



FALL 2023



From our Chair, Joyce Hutson



It's gone – just like that! Summer, that is. Seems like it just got started and already holidays are over and it's back to school time. It was wonderful that things were somewhat normal and we got to see so many of you out enjoying our summer event lineup.

For some of you, it was a 'welcome back' experience. For those who were diagnosed during the pandemic, it was an introduction to what Help A Child Smile is all about. Giving our families opportunities to smile, that's our goal! But just because summer is over, that doesn't mean the end of our events. Just watch our website and your email for more fun to come!

While we are settling back into our routines, I need to remind those of you in active treatment about the rules for paid parking. We are pleased fund the parking program, however, we can only continue to do so while our resources allow. Due to limited funds, the program cannot cover off-therapy appointments or the cost of two passes for any family. One pass per family – no exceptions. The passes are recorded in your child's name, so always give his/her name when picking up your passes.

Important note: The parking Staff cannot issue a pass or reload a card unless a completed and signed Parking Authorization Form is presented. Be sure to get your form from your Social Worker or Interlink Nurse before you leave the ward. Any abuse of the program will result in the immediate disqualification of the offending family.

Enjoy fall with the fairs, colours and everything else it has to offer, including our Annual Family Picnic. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Event Policy Updates

HACS has been serving our families for over 30 years, providing support and programming to families impacted by childhood cancer. To ensure the sustainability of our services and to continue offer quality events, we have updated our **Event Registration and Attendance Policy** and established an **Event Cost Policy**.

Over the past year, we have encountered a significant challenge: last-minute cancellations and no-shows on event days. These unexpected changes have resulted in financial losses exceeding \$6,000 for our organization.

Both of the policies are included at the end of this newsletter. Please make sure that you read through them carefully.

Making memories....

Summer has been a whirlwind of excitement! On July 15, we enjoyed Bulls & Bikes, bull riding and superbike legend Jordan Szoke, all in support of Help A Child Smile!



Our summer adventures continued on July 30 with a trip to the African Lion Safari, complete with a mouthwatering BBQ. Then, on August 19, we revved up the fun with go-karting and mini-putt at Niagara Go-Karts.

Upcoming Events



HACS family picnic will be held on Saturday September 16th from 12:00-4:00pm at Colton's Fun Farm located on 109 Jerseyville Road, Brantford.

Come out and enjoy some great family activities such as:

- Triple C Farms petting zoo and horse rides
- Jungle Jamz and his amazing reptiles
- A magical visit from some beautiful princesses
- Water slides and bouncy castles
- Fun farm activities such as the corn pit, ball toss & pumpkin painting!

Lunch provided will be pizza, fruit, veggies and snacks.

Please bring chairs or a blanket as this will be a picnic style lunch. Helmets are required for horseback rides (bicycle helmets are ok) and you'll be required to sign a waiver for the petting zoo and horseback rides.

Come on out and spend some time with the HACS board of directors, volunteers and other HACS families.

Registration closes on Saturday, September 8!

Register here: <https://events.helpachildsmile.com/>

Coming soon:

Stay tuned for announcements for Aerosports & our Annual Christmas Party!

Sandra Allen Memorial Education Awards



Congratulations to the 2023 Sandra Allen Memorial Education Award Winners:

Caleb Bettencourt
Hannah Marie Bettencourt
Illyria Volcansek

Lindsay and Rhiannon Allen (Sandra's daughters) presented the awards at this year's CanJam for Kids with Cancer held on Saturday, August 12.

This award is a tribute to Sandra's memory. It is a reminder that education is not merely about acquiring knowledge, but about forging a path towards a brighter future despite the obstacles life may present.

The \$2500 award acknowledges the unique financial strains that families battling cancer often face, and it serves as a promise of hope, ensuring that your dreams of higher education are not hindered by the challenges you've faced.

In honoring Sandra's legacy, we salute your determination and commitment to your schooling. As you move forward on your educational journey, remember that this award is not just financial support; it's a testament to your strength and a tribute to Sandra's legacy.

Congratulations, Caleb, Hannah Marie, and Illyria, on receiving the Sandra Allen Memorial Education Award. Your achievements inspire us all.

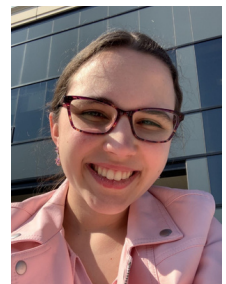


Caleb Bettencourt

"SO THANKFUL! This award reduces so much financial stress and enables me to focus wholeheartedly on my academics and best of all move forward to a bright and exciting future in Computer Engineering!"

Hannah Marie Bettencourt

"God has blessed me in many ways through this hard time and I am so thankful that he has also blessed me with such kind supporters through this generous award, helping my journey into the future."



Illyria Volcansek

"I am so grateful to Help A Child Smile, CanJam For Cancer and everyone who helped to make this award possible. Your kindness and generosity is unmatched. I can't wait to continue my studies this fall!"

Thank you for your support!

Summer has been nothing short of amazing, thanks to the unwavering support from our dedicated community. We are thrilled to announce the incredible contributions that have poured in:

- **The Cowboy Classic** in Welland returned this year and generously raised over \$25,000!
- **The Erie Shores Chapter 129** held a fantastic Help A Child Smile Poker Run, generating \$7,000.
- **CanJam for Kids with Cancer** came together magnificently, raising over \$18,000.
- **The Brantford Area Jeep & Off-Road Club**, always ready to lend a helping hand, generously donated \$5,000.
- **The Kitchener Lions Club** showed their support to us by making a \$5,000 donation.
- **The Port Dalhousie Lions Club** also supported us with a \$500 donation.

