



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2012

Issue #59

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Charitable Registration #
10691/3775/RR/0001

URGENT – PLEASE HELP!

VOLUNTEERS FOR H.O.P.E.

Saturday, July 14, 2012

Children at Risk MUST have
60 Volunteers!

Confirmation needed by June 11

See details on Page 5

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- HOPE Volunteers Confirmation
June 11, 2012
- Children at Risk Annual Raffle
May/June 2012
- Autism Community
Annual Family Picnic
Sunday, June 10, 2012
(See Page 15)
- HOPE Volleyball SummerFest
July 14, 2012



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CHILDREN AT RISK, OTTAWA

Wednesday, June 27, 2012, 235 Donald Street, Room 212 – 7 p.m.

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of Children at Risk. This evening will also be an opportunity for all friends and families of Children at Risk to meet informally and to discuss issues around supporting children and families within the Autism Spectrum Disorders. Wine and cheese will be served!

****Special Guest Speakers****

Debbie Lacroix, Hazel Smith & Lisa Gregory will be presenting on Children at Risk's All-Day Summer Camp, **Camp Kaleidoscope**. Started in 2011 with 4 weeks of camp and 80 spots, we have expanded for 2012 to 5 weeks and up to 125 spots, made possible through generous funding of our Donors – **The King's Daughters and Sons Ottawa City Union, Unity for Autism Foundation, Community Foundation of Ottawa and the Ottawa Catholic School Board**. Come and hear about this exciting initiative to support children diagnosed within the Autism Spectrum Disorders, offering them the opportunity to attend a summer camp where they are safe, supported, understood, accepted and even celebrated for their differences!

The following business will be conducted:

1. Minutes of 2011 AGM
2. President's Report
3. Treasurer's Report & Appointment of Auditors
4. Fundraising Report
5. Election of new Board

Standing for re-election to the Board are:

Paul Lacroix Lesia Gilbert Mark Lalonde Kelley Matheson

The following positions are vacant: Up to 2 Directors – if you are interested in getting involved with Children at Risk by becoming a Board Member or a Volunteer Executive, please contact our offices at 613-741-8255 or email car@childrenatrisk.ca before the Board Meeting to register your interest and present a small bio.

The Children at Risk Board follows the Carver Policy Governance Model, now meeting bi-monthly to review charity policies and happenings. We are especially looking for Board Members who can attend Board Meetings, but who also have the ability and desire to help with Fundraising Events and Activities – specifically charity representation at such Events. Throughout the year Children at Risk either stages Fundraisers or is invited as a recipient charity and it is important to for a Charity Representative to attend, be social and impart the cause of Autism and how Children at Risk provides supports for ASD children and their families!

Members who cannot attend may give a proxy to any other person, who need not be a member. Proxies must be in writing, signed by the member who will be absent, and mailed to or brought to the meeting by another member. Members who have given a proxy may still change their minds and attend, in which case the proxy is cancelled. Only those members who have paid their annual membership dues to Children at Risk, Ottawa, have the privilege of voting at the AGM. However, ALL are Welcome to the AGM, even if you are not a Member!

By Order of the Board, Paul Lacroix, President May 29, 2012

Our Mission Statement

To provide services and programs to families of children diagnosed within the Autism Spectrum Disorders to develop their child's behavioural, communication, and social skills, and to advocate for their ongoing needs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Paul Lacroix, President, Board of Directors

Greeting to all! A great summer is ahead for Children at Risk. Camp Kaleidoscope will be starting in July and running for 5 weeks. Once again, this Camp will provide a much needed environment for our very special children. The Camp Team is hard at work preparing all of the activities, outings and special events to make this Camp once again a great success.

The H.O.P.E Volleyball SummerFest is also in July. It is one of Ottawa's premier summer events, drawing thousands of people to Mooney's Bay for a day of games, fun and partying. Children at Risk is so very fortunate to once again be a Charity of choice to receive funds from this event. Contact the CAR office to volunteer for this great one day event.

The Annual General Meeting is set for June 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the CAR offices on Donald. This year's speakers will be the Lead Team for our Camp Kaleidoscope. The team will be discussing in details what the Camp has to offer.

On a Board note, your Board has completed the restructuring and re-wording of the policies and procedures using the John Carver Guidelines of Board Governance for Charities. A copy will be available upon request at the AGM.

Also at the AGM your Board of Directors will be elected for the next term. We would be delighted to welcome a couple of fresh, new faces to represent your charity on the Board and at Children at Risk events and activities. Please consider joining!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Autism Community Annual Family Picnic on June 10th, at the AGM and at the H.O.P.E. volleyball.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Submitted by Brenda Reisch

"Teach The Children" is a song by Crosby Stills Nash & Young and this phrase comes to my mind many times these days as I look over the initiatives siblings, students and youth have done to raise funds for Children at Risk. In this newsletter alone, we see Bake Sales, Pins Sales, Bracelet Sales & Movie Day fundraisers, along with school-led donations from Civics classes and the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) through the Toskan-Casale Foundation!

Parents raising children with Autism know the efforts charities like Children at Risk must make to earn funds for supports, so they often get involved in Fundraising activities and events to not only assist the charity, but to "give-back" and invest "sweat-equity" in the charity. It appears that the brothers and sisters of ASD children are being "taught well" the lessons on philanthropy and support by their parents!! Siblings and friends are helping to decorate at "Rockin' for Risk", sell 50/50 tickets at Sens games, as well as hopefully volunteering at H.O.P.E. Volleyball SummerFest for Children at Risk! In return, in a small part, Children at Risk is able to offer these Volunteer opportunities so students can earn their 40 hours required for high-school graduation.

So while I at times despair that we do not have enough Volunteers for an event or activity, I am comforted by the knowledge that parents of ASD children seem to be "Teaching Their Children" well the benefits of volunteering – for both them and the charity! Please accept our Thanks and Appreciation – and enjoy your Spring & Summer!

