

Fall 2018 Newsletter

From our Chair:

What a fantastic summer of events we had this year. We introduced a number of fun outings for families and they were all well attended. It looked like everyone had a ton a fun. This Fall and Winter will be much of the same with a few new family events to enjoy. Please remember to register on time when registration opens.

In my continued effort to highlight some of the incredible things HACS does on a year round basis I want to focus on a new program introduced just a few short months ago. "HACS PACKS" are given out to each newly diagnosed family. We appreciate that getting the news that your child has cancer is devastating. It often results in hospitalization and disruption to normal life as you enter "the new normal". Each family is given a HACS backpack filled with a few necessary items that could carry you for a few days during hospitalization or simple being away from your normal. Of course this is in addition to various other supports families receive at diagnosis such as parking passes, gas cards etc.....

— Nelson



Once again the *Gallant family* hosted HACS families at **Colton's Fun Farm!** The **2nd Annual Help a Child Smile Family Picnic** on **September 15, 2018** was a great success! The weather was amazing again this year and families were able to enjoy the many things the farm had to offer. Pumpkin decorating, face painting, train rides, a haunted house, laser tag, bouncy castles, and the colour run corn maze are just a few of the activities that were available for all to enjoy. Back this year was *Travis Kruis* to wow the kids with his amazing balloon creations and *Brantford Batman* came to entertain the kids again. It was a good thing

he was there. With the help of some HACS kids, they were able to capture *The Riddler* in the corn maze. *Jamz MH Maher* and the *Jungle Jamz Reptile Show* were there again as well and brought along some interesting friends for our families to meet. Eva the tegu lizard was a hit, especially when she spent time enjoying the sun and grass outside the barn. *Marc Dubeau* provided the music for the day and delighted us with his wonderful talent. There was even a royal visit when some Disney princesses arrived from *The Glass Slipper Company*. Families filled their bellies with cake, cookies, ice cream and the delicious eats from *Southern Comforts Mobile Food Truck & Catering*. The Pulled Pork Mac & Cheese was an amazing flavor adventure for those who were willing to try. And of course poutine for all those with a flair for the classics! Yet again the family picnic was a hit! Looking forward to more fun next year! See the next page for some fun pictures from the event.



FAMILY PICNIC PICTURES



EVENT UPDATES: The addition of the **Emerald Lake** and **Bingemans** water park events this summer was obviously a good choice! The turnout for both was excellent and the 



feedback was very positive. A few tweaks need to be made (and will be made) to ensure that next year everything will run a little faster and smoother - especially lunch! While the weather was not the best for either day, our families still had a great time at both venues. And now that we



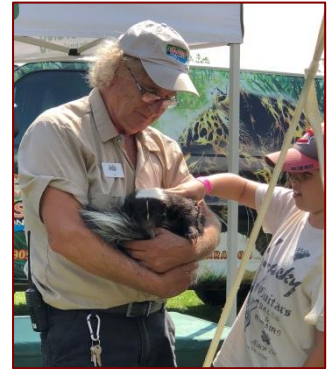
have had a first-hand look at what both places have to offer we may expand on the experiences next year. And speaking of next year, we are always on the lookout for new adventures for you. If you have a favourite family outing, or know of something that you think other might also enjoy, please let us know and we will check into it. While not all venues are suitable for the wide age-range of attendees we usually get, we will consider all suggestions. Perhaps you know of an outing that would be more suited to specific ages and it's ok to tell us about it. We are open to the idea that some events could be geared towards younger families while others cater to the older kids.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?



August 12th was a beautiful day for the **Family Fun Picnic at Safari Niagara**.

Our families were able to enjoy the 150-acre, privately-owned and operated nature park. They were able to see, hear and in some cases feel the mammals, reptiles and birds that call the park home. The day included a BBQ lunch and private session with park staff and some friendly creatures that Safari Niagara have taken in as part of their conservation and rescue programs. The park also had some fun things for kids to do besides seeing the animals. Some things included the Bounce a Rooz (giant



inflatable pillow), paddle boats and paddle cars, Sky Quest ropes course and of course the splash park, which was appreciated that day. Some families even chose to purchase the opportunity to feed a giraffe! Perhaps a once in a lifetime experience. This was the first time we did this event and it seems it was a big hit! Watch your calendars for next year.



