



January 2017 Newsletter

Notes From the Editor...

Happy New Year to all of our families from everyone on the Board and myself. We hope your Christmas Season was filled with the warmth of good times spent with family and friends and we wish you all the best in 2017. 2016 brings many "Smiles" to mind, as we look back on all the events that were attended by our families.

Please Note: FINAL NOTICE This will be the last newsletter you will receive by regular postal service UNLESS you notify us that you want to continue getting it in the mail. We are taking this step to help reduce our costs. To continue getting printed copies, please *leave a clearly worded message at 905-385-4227 with your child's name and address, or *email us at newsletters@helpachildsmile.com with the same information.

If you received this newsletter in the mail and want to get it by email in the future, please provide us with your email address as per the above *options so we can send you a digital copy.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY NOTIFIED US, PLEASE, DO NOT DO IT AGAIN. If you already get your newsletter by email please ignore this notice completely!

'FAMILY FORUM' is a new section being introduced to our newsletter. If you have ideas on activities that you would like to see or maybe you have thoughts for the newsletter let me know. If you do, please send your comments/thoughts, ideas etc. to me at the following email address: newsletters@helpachildsmile.com. What would you like to see in this newsletter?

IMPORTANT NOTES FROM THE BOARD ... New Event Ticket Policy: Beginning with the upcoming Disney On Ice event, we will no longer mail event tickets to our families. Instead, there will be a designated meeting place at each event where volunteers will distribute tickets to registered families. (You will still be required to pre-register for all events.) The only exception to this new policy is Wonderland as it will continue to be an 'Any Day' event.

2017 year promises to be an eventful year as ...

**HELP A CHILD SMILE
CELEBRATES 30 YEARS.**



To be clear, the Board would like to announce that we have deemed 2017 as our 30th Anniversary year. We recognize and acknowledge that Help A Child Smile's fledgling event was to send 2 bus loads of families to Canada's Wonderland in 1986. However, the organization was officially incorporated as a registered charity in October, 1987. With that in mind, we plan to make 2017 the best year yet! While we have some ideas already, we welcome hearing from our families – old and new – with suggestions on what you think might help make this a very special year! We realize that not all families are sports-minded. So if you would prefer outings such as live theatre performances, magic shows and the like, please email Bertha at bbertrand@helpachildsmile.com and let her know what you are thinking. Or leave a voice message at 905-385-4227 with a call-back number and we will get in touch with you.

One idea that has been brought forward is to have a good old-fashioned **family reunion picnic** in a central location. We think it's a great idea and would love to have someone take the lead and spearhead a committee to organize it. (You can count on the Board for support!) If this sounds like the kind of thing you would like to do, let us know. There could be games for kids of all ages (yes mom and dad, that means you too!)

What's Happened?

- ☺ **2016-2017 NHL Alumni Benefit Tour** took place and featured NHL legends from Stanley Cup winning teams. The Niagara Detention Workers presented HACS with a fantastic donation and played the NHL Alumni Team. Sincere thanks to all the awesome volunteers, firstly Emily & Marty Hammond, our HACS family from Niagara



Falls, Paul, Brenda, Lina, Chris, Bertha and Shirley our great photographer. You all did a fabulous job. When the Watson family in Niagara and the Van Verkum family in Hamilton were presented with Disney trips at centre ice, the smiles could not have been bigger on the children's faces.



- ☺ The **Christmas Party** was held on December the 10th at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints in Hamilton. Children received some 'goodies', were entertained with songs, crafts, lights and sirens and lots of other activities. Oh, and they also got to see Santa. All-in-all it was a wonderful day due in no small part to the dedication of a great group of people! Many thanks to the Church and their many volunteers for opening their church and hearts to us for the 25th straight year. To Camp Trillium Staff, The Smudge Fundaes, Don Styles, Jim Schmidt and Steve Ferlatte - a huge Thank You to each and every one of you!



- ☺ The **Christmas Teen Night** at the Mandarin saw 18 young people have a great time, especially during the gift exchange



- ☺ Many thanks to Marie and Leo Cole of **Cole's Roofing** in Brantford for the generous donation of \$1,400 from Marie's birthday party in November. Since it was a special birthday for Marie, Leo hired the band Willie & Friends along with Night Edition and opened the Gunner's Club hall to guests. Drink tickets were \$1 with all the proceeds being donated to Help A Child Smile. A lovely lunch was served and the evening was enjoyed by everyone there.

