



Kids Country Club

Winter Edition Newsletter



Articles inside!

- Tree of HOPE Campaign - 2
- Executive Director's Message - 3
- What our Families are Saying - 3
- Fun Winter Activities - 4
- Board Update - 5
- 2020 Successes - 5
- A Surprise Donation - 6
- Clinical Manager Update - 7
- A Little Laugh - 7



What's happening ...

Kids Country Club 2021

Well, 2020 has been quite the year, but we look forward to 2021 with optimism and excitement! As we plan for the coming year, we wanted to share some of the things our families, supporters, and donors can expect to see .

- Continued phases of reopening, based on a slow and safe approach, with the goal to fully re-open as soon as safely possible!
- Continuation of virtual supports, with creative "out of the box" thinking to support our families through every means possible!
- An active social media presence, to help keep our families up to date, involved, and connected to us. Follow us on Facebook, Youtube, check out our Website, and don't forget to read our weekly Blog.
- Home improvements. From necessary refurbishments such as new flooring and fresh paint to some more "fun" items like an inspiration wall and colourful murals .

And, as always, we LOVE to hear from you. So please **CONTACT US** to let us know what supports you look forward to in 2021!



Tree of Hope Campaign



Your donations help change lives!

For the month of December, as a Thank you to donors, our staff and children are excited to be creating personalized ornaments to hang on the Kids Country Club Tree of Hope.



Then, each week we will share photos on our FACEBOOK page of the crafting fun we are having, the masterpieces we've created, and the progress of our tree!

There is no donation minimum to participate as all donations make a difference and we are grateful for them all!

*(*donations over \$20 will be issued a tax receipt)*

To participate in the fun ...

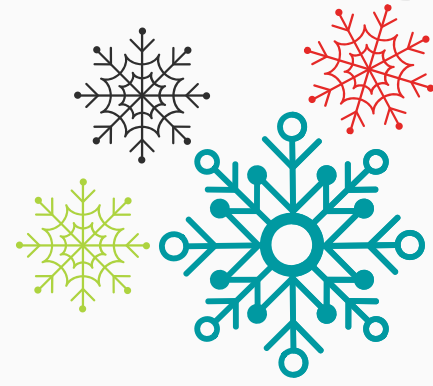
1. Simply click [HERE](#), or go to our [WEBSITE](#) and click on the "Donate" button.
2. Then, follow our [FACEBOOK](#) Page to watch for a personal ornament, including your name, that the kids create just for you!

We are excited to watch how through the love and support of our community, and the creativity of children, the Kids Country Club Tree of Hope transforms from bare to **BEAUTIFUL!**



Holiday Message

From our Executive Director - Sherry Groulx



Mind-blowing....2020! Here we are in a world-wide Pandemic together, unprecedented times, descriptors I had never used prior to 2020. Can you imagine if one year ago someone said you would be experiencing this new world; it almost feels like science fiction? Our new reality is being homebound, washing our hands constantly, the bulk of communications being on a virtual platform, wearing masks in public places, and social distancing. To that end, had you ever heard of social distancing before 2020? However, there have been some amazing learnings this year, wouldn't you agree? The world has discovered what we already knew, that our Health Care Workers are heros! Like no other time, we have learned to appreciate our frontline workers, heros do walk amongst us every day. As a leader myself, I leaned on the knowledge of my Administrative Assistant, Management Team, and Board, as well as experts at Public Health and our Ministry. I have truly appreciated their support, input, expertise, and guidance more than any other time in my career. And, the creativity of the world has amazed me. Just look at Halloween. The ingenuity of people who were determined to ensure children wanting to celebrate, were able to do so and safely enjoy the night. Now, as another 2020 holiday grows near, I wish each of you the comfort that the love of family brings and the knowledge of knowing you are important to us! While family celebrations will be different this year, they will hold powerful stories of how we managed through together with nimble creativity and hope for better days. I wish you and your family peace, joy, and happiness over the Holiday Season.

With warm regards,

Sherry Groulx

Attention
ALL ANGELS
at KCC! There isn't enough words to express how much my family is forever grateful for all the support staff showed during this critical time for us! The compassion and support that staff continuously show is so beautiful and overwhelming. What can I say " KCC - truly is simply the best!" Thanks a million! (that's not even enough 😊)
(February 2020)



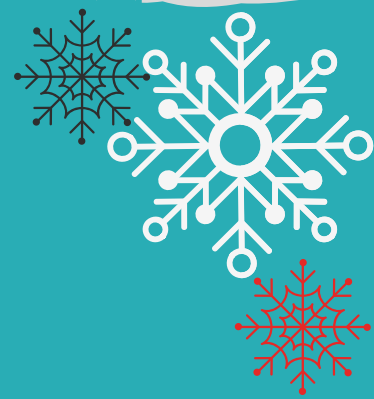
He loves it, I love the ability to feel good about the care he gets when I'm not with him. Literally the ONLY place we have peace of mind is when he's at KCC. Thanks for all you guys do!
(January 2020)

THANKYOU!
We love hearing from our families!

She really enjoyed her visit and it was so good for her mental health! She smiled all evening when she came home and was still smiling the next day. The isolation of the pandemic has been so hard on her and seeing the folks from KCC was just the mental boost she needed. I know it has been a lot of planning and effort to get a modified program up and running and I wanted to let you know how much we appreciate it!
(September 2020)

Snow much fun!