Once again, on **September 8th**, HACS families enjoyed a day in *Niagara Falls* for the **Marineland Family Picnic**. They enjoyed interactions with the many animals at the park and some brave souls took the plunge and rode on one of the world's largest steel roller coasters, the Dragon Mountain. Lunch was provided by the Hungry Bear Restaurant.



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 Emerald Lake, African Lion Safari, Wonderland, Disney on Ice, NHL Alumni games and other major sporting events as well as a week's stay at Give Kids The World in Florida to help our children smile!

WHAT HAVE OUR PARTNERS BEEN DOING?

The **Inside Ride** was held on **Sept 27th** at **Limeridge Mall**. 14 teams participated in the exciting event, and raised over \$22,000 for Mac Kids and HACS. HACS granted a Disney wish trip to a very deserving, loving family of little Miss Katelynn.



There was so much energy and excitement there! Everyone had a blast. We look forward to participating again next year, and hope that more families come out, create a team, and join in the fun!



Brantford's Amazing Deadpool was at **Art In The Park**, on **August 4th** in support of HACS! He was using his fine art skills to create drawings that were one-of-a-kind autographed pieces! Thank you for your ongoing support, Brantford Deadpool!



The **Costabile Group** (a division of Century 21) held its first annual **TCG Golf to Give Back** on **September 7th** at **Oaks of St. George Gold Course** in support of HACS and a little boy named Jaxon who is currently receiving treatment for a brain tumor. Participants were treated to a round of golf, lunch, a steak dinner with all the fixings, silent auction and lots of top-of-the-line prizes!!!



With the help of *Tons of Bike Gear* and the *Niagara Paramedic Association* the **Southern Cruisers Erie Shores Chapter 129** hosted their **Annual Help A Child Smile Poker Run** on **August 18th** and raised \$19,213.50 for HACS. This is the highest total to date for this event. Thank you to all who donated time, money and items to make this event a success.



On **September 22nd**, the Brantford chapter of **The Knights Of Columbus** sponsored an **Elimination Draw** to support HACS. The night of the final draw included a roast beef dinner and live entertainment. The top prize of \$2,500 went to Marie Cole of Brantford.

Over \$20,000 was raised for Help A Child Smile at the **4th Annual Cowboy Classic golf tournament** on **August 17th**. This event is sponsored by Enviro-Niagara Heating & Air Conditioning and is held in memory of Claude Poulin, a noted local businessman & philanthropist.

Thanks went out on social media to all of the sponsors, volunteers, and golfers, the organization hit a new high. Since the beginning of this event 12 years ago until now the organizers have raised over \$146,745.

When asked about the tournament, organizer Mike Konderka, had said, "it's amazing knowing where the money goes. Every five grand sends the kids and their families on a well-deserved vacation".



Organizers Mike Konderka (left) and Jamie West (right) presenting the donation to Peggy Charron from HACS

WHAT HAVE OUR PARTNERS BEEN DOING?

Reed Wales presents Bertha Bertrand with a cheque for \$1,200 – the HACS share of the \$3,600 raised at the **Putting Awareness Into Childhood Cancer Awareness Month** fundraiser at **Great Wolf Lodge** on Sept. 8th. The event was organized by his parents, **Lucy and Brett**, and the proceeds were shared among HACS, Camp Trillium and Heater's Heroes. Many thanks to the Wales Family and the participants who came out to support us!



Correction: We were in a hurry to share the success of this year's **CanJam** held in Brantford in June, so we reported in the July newsletter that the event raised over \$5,000 even though we knew there were more sponsorships to come in. Well, it was a great surprise when the final cheque was received and the revised total was \$11,665!!! Our deepest gratitude to everyone for their support.

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

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF...

Joyce Anderson, Maria Cardimone, Estate of Mary Aleatha Copeland,
Grace Emburgh, Mark Haines, Betty Leslie, Sue Mattiazzo,
Cindy Nicholson, Hazel Norris, Elizabeth Rollins, Maria Silvetra

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

OTHER DONATIONS RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM...