- ☺ The Brantford Polish Hall was packed when **Johnny Bee and the Mystics** came to play for Help A Child Smile. We were fortunate to have them do two fundraisers for us within this year bringing in a total of \$6,700. Their New Years Eve gig will complete their 50th Year Reunion. Our thanks to the band members for their support - it has been a pleasure working with you.



- ☺ St. Andrew's Church in Brantford was the site of the **Quarter Auction** held as a fundraiser for Help A Child Smile in October. This is a new event started by Karen Towler with a different charity receiving the proceeds each month. Twelve to fifteen vendors bring goods to be auctioned at one to four quarters depending on the value of the articles. Each person interested in the item puts in the required amount of quarters and then numbers are drawn for the lucky winner. Each person has a number just like a regular auction. It's a fun night for everyone - you may go home with something or you may not, but you have supported a charity while having fun. Our thanks to Karen and her volunteers for turning over \$1,350 to HACS.



What Have Our Partners Been Doing?

😊 Huge thank you to Albert Longo and **Casa Dante Lodge No. 19** of Welland. At their recent Christmas Party, they collected donations for Help A Child Smile and presented Peggy Charron with a very generous cheque for \$1,000! Merry Christmas to us!



😊 Many of HACS volunteers joined together for the Brantford Santa Claus Parade. It was a beautiful night to either walk the route or ride on the **Jim Walsh Bike Ride for Kids with Cancer** float. This year's theme was

Christmas around the world. Denis Larocque welcomed several new volunteers to give him a Heather and Ed O'Shea of Auto Elite (also a HACS family) gave our group a dry and warm place to assemble the float. We all met at the Knights of Columbus Hall after the parade for drinks and pizza



and continued on with the fun night. Our thanks to the volunteers that participated and helped bring awareness to HACS.



😊 **Coast-To-Coast**: \$7,300 in 1 hour - WOW! That's what our feet-to-the-pedals partners raised at this year's Inside Ride held in October. So much appreciation and thanks go out to every team that worked so hard to help our kids. Pictured here are some of the Car Nation crew – great job people!



😊 We are forever thankful for the generosity from supporters in our communities! **Brantford's Squirrels Wood Work & Stuff** donated a portion of every sale for a month before Christmas - \$350 for our kids!!!! Heartfelt thanks to the good people at Squirrels! Check out their FB page to see all the great hand-made items they have for sale at very reasonable prices. <https://www.facebook.com/Squirrels-Wood-Work-Stuff-Brantford-1576809089290303/?fref=ts>



😊 Help A Child Smile thanks our good friend **Pierre Maher** for organizing an afternoon filled with terrific music provided by local talent at Brantford's The Creamery on Dec. 18th and inviting attendees to help fill a colourful special box with toys for our kids. The toys were delivered to McMaster Hospital in Hamilton. Many thanks to Will Smith, Paul Smith, Gary Munn, Jack Maher, The Creamery and all the other "jammers". You surely are going to Help A Child Smile.



Thank you to Raymond Knight and the team at the **Telephone City Christmas Party and Toy Drive** committee for their generous donation of children's toys and gift cards for our kids at Mac. Joyce Hutson and Beth Walsh are accepting these gifts. Raymond and his dedicated team of volunteers organize and host an annual toy drive involving community businesses, volunteer organizations, local media and musicians culminating in an evening of hard rockin' fun!



😊 Again this year, **The WORKS Gourmet Burger Bistro** in Brantford generously donated \$1 from every item they sold during our Go-Gold celebration. Heartfelt thanks to Jenna and her staff for their support for their donation of \$185!



😊 Many thanks once again to **RPM Kids First** – the driving force behind the **Brantford Powerfest Car Show**! Beth Walsh and Joyce Hutson were thrilled to represent HACS at a recent meeting where they were presented with a cheque for a whopping \$8,600! On-hand for the presentation (back row) were Donny Hill, Ray Knight, Brad Villamere, Christine Taylor and Chris Biro (absent from the Powerfest Team was Trish Biro). And because it was all so exciting, Joyce and Beth just couldn't wait to get to the bank with that huge cheque! It took both of them to pass it through the wicket to teller Lori.



We thank everyone so much for all their efforts!

Donations In Memory Of...

Jacqueline Charrois, Claudette Asselin, Ron Scott, Emilio Battista, Jean - Charles Gauvin, Irene Kanalas, Michele Morena, Stephanie Marshall, Jack Richardson, Carol House, Diane Burton, Lylie Watson, Irene Shelton, Lina Grilli, Norma Lawrenson, Fatehali Haji, Margaret Booth, and Max Sense from Niagara College ITS Department, Josip Maradin, Joann Fabrizio, Ed Loder.

