



# Media Release

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## For Immediate Release

Expanding in Cambridge: KidsAbility grows to meet the needs of children, youth and families and celebrates 60 Years of Potential Realized.

Cambridge, ON, June 23, 2017 – Over 60,000 children and youth with special needs have benefited from life-changing therapy and support services at KidsAbility since 1957. As the organization celebrates six decades of service to the community, plans are underway to meet the needs of future generations of children and youth with special needs and their families in Cambridge.

“As we celebrate our rich history, we also are looking to the next 60 years as we grow to meet the changing and evolving needs of our children, youth and families in Cambridge,” says Linda Kenny, Chief Executive Officer of KidsAbility. “KidsAbility has successful centralized hub locations in both Kitchener and Waterloo, allowing us to serve children and youth close to home. We are excited to announce a new hub in Cambridge — the next chapter for this growing community. KidsAbility is very fortunate to be able to build and expand upon our current facilities at 887 Langs Drive, assuming the entire ground floor of this facility that our Cambridge autism services team has called home since 2014,” says Ms. Kenny.

Construction has begun to renovate the additional 17,000-square-foot space attached to their existing 4,000 square feet of space on Langs Drive. A move-in date of September 1, 2017 is expected – just in time for the new school year this fall. To make this project a reality, KidsAbility Foundation will be turning to a community that has generously supported the organization’s valuable work in the past.

“This is an exciting time for KidsAbility, the Cambridge community, and local children and youth with special needs,” says Lisa Talbot, Executive Director of KidsAbility Foundation. “The creation of a centralized hub in the city will have a huge impact, ensuring that clients can receive multiple services at one inclusive and fully accessible site. To make this project possible, KidsAbility Foundation will be turning to our community and our loyal donors, local corporations and families in the region to support this effort.”

This notable increase in size will allow KidsAbility to introduce a wider range of programs to serve both preschoolers and older youth bringing together the organization’s general and autism programs as well as KidsAbility School’s two classrooms in Cambridge. Last year, KidsAbility served over 1,600 children and youth from two sites in Cambridge. With an emphasis on client and

family-centred care, KidsAbility’s new Cambridge Hub will provide accessible, seamless and integrated care by bringing services as close as possible to Cambridge families. The new Cambridge Hub will enhance services and supports for the community that will include a new Youth Centre, gym, 17 therapy rooms in addition to our current autism space, community collaborative spaces, a full-sized Resource Centre and an accessible playground (available to anyone in the community) and more.

Since 1972, KidsAbility has been providing services in Cambridge. In 1996, they expanded to meet the needs of this community moving into the newly constructed Cambridge Family YMCA on Hespeler Road. This was the first and only partnership of its kind in Canada. For over 20 years, KidsAbility enjoyed a strong and mutually beneficial partnership with the Cambridge YMCA which provided enhanced facilities for KidsAbility’s children, families, volunteers and staff. However, the needs of this community have continued to outgrow the space available. KidsAbility began to explore options that would help them to cultivate the potential for Cambridge.

“The new Cambridge Hub will allow KidsAbility to effectively respond to the emerging needs of our staff, clients and families today and tomorrow. We look forward to further cultivating potential in Cambridge,” says Ms. Kenny.

If supporters would like to make a gift to KidsAbility’s Cambridge Hub, they can do so by visiting the organization’s secure website at [kidsability.ca/support](https://kidsability.ca/support) or calling KidsAbility Foundation at 519-886-8886 ext. 1293. Every donation in support of children and youth with special needs in Cambridge is appreciated!

## Background Information

Founded and supported by Rotarians since 1957, KidsAbility™ Centre for Child Development is the recognized leader in Waterloo Region and Guelph-Wellington for empowering children and youth with a wide range of complex special needs.

KidsAbility's passionate and talented team of staff and volunteers provided therapy and support services to 6,963 children and youth with special needs last year. Providing services that are accessible, seamless, and focused on client and family-centred care remain core priorities for KidsAbility. In order to be as close as possible to where children and youth with special needs and their families live, learn, work and play, KidsAbility offers a wide range of services at multiple sites in Cambridge, Fergus, Guelph, Kitchener, Mount Forest and Waterloo.

KidsAbility serves children and youth from birth to school exit with special needs ranging from communication, physical, general and developmental delays, to more complex diagnoses such as autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and other rare medical syndromes. KidsAbility provides therapy and support to many children who do not yet have a diagnosis.

Although funded primarily through the Ontario Ministry of Children & Youth Services, KidsAbility Foundation inspires and engages community partners, individuals and groups to help make a difference in children's lives through donations. Donations raised annually allow KidsAbility to serve as many children as possible through innovative programs, talented therapists and advanced technology.

Through the generous support of donors, KidsAbility empowers thousands of children and youth with special needs to realize their full potential every year. There are 942 children who are waiting for services at KidsAbility. With continued support from our community, more children will be able to access the services they need to live the best lives possible and realize their full potential.