

"Help A Child Smile"! ☺
Inspired by Kacey-Lynn Rainville



News Bulletin of January 2008

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Happy New Year HACS Families!

Your Board of Directors is excited about another wonderful year filled with great events for all to enjoy! The complete line-up for 2008 can be found on page 2, starting with our annual outing to Copps Coliseum for Disney on Ice. This year, it will be: "High School Musical" on Thursday, March 13th.

Special event fundraising will start with the Second Annual Comedy Night at Club 54 in Burlington Friday, March 28th. Your ticket also covers entrance to the Dance Club next door. See page 8 for details.

In addition to the wonderful family events planned for 2008, the Board is excited about its own restructuring. The existing Board has approved a restructuring concept that will be presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The meeting will be held on March 1st at the Board of Education Centre in downtown Hamilton. We hope that many of our families can join us that morning for this exciting meeting. You will learn more about HACS, our 2007 accomplishments and our plan for 2008 and beyond. A new by-law will be presented and approved by the current Board of Directors that will fundamentally change HACS. You, the families, will become "voting members", meaning that you will decide who sits on the Board of Directors for HACS.

Additionally, on that same day, the Board has engaged a facilitator to chair a "focus group" with our families to ask our families directly what they believe HACS does well; could improve; should stop doing; should start doing, etc. HACS provides a unique continuous opportunity for "smiles", that is quite different from the wish organizations - we are there from diagnosis and thereafter, for as long as you wish to be connected to HACS. We want to know if we are doing the right things, at the right times.

HACS exists for you - to help you and your child through a difficult time. Please be sure to mark Saturday, March 1st on your calendar and join the current Board at the Hamilton Education Centre to hear our reports on 2007, and the strategic change of direction starting in 2008!

To encourage attendance, we will be making your Disney on Ice Tickets available for pick-up at the AGM. Any tickets ordered but not picked up on March 1st will be mailed the next day.

Your Current Board of Directors:

Sandra Allen (President); Jim Allen (Vice President); Peggy Charron (Treasurer);
Bea Tiessen (Fundraising); Bertha Bertrand (Family Related); Jennifer Kelly (Secretary);
Claire O'Halloran (Hospital Liaison)