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

Other Donations ... that have been recently received from the...

😊	Wiebe Family Christmas Donation	\$ 450.00
😊	Gladys Lee	\$ 400.00
😊	Margaret Lee	\$ 200.00
😊	Morton Boyd	\$ 200.00
😊	LeeAnnas Vending	\$ 350.00
😊	Medx College Of Healthcare, Brantford Campus	\$ 79.00
😊	Kieffer Douglas Family on behalf of the Telemedicine Department St Michaels Hospital	\$500.00
😊	Donation In Honour of Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Piolg and in memory of Diane Burton, Mrs Lylie Watson	
😊	A gift of \$400.00 on behalf of family members in lieu of personal gifts at Christmas. William Dale, Leslie & Dan Boyd, Alexandra Boyd, Joshua Boyd, Christine & Eros Peterson, Kathryn & Patrick Graham and Rosie Hiemstra in loving memory of Patricia Dale.	

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!

From The Conway Family: We are home! A week sure goes by fast! Just wanted to let you know a few things. Brentwood livery are amazing. We had a driver named Brian. He had a beautiful white limo with drinks in it for us. He was super punctual, patient, kind. It was easy to find him once we got back to Buffalo. He even stopped at a fast food place so we could grab dinner on our way home. Very good company. He certainly made our trip there and back much easier!

The village was amazing!!!! We had more fun there than any of the Disney parks. Our Villa was super clean, everyone was super nice, there were tons of activities for the kids. Everything about it was amazing. Disney is not the happiest place in the world, Give kids the world is!

We had great weather and we're able to see different places every day in the morning. In the afternoon, we would spend the whole time in the village. The food was great too! It was an amazing trip! Thank you very much for all your hard work! We made some amazing memories. **Maggie**



And the Volcanseks: I just wanted to write a quick note to thank you for all that you do for my child and all the children and families fighting cancer. To be perfectly honest, this year has been overwhelming. Our daughter was diagnosed with a brain tumor in the spring and it was a whirlwind of chemotherapy, radiation, surgeries and appointments. But, Help a Child Smile made this year so much easier for our family. We couldn't go anywhere, and really she was so sick there were few opportunities to have any fun this summer. Yet, there were good days, and a month long break in between chemo and radiation where we had opportunities to go to a rodeo, car races, Marineland, African Lion Safari and finally Wonderland this fall. It was exactly what our family needed to get away from the house and the treatments and all that come along with them. So thank you for all your work, all of your personal sacrifice, and all of the joy you bring into the lives of families. We hope you have a wonderful holiday and a much deserved rest. You truly are a wonderful group of people. Sincerely, **The Volcanseks**



What's Coming Up?

☺ **Friday March 17th at 7pm ... Disney on Ice - Passport to Adventure** at FirstOntario Centre, 101 York Blvd, Hamilton. Only 375 tickets will be available, so register early. Online registration will open on February 6th and will close as soon as all of the tickets have been spoken for. You will NOT receive your tickets in the mail. Your info will be recorded and you will need to meet Bertha and/or Nelson by the **Will Call window** just inside the Centre no later than 6:45 pm to collect your tickets. There are plenty of parking lots within a 3 minute walk but you may want to arrive early.

☺ **The Jim Walsh Bike Ride Kick Off** Party will be held at the Polish Hall in Brantford on April 8th with many special guests. The bike ride is on May 28th starting at the Knights of Columbus Hall. More details will follow in the next newsletter.



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



Help A Child Smile will continue until there is no more childhood cancer!



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**.

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 are not going to use. 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**

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!)

Help A Child Smile, 61 Canboro Rd, PO Box 1262, Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0
please register online at <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/>

DISNEY ON ICE: Friday, March 17th, 7pm, FirstOntario Centre, 101 York Blvd, Hamilton -
Registration starts Feb. 6th and continues until all tickets have been spoken for.

First-come-first-served

Child's Last Name: _____ Child's First Name: _____ Phone #: (____) - ____ - ____
Address: _____ City: _____ Cell #: (____) - ____ - ____
Postal Code: _____ Is this a new mailing address? (circle one) Yes No

of immediate family members (parents and children) attending [Free]: _____
of guests (no more than the number of immediate family, please) [\$24 each]: _____
Total number of tickets: _____