GOODBYE & THANKS!

Children at Risk wants to thank Robert Jaffray for his contributions as a Board Member over the past few years. Robert will still continue to volunteer for CAR, but his work and family commitments do not allow him to continue on the Board of Directors. Robert, you will be truly missed. We all wish you great fortunes in your future endeavors!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont`d)

GOODBYE & HELLO!

Another long-standing Member of the Board of Directors, Hazel Smith, is also stepping down. However, Hazel is only leaving one position to assume another – that of Camp Coordinator for Children at Risk's Summer Day Camp, Camp Kaleidoscope! Hazel will continue to meet with the Board in a non-voting capacity to report on Camp. We also expect Hazel to take a lead role in our Saturday Respite Groups once they get under-way in the Fall. While we are sad to lose Hazel as a Board Member, as she had made many valuable contributions in that role, we are excited to have her take on an administrative role with our Camp, where her skills, knowledge and expertise will shine!

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Submitted by Brenda Reisch, Fundraising Chairperson

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES SINCE MARCH 2012 ...

11th ANNUAL "ROCKIN' FOR RISK" RETRO ROCK DANCE PARTY



Once again, Children at Risk rocked-out with our 11th Annual "Rockin' for Risk" Retro-Rock Dance Party on Saturday, March 31, 2012! We were very excited to be presenting this 2nd decade of rocking Ottawa with an update to our music and image – still some oldies music – with 50s/60s and Ottawa's "Elvis" **Shawn Barry**, but more 70s, 80s and even 90s+ tunes. We also welcomed "**Eric the Intern**" from **CHEZ 106.1 FM** as our Master of Ceremonies, helping us to "Rock On" all evening!! Special Guest **Thomas Clair** wowed everyone with his Aboriginal Dance and elaborate ceremonial costume! Heather from "**A Little Bit of Bling**" amazed our patrons with her terrific "face art" and glitter tattoos, not to mention the hundreds of donors who sponsored our Silent Auction and Raffle (see enclosed ad donated by **The Ottawa Sun** on Page 16). Over **\$3,000** was raised to fund our services and supports for Autistic children and their families!

OTTAWA SENATORS 50/50 TICKET SALES



For 3 years now, Children at Risk has had the phenomenal opportunity to sell 50/50 tickets at Ottawa Senators Hockey Games! Not only does this raise an outstanding amount of funds – it gives our charity "first in line" status for donations of tickets for games and event concerts!! For the 2011/2012 season, we earned over **\$10K**.

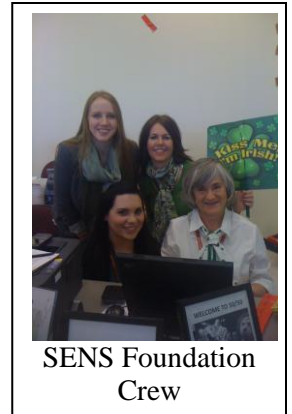
While it was not easy, with many games compacted in some months and the All-Star and some back-to-back games – these are valuable monies that Children at Risk would not be able to access elsewhere. We want to sincerely thank the many Volunteers who spent hundreds of hours flogging those red and yellow tickets in support of Children at Risk!!

STUDENT FUNDRAISER

Olivia de Sousa and Emma Bellefeuille wanted to have a fundraising activity for Children at Risk to raise awareness about Autism. The fundraiser was held at St Patrick Catholic School in Rockland. The fundraiser was selling puzzle piece pins. They sold them for a dollar a piece. The girls made well over 100 pins and they raised **\$128.24!!** The pin artists were Olivia Emma. Two other friends **Catherine Crete** and **Ethan Mandy** helped sell the pins with Olivia and Emma. The fundraiser was on World Autism awareness day. It was a wonderful opportunity to raise money for a good cause and to raise awareness for autism. Olivia's mother Mary said "Children at Risk offers so many wonderful opportunities to our family and many other families affected my autism. We are very happy to give back." And Children at Risk is delighted to receive this donation!!

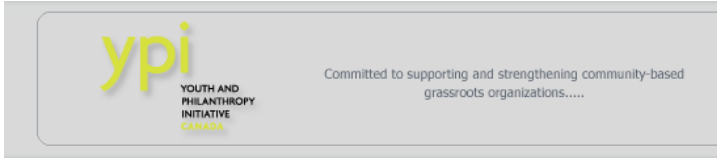


Halloween Fun



SENS Foundation Crew

\$5,000 – WE WON! - YOUTH PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE



In 2001, **Julie Toskan-Casale**, a Canadian business success story and philanthropreneur, created the **Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)**. The YPI is unique in its reach and its impact. Grade 9 & 10 students receive an education like no other and they play a direct role in making a financial grant (\$5,000) to a local, grassroots social service organization. YPI is incorporated into the curriculum of participating secondary schools and teaches students the fundamentals of philanthropy. Julie believes that as a citizen, if you recognize an inequity, you have the responsibility to address it! Since co-founding the **Toskan Casale Foundation** together with her husband, Victor Casale and brother Frank Toskan, Julie has dedicated her resources to making positive change for individuals in communities across Canada and internationally.



For several years, Children at Risk has been profiled in many local high schools, taking the time and effort to meet with students and provide them information on the charity and our cause. However, it

was only recently that one of the student teams led our charity to the Finals and then as Winners amongst the other teams & charities being presented. We are thrilled to announce that **Emily and Jessica of Cairne Wilson Secondary School** were awarded **\$5,000** for Children at Risk!

For their efforts – and the efforts of all the student teams before them – we award the June 2012 Newsletter “Hat’s Off” award!



