



meet our ambassadors!



www.kidsability.ca

2008 Newsletter No. 2

Story Highlight:

KidsAbility Paralympian Shines in Beijing



KidsAbility client Leah Robinson surprised even herself when she raced onto Canada's 26-member 2008 Paralympic Team.

Leah had set a goal of competing in three Olympic games, starting in London, England in 2012. Secretly, however, Beijing was on her mind and her dreams became reality when the 14 year old sprinter made history by being the youngest person ever to represent Canada at the Paralympics.

This rising start holds three national records in the 400, 800 and 1,500m and recently set a personal best during the Paralympics.

Leah has Cerebral Palsy and has been receiving physiotherapy at KidsAbility for several years, making countless friends along the way.

"Seeing the fact that we can all overcome a disability is phenomenal. It just lets people like me do stuff that people don't always think is possible," says Leah.

Leah displays her three national championship gold medals that she earned just prior to Beijing.

"It is a phenomenal honour to be 14 and representing Canada. I know it doesn't happen often. I'm going to do my best to make Canada proud."

Congratulations Leah!

YOU make a difference!

A special thank you to everyone who took part in the Downtown Mudpuppy Chase in Kitchener, The Cambridge Times Rotary Classic in Cambridge and the KidsAbility 1KM Fun Run/Walk held in Guelph. Your participation as a runner, a sponsor, a volunteer or as an organizer makes a difference for our children. You have helped them to leap towards their future. Thank you.

"I honestly believe Hayden would not be where he is today if it was not for KidsAbility. They have taught us so much about his disability and gave us the encouragement when needed."

There are no words to describe my feelings for this place and my gratitude towards everyone here." - Vicki, mother of Hayden, KidsAbility Client in Guelph.

Thank You



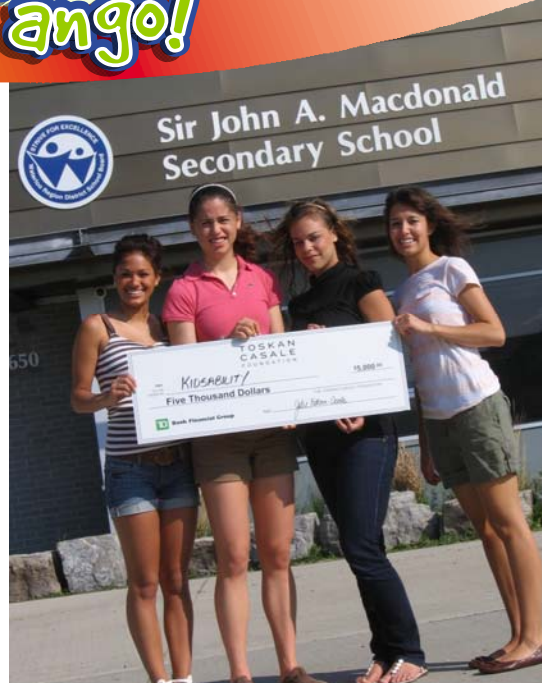
If Takes A Toonie To Tango!

Four students are giving a voice to children at KidsAbility. As part of a Leadership class at Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School, students ventured into the philanthropic world, all vying for a coveted \$5,000 donation for their charity from the Toskan Casale Foundation.

"Aside from the obvious impact that KidsAbility has on not only the child in need but the family of that child, we were astounded at KidsAbility's attention to detail," remarks Sarah as to why they chose KidsAbility.

"We saw that it is through this attention to detail that KidsAbility is able to provide hope to children and families in need."

With the strong desire to donate the *Tango*, a new and innovative communication device, they ran a fundraiser within their school to raise the remainder. *"It Takes a Toonie To Tango"* was created, and through the passion and dedication displayed by this group of young women, they are helping our children to leap towards their futures!



L-R Emily Copp, Sarah McCuaig, Marissa Bradshaw and Marissa Wener

Kids Can't Wait to leap towards their future!



Kitchener-Waterloo Ambassador

Philip is an active two year old who has Cerebral Palsy, a condition that affects the communication between the brain and the muscles. The therapies that he receives at KidsAbility helps him to develop and enhance his motor skills.

Cambridge Ambassador

Ammaarah was born with Arthrogyrosis Multiplex Congenita, which translated literally means 'curved or hooked joints' that prevents her muscles from forming properly. Thanks to the occupational and physical therapy that she receives, this 10 year old won't let anyone stop her or stand in the way of leaping towards her very bright future.



Guelph/Wellington Ambassador

Claire is a spunky two year old with Mosaic Trisomy 22 a rare disease causing cells to have extra chromosomes that result in heart defects, hearing impairments, a small stature and the risk for delay as well as many unknowns. KidsAbility has helped Claire since she was eight months old. With her hard work and the dedication of her therapists, Claire has learned to sit, walk, jump, eat on her own, and colour.

Watch for their full inspiring stories in November!

My Legacy to KidsAbility

A number of months ago, I took an emotional tour through the KidsAbility facility. It wasn't the building that necessarily struck me, it wasn't even the children in their classrooms, busily, but happily undergoing therapy, it was the reality that all the dreams and planning of the men and women I had personally known had actually come to fruition.

Realistically, there are many worthy causes vying for our monetary commitment, but there are very few causes that touch a person's heart more than those that are centered around a child's needs. Selfishly, I feel an immense sense of pride in this place, not only for the extraordinary work that is being done, but for the memories it evokes of my father, Jack Weber and those he worked with so diligently. Their vision is a living, evolving entity, a legacy to their community, the culmination of their foresight and planning.

We spend most of our lives planning for our education, our careers, family, marriage, and children, ad infinitum, it only makes sense to me that we plan for a time when we can no longer speak for ourselves. Planned giving is my voice, my wishes and my legacy to the children and grandchildren that I leave behind.

Wendy Buder



Leave a Legacy

For over 50 years, KidsAbility has helped children to leap towards their future and reach their full potential.

"KidsAbility has an unacceptable waiting list—hundreds and hundreds of children. If we are to provide treatment, we need to develop a secure base of on-going funding. Our endowment fund with its \$10 million target is the answer," says Elaine Ormston, Endowment Campaign Chair. Thanks to the generosity of many donors, to-date the endowment campaign has raised over \$4 million dollars.

By leaving a planned gift or by choosing to establish a named endowment fund, you will be helping to ensure that KidsAbility will be able to provide much needed services for the children that so desperately need our help. Kids can't wait to leap towards their future. Please consider a planned gift or leaving a living legacy through the endowment fund today. For more information, please contact: **Lisa Talbot at: 519.886.8886 ext. 201 or ltalbot@kidsability.ca.**