 2 exciting hockey games as part of the **Scotiabank 2018 NHL Alumni Benefit Tour**. These 2 fun-filled evenings provided something for fans of all ages and offered an exciting opportunity to see a lighter side of these hockey greats while raising money for HACS.



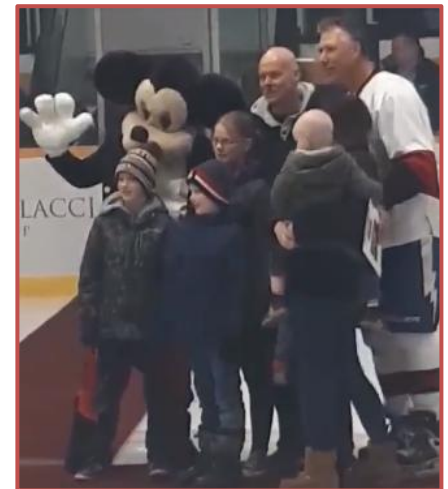
On January 11<sup>th</sup>, **Niagara Celebrity All-Stars** hosted the **NHL Alumni Team** at the Gale Centre and raised \$5278.15. On

the left is a picture of one happy little hockey fan, Rylee Pegg with the one and only Mickey Mouse right after she was awarded her trip to Give Kids The World Village in Florida at centre ice.

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, **Hamilton Celebrity All-Stars** hosted the **NHL Alumni Team** at the Andreychuk Mountain Arena and raised \$2,792.10.



And of course, the highlight of the night: HACS board members with the help of the mighty Mickey Mouse presented Gavin Scholtens and his family with his trip to Give Kids the World.



Big thanks to the Niagara Detention Centre Thorold employees and Mike Dimartle for their wonderful donations at both games.

And a special Thank-You to the Dave Andreychuk Foundation for their generous Donation of \$3,000! We appreciate your support of our kids and families, putting smiles where they belong.

(Pictured left to right) Julian Andreychuk, Nelson Mota, Everlee and Amy Watson, Paula Andreychuk.



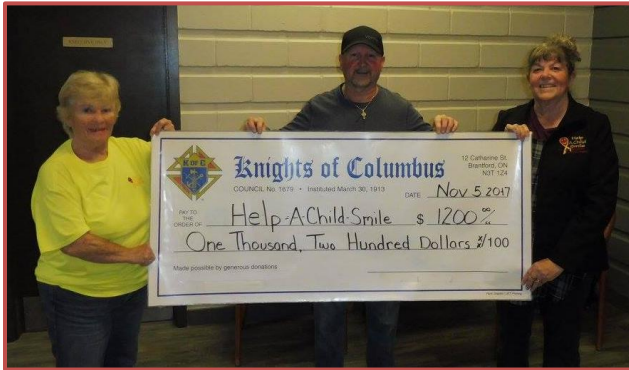
## WHAT HAVE OUR PARTNERS BEEN DOING?



On November 18, 2017, **A Rockin' Night of LIVE Country Music** was held at the Moose Lodge in Hamilton. **Brad James** was the headline act and was accompanied by **Ashley Leblanc**. Ashley opened with some country hits and some beautiful, original music she wrote herself. A very talented young artist and she is only 15 years old! Then Brad James had everyone on the dance floor to a variety of



country hits, and some original pieces. Everyone got to meet one of our very own HACS children, Everlee, and learn more about Help a Child Smile, and how they can support the organization. This event was organized by **Linda MacDermott** and the evening raised \$2,777 for HACS. Many thanks to all those who attended and to those involved in the event for all your hard work.



Joyce & Beth from HACS accepting a cheque for **\$1,200** from **Donal O'Shea** of the **Knights** for the **Help A Child Smile Charity Breakfast** held November 5, 2017. Help A Child Smile is grateful for all the support the **Knights** gives us throughout the year. Thank you O'Shea & club members!

Great job **Ray Knight!** We thank you, the sponsors, the various locations that collected toys and the generous



people that donated to Help A Child Smile. The van was filled with games, crafts, puzzles and very interesting toys for kids all ages. Thank you Ray - always there to support our kids with cancer.