DRESS DOWN FRIDAYS

Christine Martell is one of Children at Risk’s Group Facilitators (and currently conducting our Camp Intake!). But in her “other life” she is an Educational Assistant for the Ottawa Catholic School Board – and CAR is very lucky that her school offers an initiative of staff paying to dress down on Fridays – with their names being drawn to donate to their favourite charity! Chris was thrilled to recently be drawn and we are thrilled to receive \$150 for her efforts!!

BAKE SALE



On Saturday May 12, 2012, **Khadija Siddiqi** encouraged her children to raise funds for both Children at Risk and Autism Ontario through a bake sale at their neighbourhood garage sale day! They did all the baking, made the signs and sold the goodies – raising **\$41** for each charity. Many thanks to the Siddiqi family for this wonderful initiative to raise funds and awareness!

17th ANNUAL SPRING RAFFLE

Tickets are NOW available for our 17th Annual Fundraising Raffle! After many weeks of gathering quality prizes, we can proudly offer them for sale. The prizes are fabulous! Although we did not sell out of our 6,500 tickets last year we know it was more of a challenge with the postal lock-out, so



we printed the same amount this year! I hope everyone can join me in trying to make this year a sell-out!! Unsold tickets represent lost Fundraising \$'s for Children at Risk. Funds raised will support our Community-Based Special Projects. These include Sibling, Friendship and Family Support Groups, Summer Camp, Educational Training Workshops and Information Seminars as well as updating resource materials. These valuable activities receive no government funding and are supported solely through Fundraising efforts and Donations.

*Note: Tickets can only be sold to persons 18 years and older!

FUNDRAISING UPDATE (Cont'd)

17th ANNUAL SPRING RAFFLE (Cont'd)

The Raffle will be drawn at 2 PM our Autism Community Annual Family Picnic – Sun., June 10, 2012.

Our Raffle offers:

- Tickets \$2 each, 3 for \$5 or a book of 12 for \$20!
- Prizes worth a total of \$9,975!
- 38 draws, with an average Prize Value of almost \$263 (1st 13 prizes over \$300 each!)
- Maximum 6,500 tickets sold - That's just over a 1 in 171 chance of winning!
- Minimum Prize Value of \$50!

LOOK AT OUR 1ST THREE PRIZES:

1. Weekend's Stay for Two at Country Inn & Suites Hotel, Gift Basket from Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, Certificates for Richmond Beauty Salon, Molly Maid, Pflug Optical, Fratelli Restaurants, Capone's Ristorante, The Works Burger Bistro and Il Paradiso Spa! VALUE: \$1,104
2. Campbell Ford Automotive Detailing Package, Brewer's Select Certificate, Rink Pro Gift Card & Skate Sharpening, Duffle Bag full of Goodies and Ties/Wallet/Belt Package! VALUE: \$673
3. "Toronto Fun" AVIS 4-Day Rental, 2 Passes for Science Centre, 4 Passes for CN Tower, 4 Passes for Casa Loma, 4 Passes for Hockey Hall of Fame, 4 Passes Art Gallery Ontario, & Swiss Chalet Coupons. VALUE: \$555

2012 HOPE VOLLEYBALL SUMMERFEST VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT!



Greetings! For 30 years, HOPE Volleyball SummerFest has been supporting local charities with the proceeds from its volleyball tournament held each July at Mooney's Bay Beach. This year, Children at Risk is one of HOPE's seven recipient charities and we are thrilled to be receiving funding for our initiatives. Should all go well with the event AND provided we can confirm 60 Volunteers, Children at Risk will receive **\$25,000** for our 2013 Summer Day Camp, Camp Kaleidoscope!

2012 HOPE VOLLEYBALL SUMMERFEST (Cont'd)

Your time and assistance are so very much needed on Saturday, July 14th 2012!

Please select one or more of the shifts below and email your choices to car@childrenatrisk.ca your name, email and phone number (cell and home) by Friday, June 8. You are encouraged to forward this to any friends or family who would like to be part of this fun day at the beach while supporting our cause.

Volunteer Role 1: Parking Lot Monitors – Need 30 Volunteers

Shift 13:00-17:00 (1 PM – 5 PM)

Volunteers will be admitting and monitoring cars at 4 off-site (Canada Post, Carleton University – 2 lots & Hog's Back Marina (paid)) and 1 on-site Parking Lot – Mooney's Bay Entrance.

- A t-shirt and a boxed lunch will be delivered to volunteers at each parking lot.
- Parking volunteers may want to bring a folding chair for comfort
- **Please note: Parking Volunteers will receive their parking lot assignment closer to the event. On event day, parking volunteers should plan to go directly to their assigned spot at the beginning of their shift – not the Volunteer Tent.**

Volunteer Role 2: Site Tear Down – Need 30 Volunteers

Shift 17:00-22:00 (5 PM – 10 PM)

Volunteers will be taking down signage, moving materials and supplies, and assisting with any site clean-up required. Volunteers work in pairs or groups and will be provided with gloves and a tool to retrieve garbage from the ground (to avoid bending). Excessive lifting/strength is not expected.

For volunteers in Site Tear Down: closed toed shoes are recommended for safety reasons.

- On event day Site Tear Down volunteers should report to the Volunteer Tent 30 minutes prior to your shift to receive your t-shirt and lunch ticket, and to be escorted to your area.
- Dinner (pizza) will be provided for Shift 2 (Site Tear Down) volunteers

2012 HOPE VOLLEYBALL SUMMERFEST
(Cont'd)

A few details about volunteering at HOPE:

- **Volunteers are required to attend an Orientation session on Tuesday, June 19th at the RA Centre (2451 Riverside Drive).** There will be 2 sessions at 6:30pm or 7:30pm. Please choose the session that is most convenient for you.
- The minimum age is 16 years old. 15 year olds will be accepted if they are working on the same shift as a parent.
- A parking pass for the Canada Post parking lot will be emailed to you closer to event day. There will also be a staffed bicycle compound on site. If you park at Canada Post, plan on a 10-15 minute walk to get to the site.
- Please dress appropriately for the weather as you will be outside for the duration of your shift

Should you have any further questions, please contact us. For event updates and information, join us on facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/HOPEVolleyballOttawa>

Thanks again for your help in making this year's event a success. See you on the beach!

