



# Winter 2023

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## *From our Chair, Joyce Hutson*

On behalf of your Board of Directors, welcome to 2023 – FINALLY! At times it seemed like 2022 was never going to end, but we made it. Now we can focus on getting our lives back on track and making 2023 a better year.

And your Board has been working to do just that. Wait until you see the lineup of events we have planned for you. Rest assured that we kept some of the old favourites as well as some of the ones we introduced during ‘the Covid years’. Then we found some new ones we just know you are going to love!

While on the topic of events, we need to let you know that we have had to make the difficult decision to implement some changes to event attendance. It’s not something we wanted to do, but we now have well over 1500 families in our members’ database. As you can appreciate, providing free tickets to all of our events for everyone has created quite a financial strain, especially considering there was almost no fundraising due to Covid restrictions for over 2 years.

### **The changes to come are as follows:**

A family’s **Active Status** will be extended to 6 years after diagnosis (or until the patient turns 19) from the current 4 years. If a relapse occurs, the 6 year count will start over (or until the patient turns 19). During that time, events will continue to be free to the patient, parents and siblings who live in the house and are under the age of 19. Siblings who live in the house and are 19 and over will be considered as guests and will be required to pay a guest fee if one has been set for a particular event.

**Alumni Status** will take effect at the end of the 6 year Active Status. At that time, there will be a nominal fee for attendance at events for the patient, parents and siblings who live in the house and are under the age of 19. Siblings who live in the house and are 19 and over will be considered as guests and will be required to pay a guest fee if one has been set for a particular event.

Unless otherwise stated, you cannot invite more guests to an event than you have family members attending. NOTE: Exceptions will be the Bulls and Bikes Rodeo and NHL Alumni Hockey Game.

Our programmer is working on making these changes and we will send out an email as soon as they take effect, which should be very soon.

Thank you for understanding that this is a necessary step to ensure that we can continue to fund paid parking, clinic supports and all of the other services we provide.

## Making memories...

### 2022 Christmas Party

It was exciting to be able to once again host our annual Christmas Party! Families enjoyed face painting by Niagara Face Painting, entertainment from Doug the Great, Brent the Clown and Jungle Jamz!

There were holiday crafts, activities, food and a visit from the big man himself - SANTA!

Thank you to the Church of Latter-day Saints and their volunteers for hosting us!

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### NHL Alumni Game

On Sunday, January 15 our families were invited to attend the 2023 NHL Alumni Hockey Game. The Alumni Benefit Tour is proud to support Help A Child Smile.

Our Help A Child Smile Alumni member, Olivia MacNamara spoke to the audience on our behalf and shared about her battle with cancer and how Help A Child Smile supported her and her family.

She was joined at ice level by her father, Sean. Olivia's parents, Sean and Sheryl are board members and continue to work to assist us with fundraising and programming to support families affected by childhood cancer.



Evabeth Fast and her family enjoying the game.

Help A Child Smile Alumni, Olivia MacNamara and Garrett Riley.

Garrett is a Paralympian and won a silver medal in Para Ice Hockey at the 2022 Winter Paralympics.



## Thank you for your support!



Elsa D'Innocenzo, Amy LeDonne,  
Margaret (Peggy) Charron (Help A Child Smile)

Thank you to Dante Lodge in Welland for a special donation of \$2,000!

They collected donations at their Christmas Party and then Dante Lodge matched them! A big thanks goes out to President Lina Borreiti, Elsa D'Innocenzo, Amy LeDonne, Albert Longo, Carlo Esposito and all the members of Dante Lodge!

Thank you to The Glass Slipper Company for selecting Help A Child Smile as the beneficiary for the Bibbidi Bobbidi Ball held on New Year's Eve. Cinderella presented a \$2,500 cheque to Help A Child Smile.



Tara Derbyshire-Hutson, Chloe Hutson,  
Cinderella



Another fun filled Charity Breakfast put on by the Knight's Hall in Brantford and a generous donation of \$2100 to Help A Child Smile.

Many thanks to Donal O'Shea, Tina Lameront, Alex Dmani, the many volunteers of the Knight's Hall for doing the cooking and to HACS volunteers for putting smiles on customers faces and doing an amazing job clearing dishes etc. We appreciate you all.



## Upcoming Events



### March Break Magic!

Monday, March 13  
2:00pm  
The Sanderson Centre,  
Brantford  
Register by March 1



### Disney On Ice 2023 Frozen & Encanto

Families may select  
one show only.  
Thursday, March 16 - 3pm  
Friday, March 17-7pm  
First Ontario Centre,  
Hamilton  
Register by February 25

**Register here: [Family Event Registration – Help A Child Smile](#)**

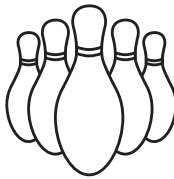
## Fundraisers

### Help A Child Smile BOWL-A-THON

This year will be our first annual  
**Help A Child Smile BOWL-A-THON!**

Saturday, April 29

Brantford  
Hamilton  
Niagara



Details coming soon!

### CanJam for Kids with Cancer on August 12, 2023

We are looking for businesses or  
individuals to help sponsor the  
day or donate to our silent  
auction table. Monetary  
donations of \$250 or more will  
be recognized in our  
advertising. All proceeds will be  
donated to Help A Child Smile.

For more information please  
contact Rick @ 226-802-1597  
or Beth @ 519-757-7258.



**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 supporting children and families affected by childhood cancer. Visit our website at [helpachildsmile.com](http://helpachildsmile.com) for more information.

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