Well that's quite the little habit we've got. For the third time in five years the **Jim Walsh Bike Ride For Kids With Cancer** has won an award at the **Brantford Santa Claus Parade!** This time we were chosen **Best Overall Float.** Huge heartfelt thanks to my team of designers and builders, our awesome driver Mikey and his son Dan, to JCI for even considering us, to Help A Child

Smile for allowing us to work with them and special thanks to my buddy Jim Walsh for permitting me to try and carry on his work. Man what a rush!! – Denis Larocque

A huge thank you to **Tina Lameront** and **volunteers of the Knights** Hall for organizing a fun-filled **Paint Night** on November 4, 2017 in Brantford. Not one picture was the same but they all were beautiful. The **Knights** donated the proceeds of **\$830** to Help A Child Smile.



***Our most sincere 'thank you' to all of our partners for their dedication, hard work & 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](mailto:info@helpachildsmile.com)

### ***DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF...***

Mary Martin , Nick Sikora , Don Buchanan. Evelyn Black, D Murrell, David Shellington, Irene Gulla, Enrico Landolfi, Norm Truty, Joseph Lancia, Joseph Minievcci, Angelo Oddi, R Filomena, John Dolc, Corrado Farabo, Jacqueline Lafontaine, Rita Bertrand, Mark Haines, Zenek Sikora, Salarore Collura

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

### ***OTHER DONATIONS RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM...***

- ☺ Coast to Coast inside Ride - \$10,137.50
- ☺ Bottle Picking at Sandy Shores Trailer Park - \$2,260
- ☺ FBI Golf Tournament - \$1,530
- ☺ Dante Lodge - \$1,500
- ☺ Mini Putt Golf Tournament Niagara Falls Big Thanks to the Wales Family (Brett & Lucy) - \$1,250
- ☺ Pietragleo Amateur Hockey Association O/A Niagara Falls Junior Hockey Association - \$1,000
- ☺ Margaret and Gladys Lee - \$600
- ☺ Michael Iannandrea - \$500
- ☺ William Dale - \$450
- ☺ Bertie & Clinton - \$400
- ☺ Joseph and Gina Trombetta & Family (Titan Mortgage Group) - \$250
- ☺ Boyd Family Christmas donation in lieu of gifts - \$200

### ***WHAT'S COMING UP?***

**March 16, 2018, 7pm - Disney on Ice**

*FirstOntario Centre, Hamilton*

**REMINDER** For those who registered: **Tickets** will be available for **pick-up** when gates open at **6:00pm** at the **Will Call/Box Office** located at the **Bay Street entrance**.

Please pick up your tickets no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the show. *If you are going to be **late or cannot make it** you must **text us at 905-512-6288** as soon as you know.*



**UPCOMING EVENTS:** As of right now, plans are under way for many activities from March through June. See below for the list.

As mentioned, we are working on adding new events so watch your email, the HACS website ([helpachildsmile.com](http://helpachildsmile.com)) or the HACS Facebook page ([@Help-A-Child-Smile](https://www.facebook.com/Help-A-Child-Smile)) for more about these new events as the information becomes available.



## Winter 2018 Newsletter



**HACS Go Wild Family Picnic**  
*African Lion Safari*  
Sunday, June 24th

**Marineland Family Picnic**  
*Marineland, Niagara Falls*  
To be confirmed



**HACS Family Fishing Derby**  
*The Galt Sportsmen's Club*  
Either May 26<sup>th</sup> OR June 2<sup>nd</sup> – date to be confirmed.



**Monster Jam**  
*FirstOntario Centre, Hamilton*  
April 14<sup>th</sup>

### 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 games and NHL Alumni games as well as a week's stay at Give Kids The World in Florida to help our children smile!

### 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**.

**ALL** online payments are sent to [pcharron@helpachildsmile.com](mailto:pcharron@helpachildsmile.com) The security 'question' **is always** your child's name plus the name of the event (ie: Mary Smith Wonderland or Bobby Jones Marineland). For 2018 events, the security answer **is always** *hacs2018*. NOTE: When completing your registration, check your input carefully! Once you click on 'PROCEED' you cannot go back to change anything!

**If you sign up for an event that has a charge**, process your online payment no more than 7 days after registering. If we don't have your payment within 7 days (or money orders within 14 days) we will cancel your registration to avoid buying tickets for families that are no longer planning to attend. If you have any problems with the online registration, notify [jhutson@helpachildsmile.com](mailto:jhutson@helpachildsmile.com) (519-770-8088) immediately.

**If you are mailing your registration**, pay attention to the deadlines. They are NOT 'mail by' dates, they are when your registration form with **money order MUST** be in our hands! Failure to get them back in time will result in not enough tickets being ordered! **Money orders are to be made payable to: Help A Child Smile** and mailed to **Help A Child Smile**, 61 Canboro Rd, PO Box 1262, Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0.