Indoor & outdoor winter activities for the whole family!



Backyard Bird Feeder

Winter is the perfect time to feed your local backyard birds, and there are so many fun and easy ways to make a bird feeder with kids. Check out some of the idea's in the links below! Then, when your creation is complete, make a cup of hot chocolate, pull up a chair, and watch the beauty of nature unfold in front of your eyes!

- [Toilet paper bird feeder](#)
- [DIY bird house fun](#)

Colourful Simple Ice Sculptures

With some food colouring, ice cube trays, water, and imagination you can have fun making awesome backyard ice sculptures! Stack your coloured blocks high to make towers, or low to make beautiful walls of a fort. Whatever you can imagine, you can build! [Click here](#) for the easy step by step instructions to enjoy this fun, and inexpensive, winter activity!

Let's Paint the snow!

A fun and creative alternative to playing in the snow is to paint it! This art project is easy to do and provides hours of entertainment,

1. Gather spray bottles (1 per colour)
2. Fill each of them with water and food colouring
3. Shake to mix, and then head outside to create!

With a few squirts you can turn Mother Nature's plain white canvas into your very own colourful masterpiece!

Update from our Board

Scott Switzer, Board President



Hello Everyone! I write this while I am watching the first real snowfall of the year blow and swirl past my window and nothing starts me thinking about the Holiday Season more than a fresh dusting of the beautiful white stuff! I have a peace treaty with my family to refrain from singing Christmas carols just yet but the time is coming! This time of year is usually a time of reflection for many. And what a year to sit back and reflect on. I think you can say that any year is “like no other”, but this year takes the cake. I hope that all of you have been able to remain safe and healthy and that it continues as we move through the second wave. We have seen major changes in how KCC has been able to operate and I think we will continue to see more change before we get through this pandemic. Christmas is a time to be joyous. To enjoy the company of family and friends in whatever shape or form that may take this year. Enjoy! Take what happiness you can from those surrounding you but remember to give as good, strike that, better, than you get. Fill your homes with Love. It is never about the presents under the tree but the time we share with those we hold so dearly. And cookies...don't forget the Christmas cookies!

To our Families and Friends of KCC and to the KCC staff who always give their all, thank you, and may your holiday season be one filled with great happiness and joy, and may the coming New Year be filled new hopes and great cheer.

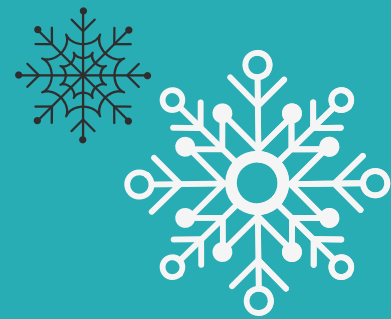
Warm thoughts and Best Wishes for a very Merry Christmas Season,

Scott Switzer, CPA, CMA

Looking back at some of our 2020 successes ...



THANKYOU!



A Surprise Donation!

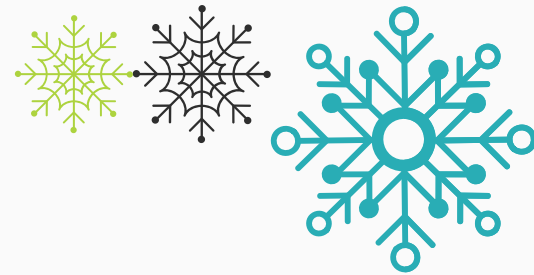
Early in November, we had a surprise visit and delivery from a special young woman named Jasmine. Throughout this COVID craziness, Jasmine has been making homemade masks to sell and raise money for local charities. Her first round of donations went to support families through the London Food Bank. This round, we were very lucky and surprised to be the recipients of her kindness! Jasmine showed up with a delivery of two brand new Little Tikes cars for our kids to enjoy when they are visiting at KCC. What an incredible young woman! Let me tell you, we have had some super excited kids when they arrived to find these fun new toys! Our donors, like Jasmine, truly mean so much to us here at Kids Country Club as it is through donations that we can purchase items that our operational budget may not cover, items such as up-to-date medical equipment and special cribs or beds. Or toys and crafts to help our kids make happy memories of our time together, just having fun and being a kid, during their visits at Kids Country Club!

Kindness
Matters

Thank you so much, Jasmine, and all our KCC donors! We TRULY appreciate you!



Clinical Manager's Update!



Vanessa Hewitt, RN, Clinical Manager

Hello Families, Friends, and Supporters,

As the falling leaves start to change to falling snow, we hope that you are all remaining healthy and safe. We are very happy to have been able to reopen our respite program this August, first for day visits and now overnights, for one child at a time. While we understand that this limits the amount of service provided to each family, we appreciate your patience and support as we continue to reopen in phases ensuring safety for all. In addition to respite at our KCC locations, we have also enjoyed some creative ways to support our families from a distance. Supports such as virtual check-ins and zoom calls, Kindness Convoys to say "hi" (from a distance), phone calls to catch up and stay connected, as well as many other creative solutions to ensure our children, and parents, are receiving as much support as possible during these difficult times. We understand that this pandemic has affected everyone in various ways, and for many, the effects change as we navigate this new and ever-changing world. However, if there is anything more we can do to assist and support you and your family during this time, please let us know!



Stay healthy, and we will stay in touch.

Sincerely,
Vanessa Hewitt, RN

As soap is to the body,
so laughter is to the soul!

- Proverb-

