

**Contacts:**

Lisa Talbot  
Executive Director - KidsAbility Foundation  
ltalbot@kidsability.ca

Benjamin Gregory  
Golf Fore KidsAbility Chair – Rotary Waterloo  
bgregory@walterfedy.com

For Immediate Release

## Golf Fore KidsAbility Classic Reimagined

### Rotary Waterloo rallies community fundraiser: “It’s about the kids.”

Waterloo, ON, June 10, 2020 – Rotary Waterloo had been set to tee off celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the annual Golf Fore KidsAbility Classic golf tournament when organizers were forced to cancel the milestone event due to COVID-19 restrictions. Determined to rally the community to support the cause, they reimagined this signature event that over the years has raised over \$625,000 in support of KidsAbility.

“This tournament is really about the kids,” says Golf Fore KidsAbility Chair, Ben Gregory. “More than ever, we wanted to remain united in raising funds for the urgent therapy they need. By hosting a virtual fundraiser, anyone can make a donation by visiting our [Virtual Golf Fore KidsAbility Classic](#) fundraising page. It’s an opportunity to still partner with local sponsors and offer the community a chance to come together in these times to help fill the gap from cancelled events.”

The event raises awareness and funds for KidsAbility, a leader in helping children and youth with special needs in Waterloo Region and Guelph-Wellington and is halfway towards their goal this year of raising \$25,000.

“We are extremely grateful for the continued commitment of Rotary Waterloo and each of our sponsors to raise funds for KidsAbility,” says Lisa Talbot, Executive Director of KidsAbility Foundation. These funds will greatly impact the children and youth we serve and empower them to reach their potential.”

Unwavering support from faithful sponsors throughout the two decades of the event continues to make the event a significant fundraiser allowing KidsAbility to serve more children each year. This year, Premier Sponsor Allan Bush Investment Team of CIBC Wood Gundy is joined by other sponsors alongside WalterFedy, The Mayled Family, Kuntz Electroplating, Rae Lipskie Partnership, Arca Financial Group Inc., Roberts Onsite, CI Investments and The C3 Group.

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“My team and I believe deeply that by investing in a child’s future we help to build a stronger community together,” shares Allan Bush of the Allan Bush Investment Team of CIBC Wood Gundy and Premier Sponsor. “We encourage other businesses, where able, to join us. The need to empower kids with special needs has never been greater.”

The funds raised through the tournament will help KidsAbility to provide therapy and support services to over 11,000 children and youth with special needs in the community each year. In March, KidsAbility began offering virtual therapy as they pivoted during unprecedented times to continue to be there when families need them the most.

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## Background Information

Across our community, 11,279 children and youth with special needs receive the help that they need to realize goals important to them. It could be overcoming a stutter, strengthening muscles to take that first step or learning the social skills to make a friend—together, we make these firsts possible. With over 60 years of experience, KidsAbility helps children and youth with special needs and their families to achieve goals important to them at home, at school and in the community. Our goal is to get the right support to the right child at the right time and donations help to make that possible.

KidsAbility Foundation inspires and engages community partners, individuals and groups to help make a difference in children’s lives. Demand for KidsAbility’s services continues to exceed the resources provided by the provincial government. Donations raised through our generous community fund new programs, innovation and equipment allow KidsAbility to serve an additional 1,000 children and youth with special needs each year. Without this generous support, more children would be waiting even longer to receive the care that they deserve and so desperately need. Presently, there are 1,312 children waiting for services at KidsAbility.

With your help, we can help more children to live richer and fuller lives. Together, we can ensure that every child and youth has access to the services that they need where they live, learn and play to realize their full potential.



# Media Release

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## About Rotary Waterloo

In 1922 Rotary International chartered the Rotary Club of Kitchener-Waterloo. In early 1963, some local Rotarians and a group of Waterloo business people pursued the idea of forming a new club and on June 7, 1963 the Rotary Club of Waterloo was chartered.

The Waterloo Club co-operated with the renamed Rotary Club of Kitchener both in fundraising and in its charitable activities. The principal project for both Clubs was and continues to be the KidsAbility Centre for Child Development, which was founded by Rotarians and previously known as the Rotary Centre or the Rotary Children's Centre. The club meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Through the last half century, there have been many charitable projects. We follow the Rotary motto of Service Above Self and the list of our service is long. Our members represent a cross section of our city's population and we look forward to the next half century of service to the Waterloo community.

