



Spring 2023



From our Chair, Joyce Hutson

'Happy Spring' everyone! It's encouraging to hear the robins and see the snow melting away so the new flowers can poke up through the ground. Even the rain falling as I write this note is a welcome change from snow and freezing rain! It's the promise of a new beginning and that makes me smile.

While on the subject of smiles, it was great to see so many of you come out to enjoy March Break Magic and Disney On Ice recently. Both events received great reviews from everyone we spoke with. Thank you to those who sent us pictures of their families enjoying the shows. We look forward to getting your reactions after our next family outing – Treetop Trekking. It promises to be a winner as well, but please read the instructions carefully – there are restrictions for this event.

Speaking of reading instructions, those of you who are in active treatment, please be aware that changes are being implemented as of April 1st for the parking pass program. Our goal is, as always, to provide you with as much support as we can while ensuring that we continue to operate within the guidelines of our budget. This new system will help us to do that. We are confident that you will find the transition to be smooth and easy to follow. Detailed instructions on the new process are included below.

New Parking Pass Policy

As you know, Help A Child Smile provides free parking passes for those on active treatment. The process of obtaining parking passes will be changing as of **APRIL 1, 2023**.

Please read these instructions completely so that you are familiar with the new guidelines when it comes into effect. Parking pass authorization forms will now come from your treatment team.

- To get a parking pass, you will need to get a form from your Social Worker, Child Life Specialist or Interlink Nurse in clinic or on the ward
- Once your form is completed and signed by your team member, you may exchange it for your pass at the parking office.
- Your team will help determine which type of pass would be appropriate based on your child's treatment plan.
- It will be very important that you keep track of the expiry dates of your passes. Please do not wait until the last day before requesting a new one.
- If you have any questions, please reach out to your Social Worker, Child Life Specialist or Interlink Nurse at the hospital for more information

Making memories...



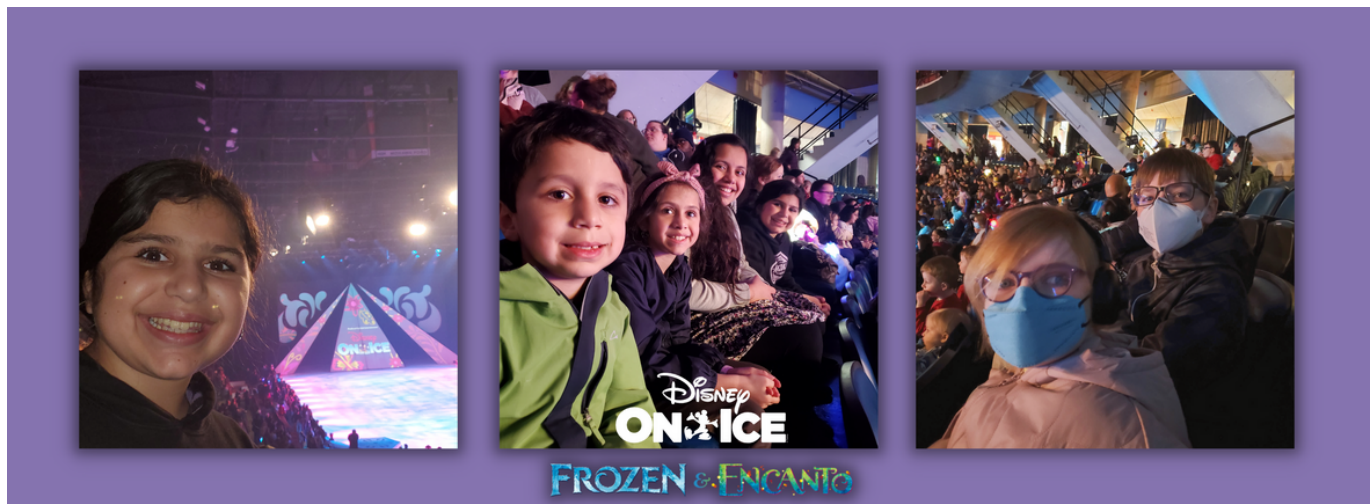
HACS Alumni, Evabeth Fast was a special guest at the Niagara Ice Dogs game on February 23. She did the ceremonial puck drop. Thank you Evabeth for representing Help A Child Smile and POGO to create awareness of our organizations and childhood cancer.



We kicked off March Break with March Break Magic! featuring The Illusionist: Lucas Wilson at the Sanderson Centre in Brantford. His show was unique, professional, action packed, family friendly and featured unforgettable audience participation.



On Thursday, March 16 and Friday, March 17, our families enjoyed Disney On Ice at the FirstOntario Centre in Hamilton. This year's show was Frozen & Encanto and it didn't disappoint! It was a spectacular show with awe-inspiring skating skills and aerial performances.



Thank you for your support!

Blessed!



Grateful

**HACS Alumni, Brayden Damota presents a cheque
to Beth Walsh from Help A Child Smile**

We would like to thank the Damota family for their generous donation of \$40,000! This donation came at a time when we needed it the most. The pandemic affected our ability to hold regular fundraisers, and many private donations were down. Thanks to the kindness of Matthew, Terra and Brayden, we can continue to provide our family events and supports.

Fundraising



All families, friends, supporters and the community are invited to participate in our upcoming fundraising Bowl-A-Thons!

Brantford: Echo Bowl - 1:00-4:00pm

Hamilton: Mountain Lanes - 6:00-9:00pm

St. Catharines: Pla-Mor Bowling Lanes - 1:00-7:00pm

Enter a team of 6 (max), each bowler requires a minimum of \$20 in pledges.

All bowlers must register on-line at

[Bowl-a-Thon - Help A Child Smile](#)

Teams of 6 will bowl for an hour.

Register today, start collecting pledges and join us for a fun time bowling! You can collect pledges through our website or download a pledge form. All forms and cash must be handed in at the

Bowl-A-Thon. For donations received in person, a tax receipt will be issued by mail for \$20 or more.



Events



Join us for **Treetop Trekking** on Saturday, April 15 from 1:30–3:30pm. Located in Binbrook Conservation Area, 5050 Harrison Road, Binbrook, Ontario, L0R 1C0.

This event is free to active and alumni families. Please note, if the member is older than 19 years old, parents and siblings are considered guests and are not permitted to attend events for free. If the member is under 19 years old, parents and siblings under 19 are able to attend for free, but any siblings over the age of 19 are not permitted to attend events for free.

For this event, due to limited spaces, we are not permitting any guests. If you register family members that are not permitted free attendance based on our policies, that registration will be deleted.

****Registration will be open until Friday, April 7 or until all spots are filled!****

For Treewalk, it's open to all ages, but best suited for children 3–8 years old and their parents. The Zipline and Aerial Trek is for 9+. The child must be 9 years old on the day of the event and a minimum of 4'7.


Family members can only choose one adventure – Treewalk or Zipline & Aerial Game Treks. Each event is about 3 hours. You're asked to arrive for 1:00pm to be ready to start your adventure at 1:30pm.


Please make sure that you read all of the rules/descriptions on the registration page before you make your selections.

For more information or to register: [Family Event Registration – Help A Child Smile](#)

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 for more information.

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