

"Help A Child Smile"! ☺

*Inspired by Kacey-Lynn Rainville  
Established May 1986 (CRA #130523822RR001)*

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## April 2008 News Bulletin for "Help A Child Smile" Families

### Spring has arrived HACS Families!

Well, the winter is finally coming to an end! We are looking forward to seeing you at the events planned for this summer. Look inside for details of events, dates, and whether or not guest tickets (at cost) can be ordered.

The Board of Directors is pleased to report that the new organizational by-law was passed at the Annual General Meeting held March 1<sup>st</sup> in Hamilton. The new by-law gave you, the families, the right to elect Board Members. The By-law amended the Board structure. There are a maximum of 9 Directors in various roles. Five were elected by the families at the AGM. Your new Board of Directors, listed below, will recruit for the remaining vacancies, based on skills required (Fundraising, PR, Alumni Membership):



Sandra Allen, Chair of the Board

Jennifer Kelly, Secretary to the Board

Peggy Charon, Finance Director

Bertha Bertrand, Family Event Director

Andrea Mullin, Legal Advisor and Directorship at Large



Claire O'Halloran, although no longer a voting member on the Board, remains a critical advisor to the Board of Directors, providing a hospital perspective for all decision-making. Following the AGM, the Directors and HACS Administrator commenced a search for interested and skilled parties to fill the vacant Director positions (Public Relations, Fundraising times two; Alumni Membership). The Board is pleased to announce that Ron English has joined the Board as Acting Director of Fundraising. Ron has a wealth of overall experience (to include owning his own business, teaching university in the USA and most recently in China), and is a Public School Trustee with the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. Ron has many new ideas on how to raise the awareness of HACS, and with increased awareness, find avenues to secure much needed funds across our geographical area (Ron and Laura, our Administrator who is also a Public School Trustee intend to tap into the school system through other Trustees). Welcome Ron !!

At the AGM, the Board listened to our families' thoughts about HACS. It was satisfying to hear that our families are pleased with the direction HACS is moving in. The most significant message we heard was that HACS should continue to fund both the fun-filled events throughout the year, as well as the trip to Give Kids the World Village. This means that the Board of Directors has a clear mandate to step up its fundraising activities to meet the needs of our families, now and in the future. A good place to start will be the launch of our new web-site (scheduled for June 2008) that will include online donation capability. We are looking for content for the web-site, including recent digital photo's of HACS children. If you're interested in providing photo's, please contact our Administrator, Laura, at [helpachildsmile@bellnet.ca](mailto:helpachildsmile@bellnet.ca)



## A Special Welcome To Our New Families:



We are saddened to know that your child has cancer. We hope that you will find encouragement, fun and support through HACS. We look forward to meeting you at some or all future events. We want to help your child SMILE!!

We know that some of your children are experiencing difficult times. We would like you to know that all of us at HACS are thinking about and supporting you as you meet these challenges.

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**Calling all parents of children diagnosed with cancer who may wish to connect with other parents, share tips and strategies, hear about relevant resources and topics**

**Parents Helping Parents  
(a group for parents of children with cancer)**

- First Meeting: Monday June 2, 2008 from 7:00-8:30 pm**
- Melrose United Church Hall**
- 86 Homewood Avenue (Aberdeen and Locke Sts), Hamilton**

**Free Parking**

- Child care and fun provided by Camp Trillium**

**Coordinators: Jane Cassano & Cindy van Halderen, Social Workers  
and Claire O'Halloran, Interlink Nurse (all from McMaster Children's Hospital)**

- To Register: Please call Cindy van Halderen (905-521-2100, ext 73596)**

### *Please Share some HACS memories with us.....*

We're still looking for photo's of our HACS children and their families. We'd love to include some of our HACS Families (with your permission of course) on the redesigned web-site, and are now compiling the content. Please contact Laura by e-mail at [helpachildsmile@bellnet.ca](mailto:helpachildsmile@bellnet.ca)

### *Definition of a Family:*

The Board of Directors, at their most recent meeting, confirmed the definition of a family as:  
"The child who has cancer, his/her siblings, his/her mom and dad or legal guardian"

HACS understands that there are single, blended and other types of families. However, going forward, HACS can only absorb the cost of complimentary tickets to events or travel to Florida for the immediate family. The complimentary tickets can be shared amongst family members, or you may wish to purchase guest tickets or tickets at the gate of any event. For Florida, the HACS travel agent will assist with making arrangements for your additional travellers, however,

HACS will not be responsible for associated costs. We appreciate your understanding.