These remarkable achievements not only exceed our expectations but also fill our hearts with gratitude. Your dedication and generosity enable us to continue our mission of bringing smiles and support to children and families facing challenges.

Thank you for standing with us, for believing in our cause, and for being the driving force behind our efforts.

Your kindness is the cornerstone of our success, and we are profoundly grateful for your support.



Fundraising

Win this **\$2800** Klipsch Home Theatre package with wireless subwoofer, premium acoustic technology, Samsung 55" 4K Smart HDTV, bold contrast, remote or voice control, Yamaha Bluetooth with 5 channel surround sound. All proceeds to Help A Child Smile



License # M850341

\$5 each / 3 for \$10 / 7 for \$20

Draw is September 16th at 3pm
Colton's Fun Farm, 109 Jerseyville Rd. Brantford, N3T 5M1

For tickets email bethwalsh.6364@gmail.com or bwalsh@helpachildsmile.com or call/text Beth at 519-757-7258. You can also contact jhutson@helpachildsmile.com for tickets

Bibbidi Bobbidi Ball

IN SUPPORT OF HELP A CHILD SMILE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
MT. PLEASANT COMMUNITY CENTRE



Limited VIP Tickets
are available now:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/bibbidi-bobbidi-ball-tickets-706878341147?aff=oddtcreator>

Board of Directors

This past June, we held our Annual General Meeting. We would like to thank our Board Members that finished their terms with us: Nelson Mota, Sean MacNamara & Sheryl MacNamara. We appreciate all of your hard work and dedication to Help A Child Smile!

Welcome our newest board member, Pam Isaak!

Board & Administration

Joyce Hutson – Chair
Amy Watson – Vice-Chair & Hospital Liaison
Ramona Durkin – Director
Peggy Charon – Director
Beth Walsh – Director
Bertha Bertrand – Director of Family Events
Chris McCullough – Honorary Director
Donna Woodruff – Director
Nick Ferreira – Director
Pam Isaak – Director
Rehanna Bachan – Director of Fundraising

Representative from McMaster Children's Hospital: Jennifer Wolfenden

Administrative Assistant: Patti Berardi

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.

Follow us on Social Media:



Help A Child Smile | Facebook



Help A Child Smile (@HACSOntario) / Twitter



Help A Child Smile (@helpachildsmile) • Instagram photos and videos



<https://helpachildsmile.com/>

Event Registration and Attendance Policy

Registration

Families who wish to attend our events are required to register in advance through our family event registration page.

Cancellation of Registration

We understand that circumstances can change, and plans may need to be adjusted. Therefore, we encourage families to notify us promptly if they are no longer able to attend an event they have registered for.

Families are required to inform us of any changes in their attendance status no later than the cut-off date provided prior to the scheduled event. This advance notice helps us optimize event arrangements and consider families on our waiting list.

Benefits of Timely Notification

Timely notifications of changes in attendance enable us to take appropriate actions, which may include reducing admissions and thereby lowering the overall cost of the event.

In cases where there is a waiting list for an event, early notifications allow us to offer tickets to families on the waiting list, ensuring that as many families as possible can participate.

Consequences of Failure to Attend without Notification

Families who fail to attend an event for which they have registered, without providing notification by the cut-off, will have their names recorded as non-attendees and will be issued a strike on their file.

After three instances of failing to attend events without prior notification, a family's record in our member database will be flagged as "Event registrations: revoked." Consequently, such families will no longer be offered the opportunity to attend events organized by us.

Exceptional Circumstances

We understand that there may be valid medical or unforeseen reasons for a family's absence from an event. In such cases, families can request an exception to the attendance policy.

To qualify for an exception, families must provide proper confirmation of the exceptional circumstances causing their absence. This may include medical certificates or other relevant documentation. This documentation can be made by emailing admin@helpachildsmile.com.

Exceptions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and decisions will be made in a fair and compassionate manner.

Conclusion

Our Event Registration and Attendance Policy aims to ensure that our events are well-organized, accommodating, and enjoyable for all participants. By adhering to this policy, families contribute to the success of our events and help us create a positive experience for everyone involved.

Event Cost Policy

Attendance for Active Members

- Attendance at all HACS events is provided free of charge to Active members and their immediate family members.
- Active status is defined as a period of **6 years from the date of diagnosis**. Members are considered Active during this period and can attend events without any cost.
- Siblings who are under the age of 19 and parents/guardians of Active members can attend events free of charge as long as the member is under the age of 19.
- Siblings who are 19 years of age and older are considered guests and may be subject to a nominal fee to attend an event.
- In the event of a member's relapse, the 6-year time frame for complimentary attendance restarts as of the date of the relapse, as long as the member has not reached the age of 19.
- Active members are permitted to invite guests to select events, with the number of guests and eligible events determined on a per-event basis.

Attendance for Alumni Members

- Unless otherwise specified, Alumni members and their siblings and/or children, as well as parents, will be subject to a minimal charge for attendance at HACS events.
- When Alumni members turn 19, parents/guardians and siblings regardless of age are considered guests and may be required to pay the designated guest fee to attend an event.
- In the event that an Alumni member establishes their own family, their partner and children will take the place of siblings and parents in terms of event attendance.

Rationale and Purpose

The need to introduce nominal charges for Alumni members and their families is driven by the growth and sustainability of our organization. As our membership has expanded over the years, it is essential to ensure our events and programming continue to thrive.

By implementing nominal charges for Alumni members, we can maintain the quality and accessibility of our events while also ensuring the long-term viability of our services.

Conclusion

This Event Attendance and Alumni Membership Policy is established to maintain the high standards of our organization's events and services. By making necessary adjustments to event attendance policies, we are better equipped to continue supporting our families in a sustainable manner.