

Fall 2017 Newsletter

IMPORTANT NOTES FROM THE BOARD...



What can we say about the **HACS 30th Anniversary Reunion Family Picnic**, other than it was AWESOME?! Our families had so, much, fun! The Gallant family of **Colton's Fun Farm** were great hosts! They spared nothing to ensure everything was perfect, and even the weather cooperated. We pulled out all the stops to ensure there was a wide variety of activities for all ages to enjoy. While the original plan was for this to be a 1-time event, the families had so much fun they asked if we could do it again. So we will. An

annual family picnic is being added to our event line-up. We learned a few things (like have a faster food truck) and already have plans in the works to add even more activities. What could we possibly add, you ask? You'll just have to wait until closer to the date to find out. There will be even more awesomeness! So many thanks to the Gallant family for their hard work and hospitality. Here are just a few pictures of the fun times!



MORE REUNION PICNIC PICTURES



WORDS FROM A HACS FAMILY



Thank you for hosting the Reunion Picnic. Corn mazes, bouncy castles and laser tag were more than enough to keep us excited. Not to mention a chance to see some of our HACS friends. Colton's Fun Farm is a beautiful place and was a perfect spot to have this event. And there was plenty to do. In fact there was so much to do, we could barely fit it all in and ended up being one of the last families there. But their favourite activity was pretty obvious at the end of the day, the Corn Maze Colour Run. Both Alex and Becky had just as much fun helping to "attack" unsuspecting maze runners as they did getting "attacked" themselves. It was such a neat twist on the whole maze.



We truly enjoyed the afternoon at Colton's Fun Farm. It was a chance to be a kid and just run and play. After all that is exactly what we as parents really want for our kids. Thanks so much Help a Child Smile, we are looking forward to this being an annual event! -Rena Schmidt (mother of Alexandra and Rebecca)

DID YOU KNOW...?

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.

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

CanJam Revived in Honor of Sandra Allen - We have the second year under our belt now and August 26th was a success. We are pleased to be donating over \$5,000 to Help A Child Smile. The Kid's Zone was a huge success with the water slide, Jamz Reptile Zoo, Eric Crow & friends bringing their race cars and a car for the kids to paint, games galore, cheerleading lessons and very special guest Brantford Batman.



Local musicians entertained us from 1pm through the night with an assortment of music from Country, Blue Grass, Rock & Roll, Light Jazz – fantastic! We thank all of them for donating their time & talent to help make this day a profitable fundraiser



for HACS. A special “thank you “ to Mike LaPointe for arranging all the sound equipment and staying all day to ensure the entertainers sounded their best, along with PA Music of Brantford for donating all the sound and musical equipment necessary for our bands. The Knight's Hall has been a major supporter of HACS for many years and graciously hosted the event. Donal O'Shea sees that we are well looked after and accommodates us in every way he can – thanks O'Shea.



Many, many thanks to our cherished volunteers. Many of don't realize just how much a couple hours here and there means to us and how it makes the organizer's job easier, you would know just how much we appreciate you. We cannot do these fundraisers without you – thank you. Mark your calendars for next year – June 16th, 2018 for some fun and music!

On August 12, **Southern Cruisers Riding Club - Erie Shores Chapter 129** hosted the **Help a Child Smile for Miles Poker Ride**. Motorcycle Riders enjoyed a relaxing ride through the scenic Niagara Region and helped to raise \$14,190 for HACS, all while 'playing' poker. Participants enjoyed a BBQ, prize drawn and 50/50 hosted at Tons of Bike Gear in St. Anns, Ontario. Big Thanks to Jamie, Becky, Sly, Niagara Region Paramedics and all the supporters, donators, sponsors and volunteers.

Kerrilynn Shellhorn, Intuitive Medium, held private sessions & donated a portion of the proceeds to HACS. Thank you to all who took part and special thank you to Kerrilynn for raising \$360 for our kids!



On September 30th, **Abate 8 Brantford Chapter** held their **1st Annual HACS Poker Run** Fundraiser. The turnout was awesome and the day picture-perfect for a ride through the fall countryside. At the end of the ride there was food, music, a silent auction and lots of fun! On October 14th, the club invited Beth Walsh and Joyce Hutson to enjoy some fellowship at their clubhouse where HACS Alumni Patrick Tamilla joined in presenting them with a great big cheque for \$3380!!! Abate 8 – you ROCK!! Huge thank you from all of our families!

WHAT HAVE OUR PARTNERS BEEN DOING?



On August 11th, a fun-filled day was had by all at the **3rd Annual Cowboy Classic Golf Tournament** honouring the late Claude Poulin. The event brought in \$18,919.37 for HACS. Big thanks to Mike Konderka of Enviro-Niagara, Jamie West and Rod West, Highway Clearing & Guardrail and all the volunteers, sponsors and participants.



September 10th was a perfect day for the **2017 Sandra Allen Memorial Golf Tournament** at Fescue's Edge Golf Club. Sandra's family and friends came together to enjoy a round of golf, prizes, a tasty meal and sharing fond memories of her. All the while, they raised over \$2,000 for HACS. Thanks to one and all for coming out or donating your time or items for the silent auction.



