

Inside...

Volunteers Making a Difference - Highlighting two outstanding volunteers at KidsAbility. Page 2

Kids Can't Wait Radiothon - Celebrates its 5th anniversary of uniting a community to make a difference! Page 2

Leaving His Mark - One man's journey with KidsAbility. Page 3

Update - A bright future for a former KidsAbility ambassador. Page 4

Upcoming Events Page 4

Contact Us:

KidsAbility Foundation
500 Hallmark Drive
Waterloo, ON N2K 3P5
P: 519-886-8886
Toll Free: 1-888-372-2259

Imagine
Canada Ethical Code



KidsAbility™

Foundation

2010 Newsletter No. 1

Donor Profile

Making a Difference

Mike & Sue Furey appreciate first-hand how important KidsAbility is for families. As owners of Adventure Guide and parents of Jonathan, a KidsAbility client, The Furey's are making a difference for families like theirs through proceeds raised from Adventure Guide's raffle.

When their son Jonathan was 13-months-old, KidsAbility became a part of their lives providing weekly occupational, physio and speech therapy, preschool programs, social work, augmentative communication and therapeutic recreation.

"There aren't many services at KidsAbility that we haven't used. And having all these available under one roof, provided by one organization that you trust, is so valuable. As a teen, Jonathan has participated in many programs as well. KidsAbility also provided a means for us to meet other parents of children with challenges, with whom we still share a strong bond and always will. Coping is so much easier when you know you're not alone. Thanks to the caring support and enthusiasm of everyone at KidsAbility, we always felt at home."

For more information on Adventure Guide's raffle, visit www.advguide.com.



Adventure Guide



(left to right) Greg Hallman, Foundation Volunteer draws last year's grand prize winner with the help of Jonathan Furey.



SUNDAY MAY 30TH

DICKSON ARENA

fun, food, prizes & more!

www.rotaryfunrun.ca

Proceeds supporting KidsAbility and other Rotary charities

Small Beginnings

Noahn was born at 23 weeks, barely the size of a pound of butter. For the first five months of his life, Noahn battled many infections, surgery and a lot "ups and downs". His parents were told to prepare for the worst as he wasn't expected to survive to become the happy toddler he is now. During his weekly appointments at KidsAbility, Noahn benefits from physio, speech and occupational therapy and his parents benefit from the support they receive along their journey.

"Any penny invested in KidsAbility is truly worth it. We are so grateful to KidsAbility for their care, support and professionalism." ~ The Hepfner Family



outstanding Volunteers making a difference!



(left to right) Lisa Talbot,
Executive Director of KidsAbility
Foundation and Elaine Ormston.

Elaine Ormston

Elaine's dedication to KidsAbility and the children and families that are served is simply immeasurable spanning over 14 years. She has served KidsAbility in many capacities from a board level to currently serving in the classroom as well as Chair of the Endowment Campaign. No job is too big, no job is too small!

At the President's Reception, Elaine was honoured with KidsAbility's most prestigious award, *The Outstanding Supporter Butterfly Award*. As a symbol of gratitude and a permanent tribute to her countless hours of service and passion towards making our community a brighter place for children with disabilities, the annual award has been renamed *The Elaine Ormston Outstanding Supporter Award*.



Joan Pagan

When Joan retired as a teacher from KidsAbility School in 2001, she gave much thought to what volunteer opportunities she might be interested in. One that stood out in her mind was as a volunteer driver for the families of KidsAbility.

"There are families that do not have access to transportation, require long bus trips with their children or have family emergencies. I knew the families would benefit greatly from receiving a ride to and from their assessments and therapy sessions. I signed on and have been hooked ever since," says Joan.

Joan drives three to four times a week, driving families to and from their appointments. Volunteer driving can be as often or as little as time permits during the week and makes a big difference for families. To become a volunteer driver, please contact Annie Crump, Coordinator, Volunteer & Resource Services at acrump@kidsability.ca or 519-886-8886 ext. 272.