DONOR'S CORNER

In Memory of Ann Berg	\$20
In Memory of Gordon Perry	\$50
In Memory of Matt Keefe	\$100
In Memory of Charley Jessop	\$200
Club Variety Show	\$300
United Way/Centraide Ottawa Donors	\$1,377
Community Foundation of Ottawa	\$10,000

CIVICS PROJECT



Grade 10 Woodroffe High School Students Emma King, Alex Legault, Chloe Legault and Danielle Eberley chose Children at Risk to raise funds for in their Civics Class. They designed handmade friendship bracelets with the Children at Risk colours and sold them at our "Rockin' for Risk" Dance and other venues to raise funds for the charity. We recently received a cheque for \$65 for their efforts!!

TICKET DONATION PROGRAM

For a while now, Children at Risk has been gaining the reputation of "Ticket Central" as our Families and Supporters have been showered with donations of tickets – since March alone we have had tickets for:

- Ottawa 67's Playoffs Tickets (both seats and the Suite from George & Son's Upholstery)
- 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship Exhibition Game Tickets
- Ottawa Senators Hockey Tickets
- Harlem Globetrotter's Suite Tickets
- "Larry the Cable Guy" Tickets
- Club Variety Musical Show Tickets
- Johnny Reid Concert Suite Tickets
- Il Divo Concert Tickets
- Monster Truck Suite Tickets

We know how much joy, entertainment and social opportunities these donations bring for not only our families, but others who have volunteered or donated to Children at Risk! The Acknowledgements below say it all: Families get to attend Concerts and Hockey Games that most often would be financially out of their reach. Parents have opportunities for "date nights". Grandparents can be given a gift to acknowledge the role they play in family support.

Please join me in thanking all the donors who sponsor these special gifts!

THANK YOU'S



"I just wanted to say thank you for all the 67's game tickets. The game was action packed and my family and friends truly enjoyed being there to cheer our team on. It was awesome. Thanks again!" Tanya

"Thank you very much for the opportunity to take my 7 year old son and his friend to a 67s game. It was a great game and the boys had a really good time cheering on the 67s. It was even better that they won that night!" John



"Thanks very much for an entertaining evening at Larry the Cable Guy!" Stephen et al..

"The Larry show was fantastic, thanks so much for giving us the tickets." Stephanie & Wes

"Thank you so much for the tickets to see Larry the Cable Guy & Bill Engvall. Everyone can use a good laugh at life and these two guys just know how to get to the heart of any situation, to bring out the funny side of the story. We surely enjoyed ourselves and came out of the show in really great humour. What a night of entertainment. Thanks again to Children at Risk and to the donors of the tickets, it was truly appreciated." Doug & JP

"Thanks so much for the Larry the Cable Guy tickets! Jack went with his cousin and a friend and they all had a great time, and enjoyed all the comedians very much. We've been hearing 'Git 'er done' all week!!! Thanks again!" Lisa

"Thank you so much for the tickets to Larry the Cable Guy. Had a great adult night out!" Karen

THANK YOU'S (Cont`d)

"I just wanted to say thank you for the Larry the Cable Guy tickets, as well as the 67's suite tickets. My family had a great time at both events. We truly appreciate the opportunities that we are given by being members of the Children at Risk family. The tickets that are donated to the charity are always greatly appreciated and always provide us with much needed quality family time. In today's world, I find that quality family time is very limited; as well as the financial means to do family activities outside of the home. So, when I am able to "surprise" my 2 growing (now teenage) boys with some tickets to a teen friendly / awesome event, it makes me feel like a bit of a hero in their eyes. Thank you to the people who make these donations possible and thank you to everyone at CAR for their hard work and dedication. I wish I could do more to show my gratitude. When my boys are older and no longer want or need me around, and I'm sitting there twiddling my thumbs, saying "what now"; I'll be calling you and saying "I'm bored, what can I do to help". That will be my payback to an amazing and dedicated group of individuals, who have always been there for my family. Thank you!"

Patricia



NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS

"Hello Children at Risk! This is to thank the wonderful people who generously donated the symphony tickets at the National Arts Centre. I am an occasional teacher who works primarily with children with autism and developmental delays. The majority of the time I love my job, however some days can be quite difficult and even stressful. It is fantastic that these donations are available to someone like me- who does not have a child diagnosed with autism, but who works in the field. Since I am an occasional teacher, I do not work on a regular basis. It means more than you know to be able to have an enjoyable night out to relax without the financial burden of purchasing tickets for these events. Thank-you!" Lara



“I would like to thank you very much for the donation of 8 ticket to see the Canadian Vs American Women’s pre-tournament game at the Civic center. With the tickets, we were able to bring two families to the game, and provide an excellent chance for us to become better acquainted. Our friends also have a child who is autistic, and loves Hockey, so this was the perfect venue to interact. Everyone had a wonderful time, and we were very thankful to be able to attend this wonderful event. Thank you!” Wil and Friends



“Thanks so much for the Il Divo tickets. I did really enjoy it.” Larry

“I was so blessed last night to be able to attend the Il Divo Concert, along with my husband, older kids, Mother and sister. The show was great, with the sound of their voices loud and clear – not muffled or covered over by instruments. We thoroughly enjoyed it! Thank “U” kindly!!” Kim

“The show was fantastic, and 66% in Spanish!!! - no need of dictionary! We really enjoyed last night and a big thank you to the sponsors. Many in the group wanted to go but were not able to afford, so they made their dream come true for last night. Very excited girls with those 4 Divos! Thanks very much appreciated!!” Alejandro