## *2008 Family Event Schedule*

*Our families are invited to attend the events listed below, free of charge. Simply complete & return the enclosed registration form. Some events allow for guest tickets. Going forward, guest tickets for Merritville and the Lion Safari will be purchased at the gate (these events are completely donated, hence any additional participants would understandably pay for their admission).*

*Given special pricing, the Wonderland Events do provide the option for guest tickets. These tickets MUST be paid in advance, by money order only - please do not send cheques. Both Complimentary Family and Guest Tickets are distributed together, so please ensure that your money order is sent with your registration, otherwise, your complimentary tickets will not be released. Please mail your registration form, and Money Order (no cheques) for guest tickets to:*

*Help A Child Smile, c/o Laura Peddle, 90 Waterberry Trail, Hamilton L9C 0B2*

June 21 10am to 2pm	Annual Fishing Derby Flatt Road, Waterdown	There is no fee for this donated event - just come out and enjoy! (thank you to the Deluca Family!) Please remember to bring your own fishing rods. Bait and lunch (hot dog & pop) will be provided. Your guests are also welcome to participate.	<i>Order Deadline: May 23<sup>rd</sup></i>  <i>Directions: QEW to Waterdown Rd exit North. Turn left onto Flatt Road, and watch for signage (the entrance for the "fish" will be on your left)</i>
July 12 (Lunch at 3:30pm)	Wonderland Reunion	Join us for the Wonderland Reunion (lunch included)	<i>Guest Tickets at cost \$31</i>  <i>Order Deadline: June 8th</i>
	Wonderland "any day" (limited to ACTIVE families who are unable to attend on July 12th)	Adult (3-59yrs & 48" tall) \$37 Junior(3-59yrs & under 48" tall) And Senior (60 years +) \$27  Under 2 - free admission  NOTE: NO lunch for these "any day" tickets that are valid until Nov 1st	<i>Guest Tickets at cost (pls ensure you indicate Adult, Junior or Senior &amp; immediately mail appropriate money order)</i>  <i>Order Deadline: June 8th</i>
NEW EVENT !	Marineland	This new event will be limited to ACTIVE families. The date hasn't yet been decided. However, if you are at all interested, please register	No Guest Tickets available  <i>Order Deadline: June 8th</i>
August 9	Merritville Speedway	Car Racing at its finest!	Guest Tickets at the gate  <i>Order Deadline: July 12th</i>
Sept 20 1pm Game	Toronto Blue Jays vs Baltimore Orioles	There are a limited # of tickets, hence ACTIVE families will be accommodated first. Given limited tickets,	<i>Order Deadline: Aug 17th</i>
Sept 27	African Lion Safari	This is a completely donated event (thank you to the Dailey Family. Please bring your own lunch.	Guests tickets at the Gate  <i>Order Deadline: Aug 17th</i>

*We know that, sometimes, our families are unable to attend events due to their child's medical situation on that day. Please know that we understand. We appreciate your efforts to ensure a ticket reserved is a ticket used.*





# SMILEY'S PAGE

Smiley's Page is a celebration of HACS' children's success journey through cancer. Hearing from survivors brings hope to our newly diagnosed families.

NAME	AGE AT DIAGNOSIS	And now ?
Victoria Johnson, 20 From Oakville	Age 6 (1993) Wilm's Tumor	Attending Ottawa University - International Development Co-op !
Heather Wubs, 10 From St. Catharines	Age 2 ½ (2000) Wilm's Stage 3	A happy, healthy 10 year old !

*If you would like your child published, please write to Laura, HACS Administrator, at [helpachildsmile@bellnet.ca](mailto:helpachildsmile@bellnet.ca) Please include child's name, current age, type of cancer and where they are now*

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## **Every one can make a difference.....**

Through the January 2008 Newsletter, we asked our families who are no longer under treatment to "make a difference" in the lives of those currently on the cancer journey. This month, we are again reaching out. Here's why.

At the AGM, the cost of 2006 events was shared. A total of \$46,176 was spent on the various family complimentary events that HACS supports throughout the year. (\$20,878 on ACTIVE Families; \$25,298 on Alumni Families)

The Board of Directors is therefore again humbly asking that our Alumni Families make a donation to HACS in exchange for complimentary tickets for this summer's events. Please consider the cost of the tickets you are receiving, and make a separate donation that you feel is appropriate, and can afford. No amount is too small. Donations over \$20 will be issued a tax receipt. The funds raised from our Alumni families will be accounted for separately, and directed to reducing the wait list for sending our children under ACTIVE treatment to Florida.