5th Annual Kids Can't Wait Radiothon

Friday, April 16, 2010
LIVE FROM CONESTOGA MALL



96.7 chym fm
Today's Hit Rock

KIX-106.7 FM
Today's Best Country

570News
ALL NEWS RADIO

ROGERS TV 

**Make a difference
in the life of a child!**

You can get involved by:

- tuning in
- hosting a fundraiser
- making a donation
- volunteering
- visting us at the event!

Butterfly Sponsor



For more info please contact:
Dayna Giorgio
519.886.8886 ext. 309 or
dgiorgio@kidsability.ca

Thank you.

Kids Can't Wait for their turn to shine!

www.kidsability.ca



4th Annual KidsAbility 1 KM Fun Run/Walk

Sunday, June 6 from 10am to 12pm
West End Community Centre, Guelph

Please join us in making a difference in this fun-filled family morning. Prizes, activities and a free BBQ will be provided along with the chance to test drive adapted bikes. Last year over \$24,000 was raised which helped provide therapy for children with physical and developmental disabilities in Guelph and Wellington County.

This is a wheelchair and
family friendly event!

For more information
or to register, contact:
Caroline Davidson at
cdauidson@kidsability.ca
or 519-780-0186 ext. 238.



Leaving My Mark




By: Jason Koehler *KidsAbility Alumnus Making a Difference!*



I feel as though I'm not someone who beat the odds, but rather someone who couldn't wait to get out into this world and leave his mark on it.

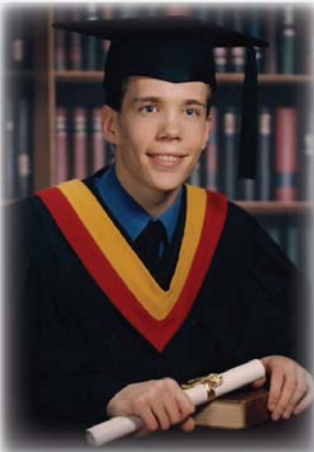
I was diagnosed as having Cerebral Palsy with spastic quadriplegia. This simply meant one thing – I was going to be different. The doctors knew it, my parents knew it, and as

 Born at only 27 weeks on December 7, 1982, Jason weighed a mere 2 1/2 lbs.

soon as I became old enough to comprehend this, I knew it too. My parents Kevin and Teresa never asked for any of this. But they took it, in stride, many days not knowing what to do or how to react, and when they needed answers, KidsAbility was there.

KidsAbility is an organization that quickly grew to become very near and dear to my heart. Having attended school there in my youth, many of the after hours clubs and activities from swimming to the teen club, and the invaluable support I received with various mobility and orthotic devices over the years, has allowed me to cope with my Cerebral Palsy in ways that would not otherwise be possible. Ask any child or family, and they'll echo these sentiments about how it has changed *their* lives for the better. One look around KidsAbility today and you'll see all the proof you need.

But there's something much more than that. It's the intangibles, the things you don't see until they've already happened – the psychological and emotional changes that are felt by all the families involved with KidsAbility when they realize they are not alone and that everything is going to be okay.



And therein lies the secret. It's all about helping the kids, and their families to lead normal, everyday lives.


Being involved with KidsAbility changed my life, and that is a saying I don't use casually. It gave me confidence, motivation, leadership and social skills, forming the groundwork for who I am today.

This inspiration and encouragement, is the definitive moment that I can look back on and say with certainty allowed me to transition from someone who was unsure of himself, his abilities, his purpose in life -- questioning whether or not I would be able to become a productive member of society -- to the successful professional that I am today working as a Financial Planner. In good and bad markets, it beats selling pens!

The debt of gratitude, to my parents, and to all involved at KidsAbility, that I have for all the help I received no matter the scope, quite honestly can never be repaid. But, I'm certainly going to try.