“Thanks so much to Children at Risk for the Il Divo Concert Tickets! It was great to get out and enjoy the live music.” Irma

“I just wanted to say thank you for the wonderful opportunity to see the Il Divo show. It was really really good. Loved it!” Franca

“Thank you so much for the tickets! The show was fabulous. I was really impressed. Definitely the best show I have seen yet at the Scotia Place – rivaled shows I have seen on Broadway. The guys are as good live as on their CDs. This was a very generous donation to Children at Risk.” Jocelyne

“Thank you and Children at Risk very much for the tickets to the Il Divo concert at Scotiabank Place on Sunday night. The seats were terrific and the show even better!” Gord

“I just wanted to say a big THANK YOU for the Il Divo tickets. I went with my mother and we had a great time, the music and singing was beautiful. Thanks for allowing us to have such a wonderful evening :)” Chantal

“I wanted to take a brief moment to sincerely thank you for the generous donation of Il Divo tickets for this past Sunday’s concert. My Parents; who are getting on in years and in health, were able to come up to Ottawa to enjoy the show. Additionally, we brought along our son and daughter as a way to help foster their appreciation for all types of music. While I can’t say my son was overly thrilled to watch Opera (insert eye rolling here), my daughter seemed completely taken. The show certainly did not disappoint. It never ceases to amaze me just how powerful the human voice can truly be. What we were able to witness was 4 men; who are experts in their field, doing what they love to do. The crowd was enthralled, the performance was engrossing and the seats were wonderful. Again, a sincerely thank you to Children at Risk and the Senators Foundation for your generous donation!” Cale

Thanks so much – I brought my closest friends to join me at Il Divo concert and it was a joyful evening, we all love music, and especially the view, great seats. Cheers!” Claire

“Thank you so much for the opportunity to see this amazing group. It was a treat to take my mom and a couple of lovely friends for an evening of gorgeous vocals (and the singers definitely weren’t hard on the eyes!). We had a wonderful time and I’m sure we weren’t the only concert-goers singing show tunes in the car on the way home. It was a lovely outing on a beautiful long weekend. “ Jenny

“This is a message to let you know that Benjamin, his parents and grand parents had a tremendous time last Sunday at the Il Divo and Nikki Yanofsky concert at the Scotia Bank Place in Ottawa. The show itself was incredible, as these singers, Carlos Marin, Sebastien Izambard, David Miller and Urs Buhler, are sensational international stars. In fact, following the retirement of the 2006 three tenors initiative (Luciano Pavarotti -now deceased, José Carreras and Plácido Domingo), Il Divo rapidly became just as famous as their predecessors. Besides signing opera songs though, this world's classical quartet is also a crossover quartet as they can also sign famous classical and contemporary songs as the emotionally beautiful rendering of Roy Orbison's 'Crying', a heavenly song inspired by Samuel Barber's 'Adagio for Strings' called 'Dove L'Amore', and a stunning version of the unforgettable 'Time To Say Goodbye'. They also sang the incredible French song of Jean-Jacques Goldman "Pour que tu m'aimes encore", song originally interpreted by the famous Québécois signer, Céline Dion. The special effects were also incredible, so as the the tremendous performance of the orchestra on stage. **Benjamin, and all of us, just loved the show. On behalf of all of us, we would like to say a big big big thank you to the Ottawa Senators Foundation for providing us such a heavenly opportunity.”** Marc

“Wow! What a night! We just loved the opportunity to hear Il Divo last Sunday night. My daughter and her husband and their kids, aged 12 and 9, were visiting with us from Mississauga, in Perth, and we drove in Sunday evening with great excitement to attend this concert. Only one of our family had been to the Scotiabank Place so that was also a highlight of the evening for the rest of us. And on top of the four handsome gentlemen singing their hearts out, we got to hear Nikki Yanofsky end her part of the programme with "I Believe". It was a first class evening all around and it wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of the Senators with their donation of the tickets and your hard work in getting them all handed out. Keep us in mind for free tickets again sometime if you need to find people to attend events. Nick enjoys the occasional opportunities to help sell the 50/50 tickets at the Senators games through the Kiwanis. Thanks again for all the work getting those tickets dispensed!” June

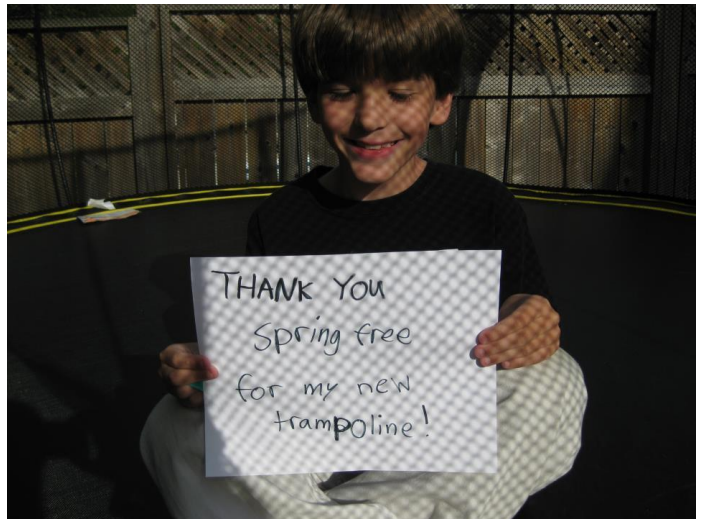
WITHIN THE AUTISM COMMUNITY

HEART OF GOLD AWARD



Brenda and Yves Desjardins were recognized for their volunteer work in the community on May 22. The annual gala, hosted by Ottawa-Orleans MP Royal Galipeau recognizes volunteers nominated by the organization that they volunteer with. They were nominated by La Société franco-ontarienne de l'autisme (SFOA). Yves volunteers on the SFOA Camp Committee and the Autism Community Annual Family Picnic. Brenda volunteers with both CAR with Autism Ontario.