An awesome volunteer that would like to remain anonymous picked bottles and cans throughout the summer at the **City of Port Colborne Sugarloaf Marina**, then the Marina, managed by Chris & Mark, and Geoff Black, owner of Don Cherry's Restaurant, pitched in to help reach the goal and donate \$5,000 to HACS. The marina has about 500 permanent boaters throughout the season and 30 transits a week. Many thanks for your hard work and dedication through the summer.

Jukasa Motor Speedway invited our volunteers to come out and hold a 50/50 raffle on Sept. 23rd. Rick Weatherill from Port Dover was the lucky winner of the prize of \$3,047.50. Thanks to Alex & Sandi Nagy at Jukasa for giving us this awesome opportunity! We look forward to coming back next season.



The **Inside Ride** is Canada's indoor cycling challenge that raises funds in support of children and their families living with and beyond childhood cancer. This year it was held on October 5th at Limeridge Mall. There were bikes, music, DJs and awards. The event was so much fun! There was so much energy from all the teams, and each team dressed up in a theme! It was hilarious to watch our nurses from 3B and our team of Oncologists cycling and dancing at the same time! The event was put in on support of

MackKids and Help a Child Smile. We raised just over \$20,000! Our team, ForEverlee, really enjoyed this event. I would recommend to any families, or friends of children with cancer receiving care at McMaster to join us next year, to support Help a Child Smile. A huge thank you to all the McMaster staff who came out, the other families, and teams who participated and to The Inside Ride for an evening of laughter, fun, and support for Help a Child Smile.



We thank everyone so much for all their efforts!

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...

John Harte (our beloved Santa at the HACS Christmas party for over 20 years), Jean Chase, Turner Clarke, Frank Copper Sr., Michael Gary McPherson, Dot Rowe, Garry Reeve, Gary Ruch

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

OTHER DONATIONS RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM...

- 😊 Estate of Susan Tuller Hajdu, \$41,150.15
- 😊 Donations in honour of Becca Surridge, cancer survivor
- 😊 BBQ hosted by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 605 St George, \$171.38
- 😊 Chase the Ace Game held during the 2017 season at Sandy Shores Trailer Park in Lowbanks, \$579.50

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, 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**.



REGISTRATION NOTES: Just a reminder: the new event registration process means that we will still list the coming events for the next quarter in the newsletters, but will not include registration forms. All details about events will continue to be posted on our website on the 'Family Events' registration page <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/>. 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.

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 Marineland). **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!

If you sign up for an event that has a charge, 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. (See 'Did You Know' on page 1.) 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.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

HACS Family Christmas Party

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

Bring the family out for the fun, games and all sorts of entertainment. And of course, the Man in Red will also be stopping by to say "Ho Ho Ho" to one and all. Register online (<http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/default/register/69>) or telephone (905-385-4227) only. If calling, be sure to state your child's name clearly, tell us how many siblings age 18 and under are attending and how many in your family (if any) are vegetarians. Be sure to leave your phone number as well. Register by Dec. 2 to attend, but by Nov. 25 to guarantee your child receives a goody bag.



**Dec. 9th - Registration from
12:30 - 1 pm, party 1 - 4**



January 11, 2018, 6pm Hockey Night in Niagara NHL Alumni Benefit Tour

*The Gale Centre
4171 Fourth Ave
Niagara Falls*



January 13, 2018, 7pm Hockey night in Hamilton NHL Alumni Benefit Tour

*Andreychuk Mountain Arena
25 Hestor Street
Hamilton*

ATTENTION hockey fans in the Hamilton and Niagara areas. Mark your calendars with a big hockey stick on Thursday, Jan. 11th and Saturday, January 13th! Those are the dates for Hockey Night in Niagara and Hockey Night in Hamilton. The Gale Centre will play host to a match-up between the Niagara Falls Celebrity All-Stars and the NHL Alumni team, and the Andreychuk Mountain Arena will see the Alumni facing off against the Hamilton Celebrity All-Stars.

The NHL Alumni Tour has proudly hosted hockey legends such as Walter Gretzky, Wendel Clark, Curtis Joseph, Tiger Williams, Theo Fleury and many more! The Scotiabank 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 a lighter side of these hockey greats while raising money for HACS.

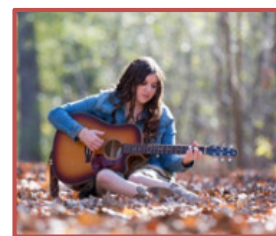
Free to all of our families and their guests but pre-registration is required no later than 2 days prior to each game. Doors open in Hamilton at 5:00 and the puck drops at 6:00. In Niagara, the doors open at 6:00 and the puck drops at 7:00pm.

Register online at: <http://helpachildsmile.com/family-registration/>



November 18, 2017, 8:30pm A Rockin' Night of LIVE Country Music with Brad James and introducing Amy LeBlanc

Moose Lodge, 1860 Barton Ave E, Hamilton



Come on out for a night of live country music, door prizes and more! Doors open at 8, show starts at 8:30pm. All proceeds go toward HACS. Tickets are \$20. Contact Linda for tickets @ 905-574-6823.