What a fabulous way to demonstrate support for our new families. Those who have been through the journey would be helping those who are still under active treatment. We remember how we felt on that dark day, so please help HACS to help them. *"Every one can indeed make a difference"!*

\* Reminder: Families are considered "ACTIVE" for a period of 4 years from the date of diagnosis. Bereaved families receive the same total 4 year period of time.

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## Three more families going to Give Kids the World (GKTW) Village in Florida!!



HACS is pleased to announce that the following families will be traveling to Florida. A week at GKTW in Florida were 'given' to these families at the Brantford Legion Fundraiser held March 30<sup>th</sup>

Taylor Diamond, Age 10, Brantford  
Dustin Dymont, Age 18, Brantford  
Robin Macdonald, Age 17, Brantford

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Have fun in Florida!

Reminder: Families are only allowed to stay at GKTW ONCE. Therefore, if/when you proceed with a 'wish' from another organization, please DO NOT SELECT GKTW as HACS will be unable to send you there later. GKTW is our only partnership for Florida - no alternate travel will be allowed. If you have questions, please contact Laura at the HACS Office.

On a fundraising note, please know that the average cost for a family to go to Florida is \$5,000. Therefore, \$325,000 is needed just to retire our current wait list of approximately 65 families, over and above the family events, etc.

### *A note from the Author (yes, that would be Laura):*

You may have noticed a flavor to this newsletter - its quite intentional !  
The Board of Directors is clearly focusing its attention on two things:

A focus on the ACTIVE families to ensure they have many events on the horizon "to help a child smile" as they travel this journey called cancer (including a new Marineland Event limited to ACTIVE families, Blue Jays Game to ACTIVE families first; and asking our Alumni's to provide an affordable donation for their complimentary summer event tickets

Fundraising! A list of fundraisers has now been included a few times, and will continue in every newsletter. The intent is to raise awareness of the various events going on to support HACS, that our families, Active and Alumni or others may wish to participate in. The board is very excited about the web-site reconstruction that will soon be complete (launch planned for June 2008). The Board will commence a 2008 Fundraising Campaign with the launch of the new web-site. The new modern look and functionality to include online donations will be the focus of the 2008 Campaign that will reach far and wide (look for more details in the July Newsletter). If you'd like world-wide fame, please send along relatively current photos and your "smile" stories (note: a waiver will be required)

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## We Remember.....

Gone is the face we love so dear, Silent is the voice we loved to hear; Too far away for sight or speech, But not too far for thought to reach, Sweet to remember one who once was here, And who, though absent, is as dear. This is a picture I tenderly hold.

We honour these beautiful lives:

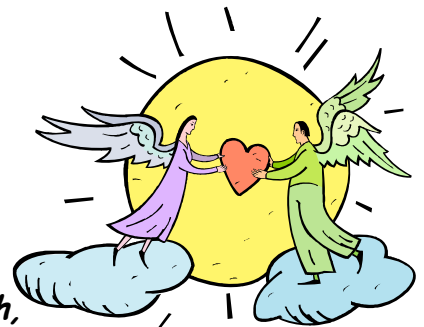
*Amanda Viger, Age 17, March 22nd, 2008*

*Hannah Kemppi-Poff, Age 15, April 2, 2008*

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### *I am not there*

*Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there. I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the snow on the mountain's rim,  
I am the laughter in children's eyes,  
I am the sand at the water's edge,  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle Autumn rain,  
When you awaken in the morning's hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight,  
I am the star that shines at night,  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there, I did not die.*



*Author Unknown*

## ***From and about our HACS Kids and their Families:***

- A great time was had by 95 HACS families (420 tickets issued!) at Disney on Ice “High School Musical” performance!
- The Teen Group went bowling on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to speak to Claire, Jane or Cindy at the hospital to find out about upcoming Teen Events



*The Donald Family (Brock):* We had an excellent time from the moment the limo arrived at our door. It was just amazing how much was done for us. The rental car gave us the freedom to come and go as we wanted and that was great because Brock got tired of walking the amusement parks so we did things like the airboat rides (highly recommended), we went to Melbourne beach to dip into the ocean and we even found our way to Tampa to take in a Lightning game. Gaterland was another place we took in, so many gaters and different species of birds that we just don't see around here. Brock will be finished treatment near the end of April, it's been a long haul as we all know.