I'll embark on that quest, through continuing to promote this message; personally shaking the hand of as many of you as possible to express *my* appreciation all the while choking back tears, for it's the least I can do.

And in these two little words I will leave *my* mark – **Thank you.**

 Today, Jason Koehler is a Financial Planner at TD Waterhouse, a member of the Rotary Club of Waterloo and currently volunteers his talents to making a difference for future generations of children at KidsAbility.



Upcoming Events

Friday April 16

Kids Can't Wait Radiothon - Live from Conestoga Mall with media partners 96.7 CHYM FM, KIX 106.7, 570 News and Rogers TV. (See page 2 for more details)

Sunday May 2

Mudpuppy Chase - Hosted by the Rotary Club of Kitchener-Grand River. To get involved or for more info contact the Mudpuppy Hotline at 519-744-1616 or www.mudpuppychase.com.

Wednesday May 5

McHappy Day - A portion of the proceeds from Cambridge and Guelph area McDonald's will be donated to KidsAbility. 

Thursday May 13

Rotary Club of Waterloo Golf "Fore" KidsAbility Classic in Memory of Bob Warren at Rebel Creek Golf Course. For more info, contact Garth Cressman at ggressman@collaborativestructures.com or 519-650-0275.

Sunday May 30

Cambridge Times Run - To register visit www.rotaryfunrun.ca.

Sunday June 6

KidsAbility 1KM Fun Run/Walk - Open to everyone! (See page 2 for more details)

**We apologize for any events omitted in error.*

I have left a legacy gift to KidsAbility
 Please contact me to arrange for a personal tour of KidsAbility
 I wish to make a gift to KidsAbility

Name: _____
Street: _____
City: _____ Postal Code: _____
Email: _____
Phone: () _____


If applicable:
Amount: \$ _____ I wish to give anonymously and not be named in any Foundation materials.

Cheque/Cash Visa Master Card American Express

Card #: _____ Expiry: ____/____/____

Signature: _____

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations over \$10.
Gifts of \$1,000 or more will be listed in the annual report.





Potential Realized Josh Nelson

As a former KidsAbility Cambridge Ambassador, Josh quickly became well-known and much loved as a light-hearted young man with an eager smile and fierce drive to gain back his independence.

When Josh was nine-years-old, he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. McMaster removed the tumour, saving his life, but left Josh unable to perform tasks that had once been a normal part of everyday life; such as walking, talking or simply sitting up. Today, Josh is 15, and has accomplished all of this and so much more. Your support makes it possible for KidsAbility to empower thousands of kids, like Josh, to realize their full potential and to become as independent as possible. Josh's parents shared their good news about Josh's progress and we hope you find it as inspiring as we did!

December 2009

Dear KidsAbility,

After 6 years, including 9 hours of surgery, a stroke, posterior fossa syndrom, 31 radiation treatments, 52 rounds of chemo, 13 MRI's, countless blood tests, transfusions, and endless speech, occupational and physio therapy, we are thrilled, delighted and relieved to report that Josh is now considered cured and cancer free! Those are the sweetest words to be able to say now!

Josh had his final MRI in his post-chemo protocol yesterday and only minutes ago we received this amazing news from our wonderful friend and nurse at McMaster.

This IS the best Christmas present we could ever ask for!

Thank you to all for your continued support over the past six years. It's been a long journey for Josh and the rest of the family and we feel privileged to know that each and every one of you has been there for us during this journey.

We only see great things in Josh's future and we hope to continue reporting only good things from here on in.

Rina and Drew Nelson

KidsAbility Foundation respects your privacy. We do not rent, sell or trade our mailing lists. Periodically we may share information about KidsAbility and KidsAbility Foundation by mail and email. This may include our annual report, event invitations, newsletters and updates concerning KidsAbility and its needs. If at any time you wish to be removed from our list or require information about our privacy procedures, simply contact us by phone at 519-886-8886 ext. 201.