SPRINGFREE TRAMPOLINE



The winner of our World Autism Awareness Day giveaway sent an some awesome photo of her son Keelan enjoying his new Springfree Trampoline! Thanks for sharing Hazel! :)



WITHIN THE AUTISM COMMUNITY (Cont'd)

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY RECEPTION



Jessica Lacelle
Local Artist

On Monday, April 2, through a connection with Suzanne Jacobson of QuickStart, I was delighted to receive an invitation to attend a reception on Parliament Hill to recognize World Autism Awareness Day 2012. It was an honour to meet many who took the time to acknowledge this day, including MP Mike Lake, his wife Debi and ASD son Jaden.

Other parents and children were present, along with representatives from Autism Speaks Canada, the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance and the Autism Canada Foundation. Senator Jim Munson has also demonstrated long-standing support and advocacy for those diagnosed within the Autism Spectrum Disorders. Although the Canadian Government has yet to officially recognize World Autism Awareness Day, this reception showed that there is much support on the political front!

2011/2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President Paul Lacroix
Treasurer Lesia Gilbert
Secretary Mark Lalonde
Director Robert Jaffray
Director Hazel Smith
Director Kelley Matheson

Volunteer of the Month



Parent Merle Hagerman goes above and beyond the call of duty in volunteering for Children at Risk events and activities from chasing down raffle prizes, selling tickets and even rolling coins from our Celebrity Carved Pumpkin Contest.

*Mr. Bruce Stanton, M.P.
Assistant Deputy Chair of
Committees of the Whole
and Mr. Mike Lake, M.P.
in collaboration with
the Hon. Jim Munson, Senator, and
Mr. Glenn Thibeault, M.P.
cordially invite all Members of Parliament &
Senators to a reception
in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day
2012*

*Monday, April 2, 2012
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

*Room 216-N, Centre Block
Parliament Hill*

*Please take this opportunity to come and meet
Canadians with Autism
and those advocating on their behalf.*

Two Perspectives on Father's Day

When writing today's blog, I looked online for an appropriate quotation for Father's Day, something to eloquently sum up the amount of effort and strength that special needs Dads exemplify every day. I did not see much that inspired me, and that seemed a lost opportunity to thank the Dads out there, who give to children in ways different, yet no less vital, than a mother's involvement.

My own husband is amazing. I am luckier than many. He functions better than I do without much sleep. He has an amazing work ethic. And, I honestly don't think he remembers most of the time that our son has challenges, he simply sees the joyful progress that our son is making. There are days when he is down, but he rarely lets on. Our son is so lucky to have him. And so am I!

Happy Father's Day Dan! And Happy Father's Day to all the special needs Dads out there who go that extra mile for their children.

From: <http://www.specialneedsneighborhood.com/wordpress/>

June 17, 2011 in [Featured](#), [Featured Member](#) by [Julia Roberts](#)
[One Father's Perspective on Father's Day](#)

From: supportforspecialneeds.com



Father's Day can feel a little strange for the fathers of broken children. Most of us feel a little broken ourselves. The reasons for that disconnect might not always be so obvious. The numbers are pretty clear; the primary caregivers for kids with disabilities tend to be mothers, and that's just a fact. I suspect that mirrors neurotypical society, but the fact remains that many, many fathers of special needs children are on the outside looking in on the day-to-day lives of their kids, and often by their own choice. It's a shameful truth, but one that does no one any good to ignore.

I hear it often. "I think it's so great that you're such an involved father!" I see the looks in the eyes of members of Schuyler's IEP team, mostly from the new ones, when I walk into the meetings, and when I speak up, as if they'd almost expect to hear Schuyler talking before a father would. And I see the broad generalizations, even here. In a recent post, when I expressed my own self-doubts and admitted that Julie and I hadn't fully faced some aspects of Schuyler's disability head-on, one commenter just mentally adjusted that and turned it into how Julie is the strong one, no self doubts and no illusions, but me? I was just like this commenter's husband, in denial and uninvolved in the details of my kid's education and care. In her head, the narrative reads that way, and so it became my narrative, too. And she's not alone.

Mostly, though, I get the opposite treatment. Some people treat me like an aberration. I'm like some bizarre extraterrestrial father who puts his daughter's well-being ahead of his own, one who goes to all the IEP meetings and all the parent nights and the playmates. *"Here is a father who gives everything to his kid, and puts her happiness ahead of his own! Isn't that wonderful and weird?"*

Well, I call bullshit.

One Father's Perspective on Father's Day (Cont'd)

It seems like almost everyone has so much anecdotal evidence of crappy fathers who don't step up on behalf of their disabled kids. But in the past two years, since my book came out and I began traveling around and meeting other families, it has been my honor and privilege to meet some amazing fathers. And I'm not just talking about the ones who show up to the IEP meetings and doctor's appointments, either. I'm talking about extraordinary dads whose work on behalf of their own kids have changed the world for countless others, too.

[Richard Ellenson](#) saw a need for his son, whose cerebral palsy left him unable to communicate and for whom existing speech devices were inadequate for his particular needs. The device he created, [the Tango](#), has been praised for its innovative design and success in social integration of AAC. [Dan Habib](#) turned his fight for full integration for his son into a celebrated documentary and an ongoing project at the University of New Hampshire, dedicated to creating and developing more inclusive schools. I've met extraordinary authors and advocates like [Rupert Isaacson](#) and [Michael Greenberg](#). I've been in the company of some amazing fathers. Amazing fathers, and yet they're exactly like all the fathers out there who work tirelessly for their children with disabilities. What sets these fathers apart, in my mind, is that rather than trying to find a way to fit into our society's narrow idea of what fathers are supposed to do, they've taken their talents and their abilities and they've forged into territory that hasn't always been welcoming to them.