- ☺ Julia's Journey – in Memory of the Froggie Princess - \$5,000
- ☺ Donation from Marylin Wilson in honor of Rebecca Surridge
- ☺ FBI Seniors Golf Tournament at Pelham Hills - \$1,647

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

November 24, 2018

The Rock N Ray Michaels Retro Rockers Benefit Event

Polish Hall

154 Pearl St, Brantford

Many of you are familiar with Rock 'n' Ray Michaels that was a favorite announcer for many years at CKOC. He is now on 92.9 The Grand and still playing that grand music that many of us enjoy. Rock 'n' Ray and his Retro Rockers will be doing a fundraiser for us on Nov. 24th at the Polish Hall on Pearl St. in Brantford. You can get your tickets for this great evening of fun & music by calling Joyce @ 519-770-8088 or Beth @ 519-753-2224 or by calling or emailing the HACS info line. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.



\$15 Adv.
\$20 at Door

**Help
A Child
Smile**
Presents

**THE ROCK 'N'
RAY MICHAELS
RETRO
ROCKERS**

Nov. 24, 2018
Doors 4:30
Food for Purchase 5-7
Music 7-11

Door Prizes
Silent Auction
and More!

UPCOMING FAMILY EVENTS

Saturday December 1, 2018 2pm

Paw Patrol LIVE

FirstOntario Centre

101 York Street, Hamilton

X barks the spot in the new tour PAW Patrol Live! The Great Pirate Adventure! It's Pirate Day in Adventure Bay, and Mayor Goodway is getting ready for a big celebration! But first, Ryder and his team of pirate pups must rescue Cap'n Turbot from a mysterious cavern. When they do, they also discover a secret pirate treasure map! The PAW Patrol set out over land and sea to find the treasure for Mayor Goodway's celebration before Mayor Humdinger finds it first! The pups will need all paws on deck for this pirate adventure, including some help from the newest pup ... Tracker!

There are a limited number of tickets for this newest HACS family event so register early. Don't let your little ones miss the exciting 'Great Pirate Adventure'. **Because of the limited tickets, only ONLINE registration will be accepted.** Registration will open at 10 am on Saturday, November 10th and remain open until all tickets are gone. THIS IS AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS ONLY EVENT – NO GUESTS. If you need a refresher, please review the 'IMPORTANT REMINDERS' section below to determine who can attend this event. Go to <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/> when registration opens to sign up.



December 8, 2018, 1-4pm **Help a Child Smile Christmas Party** (registration starts at 12:30pm)

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints
701 Stone Church Rd E, Hamilton

"Ho Ho Ho", Christmas is coming! Well, not for a couple more months, but this is the last newsletter to go out before the big day. So mark your calendar now to bring the family out for the fun, games, entertainment and good 'ole Saint Nick! As always, the great folks at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints in Hamilton will open their doors and hearts to welcome our families.



Register online at <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/>. If you do not have internet access, you may register by calling or texting 905-512-6288 (texting is best). Whether calling or texting, be sure to give us **your child's name** and shirt size. Tell us how many siblings are ...under 18 are attending, their shirt sizes and how many in your family (if any) are vegetarians. We also need shirt sizes for siblings under 18. **Be sure to leave your phone number as well.** Registration open until Nov. 30th, but those received AFTER Nov. 12th MAY NOT receive HACS goodie bags. Reminder: this is an Active and Alumni **immediate family members only** event – no guests.

March 11, 2019 **Lucas Wilson illusions**

Sanderson Centre
88 Dalhousie St, Brantford

Lucas will be performing an afternoon and an evening show at the Sanderson Centre in Brantford on Monday, March 11, 2019. These shows will be free for our Active and Alumni immediate family members. Watch our registration page for details. <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/>



UPCOMING FAMILY EVENTS

**December 6, 2018, 7pm
Hockey Night in Niagara
NHL Alumni Benefit Tour**

The Gale Centre
4171 Fourth Ave
Niagara Falls



**December 7, 2018, 7pm
Hockey night in Hamilton
NHL Alumni Benefit Tour**

Andreychuk Mountain Arena
25 Hestor Street
Hamilton



They're back! The 2018 NHL Alumni Benefit Tour brings you Hockey's Greatest Family featuring NHL legends from the Original 6 classic teams, Stanley Cup winners, Team Canada stars and your local hometown heroes! The NHL Alumni Tour has proudly hosted hockey legends such as Walter Gretzky, Wendel Clark, Owen Nolan, Curtis Joseph, Theo Fleury and many more!



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!

Your favorite NHL Alumni skate into the **Gale Centre** on Thursday, December 6th for **Hockey Night in Niagara** and the **Dave Andreychuk Mountain Arena** on Friday, December 7th for **Hockey Night in Hamilton!** Free to all HACS families but registration is required. Check our event registration page for details: <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/>

DID YOU KNOW...?