*The Stone Family (Matt):* Thank you 'Help a Child Smile' for the wonderful trip given to us in Florida at Give Kids the World! It really felt like we were being given the world! Everyone was so warm and friendly from the day we arrived on February 17, 2008 until the day we left.



Our son Matthew was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma April 13th 2006 at the age of 14. There has never been a darker time for our family as many of you can relate. In times like these you can feel very separated as a family. It was hard to watch Matt suffer in a place that none of us could fully go...part of the journey he had to do alone. It was very hard for Matt's sister Natalie and older brother Aaron to see their brother suffer. Matt is doing well now and off treatment, so we were very very blessed to be sent away on this fabulous trip while Matt was well, and rekindle family time together.

My husband Mike and I were so grateful to watch our kids having such a great time laughing together, playing together and eating as much ice cream as their stomachs could possibly hold. The first day of orientation at Give Kids the World had me weepy, hearing everything they do for so many suffering children. There are over 50,000 stars with the names of children up in the Castle of Miracles. It was a very special moment for our family being able to see Matt's star added to the 50,000 others.

We went to many theme parks, but there was just not enough time to get everything in. We made the most of every moment in the parks (the kids are never too old for Mickey and the characters), playing games in our villa, lying by the pool or swimming in the ocean. We enjoyed every second.

Again, thank you, thank you, thank you...this trip like No other will always be etched in our hearts and minds forever. Our lives have been touched with cancer but through this, we have been showered with so much love and care...we are forever changed. To think this all started with one small dream...to 'help a child smile'...Matt smiled...and we are blessed! Mike, Sharon, Aaron, Matthew and Natalie Stone ☺



## **Fundraising Update:**

Our sincerest appreciation goes out to the organizers and participants of past fundraisers, and in advance to those who will again assist us this coming year. Many of our families have become wonderful supporters. We thank you so much for "giving back" to HACS.

At this time, we'd like to extend a special thank Bea Tiessen, who worked tirelessly on HACS behalf for over a year. Bea took on the role of Fundraising Director for the Board, and has now stepped down. However, before she left, she organized the "Second Annual HACS Comedy Night at Club 54 in Burlington. Total to date: \$4,635 !! Way to go Bea !! We of course also much appreciate the families attending, and bringing along guests. Your participation in this fundraising event is greatly appreciated. It is a fun night out for a great cause.



A new idea for fundraising has found its way to HACS. A young lady, planning her wedding and aware of HACS, decided that rather than pay for bomboniere (little gift of appreciation), she would instead provide a card advising the gift-givers that a donation was made to HACS. A lovely card was printed up for her to give to her guests. A wonderful thought, with just a small amount of effort, resulted in a \$445 donation to HACS ! Please pass along the idea, and if interested, contact HACS and we'll process the request.

May 24, 12:30-5pm	Star Wars 2 <sup>ND</sup> Annual Event & Toy Show at Welland City Hall. Displays of new and Vintage Toys. Free popcorn & mini light sabres. Original Movie: "Empire Strikes Back".
May 24 & 25	Bowlathon over the Weekend to be held at East Side Lanes, Welland. \$125 per team or sponsor a lane for \$75, or donate to the gift/prize table. Please Contact Tammy Cote 905-734-4535 or 905-321-5795
June 14	City of Brantford Golf Tournament, Oak Gables Golf Club Contact Sandra Allen, Chair, HACS, at 519-756-5291
Late June	Annual Jim Walsh Bike Ride for HACS from Brantford to Port Dover. Last year, almost 40 riders participated and were greeted by live entertainment from Jimbo the Clown and a band on the beach. Contact Sandra Allen, Chair, HACS, at 519-756-5291
July 26	Pond Tour, Brantford area. Contact Sandra Allen, Chair, HACS, at 519-756-5291
August 16	Annual Golf Tournament, Waterpark Golf Course, Riverside Road, Welland (Please contact Jack Carrier 905-735-6955 for details)
Saturday of Labour Day Weekend	Annual Extravaganza, Club Richelieu, Welland - details to follow in the July Newsletter



Academy of Dance Cheque Presentation to Sandra Allen, Chair, Help A Child Smile

Cheque presentation to Sandra Allen, Chair, Help A Child Smile, from Liquid Lounge