Plenty of fathers don't do that. Is that because some of them are crappy fathers? Of course. But how many fathers respond to the low expectations of our society and our system, one that assumes that the mothers of these kids will be the ones who will take care of them? How many fathers go online to find information and end up on page after page of resources for Special Needs Moms? How many read the poems about how special those moms are, how hard they work and how they are the only ones these kids can count on? I know I see those sites and those posts. I see them every day, and even now, after everything I've said and done and written, after as many speeches as I've delivered and as many books as I've signed and as many IEP meetings I've attended and been a pain in the ass in, even now, I still hear the tiny voice in my head, the one that whispers "*Your presence is not required. Your input is not necessary.*"

Look, fathers need to get involved. Fathers need to step up and take on their share of the work. That much is clear. That's not just in the disability community, either, but I believe it's even more critical that it happen in these families. This isn't an episode of *Mad Men*; the old models of fatherhood no longer work. I'm not sure they ever really did.

But there needs to be an accompanying significant shift in our societal attitudes. There has to be a change in how fathers are seen. Fathers of broken children aren't volunteers. We don't want partial credit just for showing up. And we don't want a pat on the head. We want to be involved. And we should be. You as mothers and as society should have the expectation that we're going to be, and with that, you need to be willing to step back and let our talents shine, let our unique perspectives contribute fully.

I think you might be surprised at what you get in return.

Robert Rummel-Hudson's first book, [Schuyler's Monster: A Father's Journey with His Wordless Daughter](#), tells the story of raising a little girl with a disability and learning to become the [father](#) she needs. It was published in February 2008 by St. Martin's Press and was released in trade paperback in January 2009.

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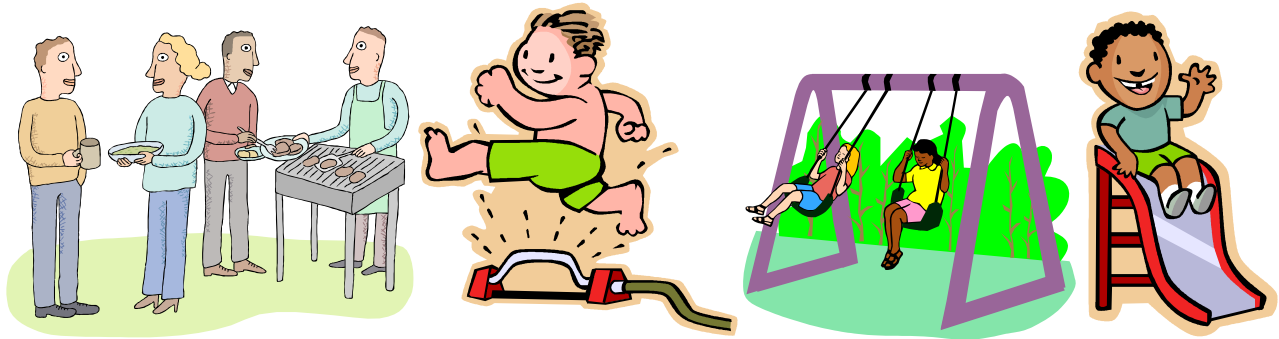


Disclaimer: This Newsletter is for informational purposes only. Children at Risk does not support, endorse or recommend any method, treatment, product, remedial center, program or person for people with autism or autism related conditions.

Children at Risk 2012 Raffle Ticket Sample

<p>CHILDREN AT RISK: 2012 SPRING RAFFLE <i>To Provide Community Supports for Families and Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.</i></p> <p>NAME:</p> <p>ADDRESS:</p> <p>PHONE #</p> <p>City of Ottawa License #</p> <p align="center">M668484</p> <p align="center">MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOTTERY EVENT</p> <p>Ticket SAMPLE of 6,500</p>	<p>CHILDREN AT RISK - www.childrenatrisk.ca - 235 DONALD ST., OTTAWA</p> <p>1st Prize – COUNTRY INN & SUITES, LINCOLN FIELDS, RICHMOND BEAUTY, MOLLY MAID, PFLUG OPTICAL, FRATELLI'S, CAPONE'S, THE WORKS & II PARADISO "What A Weekend!" -2 Night's, Gift Basket, Certificates for Hair, Cleaning, Glasses, Dining, & Pedicure VALUE \$1,104</p> <p>2nd – DAD'S DELIGHT! – CAMPBELL FORD, BREWER'S SELECT, RINK PRO & ACCESSORIES Auto Detailing Package, Brew Your Own Certificate, Sports Certificate & Duffel/Ties/Wallet/Belt Value \$673</p> <p>3rd – AVIS, CN TOWER, SCIENCE CENTRE, CASA LOMA, HOCKEY HALL, AGO & SWISS CHALET "Toronto Fun" Package – Weekend Rental, Tourist Attractions & Coupons Value \$555</p> <p>4th & 5th – SENS TICKETS, KEY ROADSIDE PKG., POCO PAZZO & GRACE O'MALLEY'S Value \$540 ea.</p> <p>6th, 7th & 8th – EXECUTIVE GOLF, GOLF RED BOOK, GREEN FEES & PATTY BOLAND'S Value \$501 ea.</p> <p>9th – HANDCRAFTED QUILT Value \$500 10th – INN, GOLF, CASCADES, MAXWELL'S & EMERALD Value \$374</p> <p>11th – HOLIDAY INN/SUITES & LA PORTO Value \$349 12th – MINTO SUITE, PRIME 360 & ABSINTHE Value \$325</p> <p>13th – OTTAWA FITNESS, HP PRINTER, TOTE, EMERALD BUFFET & MAGGIE'S FLOWERS Value \$306</p> <p>14th – HUMMINGBIRD SPA, ROSES R US, AVON, KS/KEYS, MOON ENERGY JEWELS & SCARF Value \$277</p> <p>15th & 16th – HEALTH DYNAMICS, CARLINGWOOD SHOPPING & YANG MING Value \$270 ea.</p> <p>17th – BLING, MERIVALE FISH & DQ Value \$217 18th – EUROPEAN PAINT & GREENBANK FLWRS Value \$145</p> <p>19th – SENIOR TOURS PACKAGE, ANIKA ARTS AND FLOWERS & RICK MOFINA BOOKS Value \$139</p> <p>20th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd – ENT. BK, HOUSE PIZZA, M&M SWISS, N. EDINBURGH & HEART/CROWN Value \$137 ea.</p> <p>24th – CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION PASSES Value \$120</p> <p>25th, 26th & 27th – KEVIN'S AUTO CARE, MR. MOZZARELLA PIZZA & VITTORIA TRATTORIA Value \$119 ea.</p> <p>28th & 29th – MARY KAY GIFT PACKAGE & KIDDIE KOBBLER SHOES CERTIFICATE Value \$100 ea.</p> <p>30th & 31st – NEW YORK/NEW YORK HAIR, ROCKIN' JOHNNY'S/MONKEY JOE'S & CORA'S Value \$97 ea.</p> <p>32nd & 33rd – TOPS CAR WASH, WHISPER'S, KEVIN'S AUTO & COLONNADE PIZZA Value \$91 ea.</p> <p>34th & 35th – VERSAILLES, KEVIN'S & DENNY'S Value \$66 ea. 36th – BELL & LOCAL HEROES Value \$55</p> <p>37th & 38th – MULLIGAN'S FLOWERS or PELICAN FISH/ THE UPS STORE BANK & HUNT CLUB Value \$50 ea.</p> <p align="center"><i>RAFFLE: To Provide Community Supports for Families Raising Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders</i></p> <p align="center">*MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOTTERY EVENT*</p> <p>Draw: June 10, 2012, 2-PM, Brewer Park (100 Brewer Way), Ottawa City of Ottawa License #M668484</p> <p>Ticket → → SAMPLE of 6,500 → (613-741-8255) → PRICE: \$2 or 3 for \$5</p>
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OTTAWA AUTISM COMMUNITY ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC



Sunday, June 10, 2012

12 Noon-3 PM

Brewer Park

Brewer Park (Seneca St. off Sunnyside) is a sprinkler water park, so bring your suits and get wet! The Annual Family Picnic is a great time to celebrate the start of summer, see old friends, meet new friends and frolic in the park. Below is a list of planned activities. Some items and activities, like the food, are at a low cost or you can bring your own picnic lunch! Hope to see you there!!

Activities & Features:

B.B.Q. HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, DRINKS, CHIPS, COOKIE DECORATING, FISH POND, BALLOONS, COTTON CANDY & SNOW CONES (low cost)

FREE: WATERMELON, BUBBLE PLAY, MOON BOUNCE & LG SLIDE INFLATABLES

2:00 PM -17th ANNUAL RAFFLE DRAW

2:30 PM - WATER BALLOON TOSS (**PRIZES**)

"Pick 'n Pay" table of children's toys, clothes and household items
(gently used or small defects)

**** IN ADDITION, WE WILL BE ENTERTAINED BY TUNIS SHRINE KLOWNS!
BACK AGAIN - Heather Unhola from "A Little Bit of Bling" Face Painting & Body Art**

BBQ courtesy of The Gathering Church



For more info, call 613-741-8255 or email car@childrenatrisk.ca



Thank you for making this year another Rockin' Success

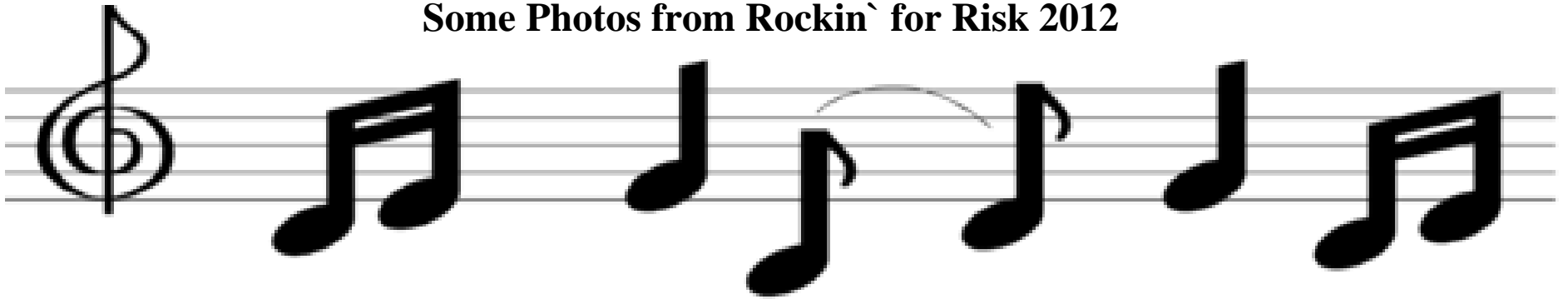
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 A Little Bit of Biting
 Algonquin College Foundation
 Anika Arts & Flowers
 Arthur Murray Dance Studio
 Best Western Macles Hotel
 Bird Kingdom - Niagara Falls
 Boston Pizza - Greenbank
 Boston Pizza - St. Laurent
 Brewers Select
 Broadway's Barrhaven
 Busters Bar & Grill
 CAA
 Calabogie Peaks Resort
 CD Warehouse -
 Campbell Ford Automotive
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 Cody Party Centres
 Colonnade Pizza - Mervale
 Cora's - Richmond Rd
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 Ottawa Bluesfest
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 Ottawa Fat Cats
 Ottawa Little Theatre

Ottawa School-Speech/Drama
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Some Photos from Rockin` for Risk 2012



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