- ☺ If your family dynamic has changed, please let us know prior to registering for any events by emailing admin@helpachildsmile.com. When registering, you must answer ALL questions accurately and include the patient in the list of who is attending. If you have any questions or concerns, contact us at Events@helpachildsmile.com or on the event phone line at 905-512-6288. You can text or leave a voice message (be sure to speak clearly and tell us your child's name) and we will get back to you as soon as we can.
- ☺ The tickets your family receives for most of our events are NOT free to HACS? Many of them are not even discounted. So when tickets are left on the table at the end of the day, it can add up to a pretty hefty sum! To put it in perspective, the total money spent on events that families did not attend in 2017 would have covered the cost of a trip to Give Kids The World! We know that sometimes things happen at the last-minute and you just can't follow through with plans. We understand. All we ask is that you please contact us as soon as you realize you can't make it. If we have enough notice, we can give your tickets to a family on the waiting list (many events have them). If there isn't enough time, then at least we won't be left standing at the gate well past the event start time waiting for you. We appreciate your help with reducing the waste.

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.



UPDATES AND REGISTRATION REMINDERS

Website Update: Development of our new website is in the final stages. We have put a great deal of thought into making it as informative and easy-to-use as possible. We have created new areas that are family-specific while continuing to offer general information about who we are and what we do to the public. We have also implemented an event registration process that is more tightly integrated with our families' information in our database. The goal is to ensure the integrity of the event registrations while adapting to the complexity of changing family dynamics.

What does that mean? Over time, families change. In the 30+ years since HACS began, many of our first 'kids' are now adults with kids of their own. So when inviting our families to bring their 'immediate family members' to an event, the question arises, 'What does immediate family mean?' In the beginning, it would be the cancer patient, his/her parents and any siblings living in the house at the time of diagnosis. It would also include siblings that came into the family after diagnosis. In the case of blended families, immediate family would also include the step-parent and any step-sibling(s) living in the house. Once those 'kids' have grown up, they have partners and kids of their own! While we acknowledge that parents are most likely still actively involved in their kids' lives and may still like to be included, the siblings have no doubt moved on to have their own families and should no longer be considered when determining 'immediate family'. Instead, shouldn't the cancer patient be bringing his/her own spouse and kids? And that is the problem we are facing. Exactly how do we track these changes in family dynamics? And how do we fairly determine how many tickets a family is entitled to when invited to bring their 'immediate family members' to an event? The short answer is: we are working on it.

We have tested several scenarios and think we have applied the best logic when restructuring our database to allow you access to it so you can tell us what has changed in your immediate family. That said, IT IS STILL IN TESTING MODE. Over the next month or so, you will get 'test' emails, most of which you will be able to ignore, but some of which will ask you to log in to your 'HACS Account' and perform certain functions. (You don't have one yet, but you will in the near future, similar to your account with Camp Trillium.) The goal is to provide you with a secure profile page where you can input the names, dates of birth, etc of your immediate family, as it is now. And of course, you will be able to continue to keep it updated so we always know who is eligible to come to events without having to phone you and ask about names we see on the registration form that don't match our records. Makes sense, right? We hope you see it that way, and have patience with us while we work out the kinks - there are bound to be some, LOL!

REGISTRATION REMINDERS: We are always working on adding new events so watch your email, the HACS website (helpachildsmile.com) or the HACS Facebook page ([@Help-A-Child-Smile](https://www.facebook.com/Help-A-Child-Smile)) for information on upcoming events. All details about events will continue to be posted on our website on the 'Family Events' registration page. However, we will now send an email to let you know when an event is coming up and provide all pertinent registration details in plenty of time for you to register your family

If you sign up for an event that has a charge, Please note that **ALL** online payments are sent to 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 African Lion Safari). **Pay attention to the security answer** as noted on the registration page. Once you click on 'PROCEED' you cannot go back to look up this information! Please process your online payment no more than 7 days after registering. If we have not received payment within 7 days (or money orders within 14 days) we cancel your registration. This is to avoid buying tickets for families that are no longer planning to attend. If you have a problem with the online payment system, please notify jhutson@helpachildsmile.com immediately.

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** and mailed to **Help A Child Smile**, 61 Canboro Rd, PO Box 1262, Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0.