

kids in the news

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SAVING NEWS



## Letter from our founder

Volume 2

Hello everyone,

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I was setting up a sled hockey game involving both handicapped and able-bodied kids. Now that the event has taken place, I'm happy to say everyone who participated enjoyed themselves immensely. In fact the NYU staff that funded the game enjoyed it so much they want to make it an annual event.

Seeing this game first hand convinced me that having more of these games would help us continue to fulfill our mission. Sled Hockey brings the handicapped and able-bodied worlds together. It's a fun and healthy activity that almost anyone can do. Therefore, we have purchased sleds for able-bodied volunteers to use at future sled hockey events. Organizing such events will be one of our new areas of focus.

Sled Hockey does something unique. At Kids Helping Kids we talk a lot about helping handicapped kids by providing them with a way to reenter and stay connected to the world. Usually that means funding a wheelchair or a ramp and even though these things are necessary and important items, they still are symbols of illness and disability. But when you see a person playing sled hockey it is not so easy to tell a handicapped person from an able bodied one because there is no disability barrier present, everyone uses the same form of mobility to play and that's truly part of being connected. That is why this is so powerful and so important for us to bring this sport to as many kids as we can. And let's not forget what is maybe the best part of Sled Hockey... It brings everyone together and everyone has fun.

Sincerely,  
Mischa Zimmermann

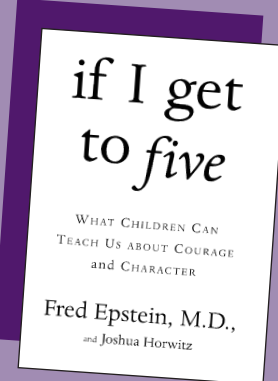
**MORE HONORS FOR KIDS HELPING KIDS**  
Volvo For Life Award Honoree  
Helping America.org Helper of the Month

*Mischa and Kids Helping Kids are featured in world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, Dr. Fred Epstein's new book, If I Get To Five:*

*"I've played only a small part in Mischa's medical treatment, but he's taught me volumes about the potential for making one's personal redemption a blessing to others...Mischa understands that it's not what you feel that counts, it's what you do about it.*

When Mischa Zimmermann pulls himself out of his wheelchair to exhort a room full of high school students to open their hearts and donate their time and energy

to helping other kids, he raises up everyone in the room. When he wheels into a hospital to give a bedridden little girl a new tricycle and a few words of encouragement, it's not a random act of kindness. It's a courageous and willful act of compassion that multiplies the good in the world – and helps heal a shattered life.



To learn more about Kids Helping Kids, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, visit our website at [www.kidshelping.org](http://www.kidshelping.org)

Donations are gratefully appreciated:  
Kids Helping Kids, Inc., 229 Midland Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042

# Look What We've Look What We've

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## Kids Helping Kids Heart Bracelet

For Valentine's Day this year our volunteers premiered beautiful handcrafted bracelets they made from semi-precious stones and sterling silver, each featuring a semi-precious stone heart. Available in local stores, the bracelets sold out quickly and were a huge and profitable success. So much so, that the demand has outlasted the holiday.

Under the supervision of jewelry designer Caren Patterson of Divine Light Jewels ([www.rapunzelgifts.com](http://www.rapunzelgifts.com)), who donated her time to run the workshops, the kids are continuing to make bracelets through the year. We have plans to expand the line by adding anklets and necklaces. We're even designing something for the guys.



## Got A Talent Or Skill To Share With Our Volunteers?

We're always looking for ways to expand our profitable social entrepreneurship projects. If you have a practical skill or talent to teach our teens that they can use to raise funds, call us!

Every year, Montclair has a renowned crafts fair. This year we had a table and sold our beautiful Heart Bracelets, raising even more money and awareness.

The local Girl Scout troops and Key Club chapters got involved in these workshops with us. They appreciated the chance to work with a community service organization that benefits their peers.

If you're interested in purchasing a Kids Helping Kids Heart Bracelet, please call us at 973.783.0697.



# Look What We've Done

## Sports

### Sled Hockey

Sled hockey is a sport where well kids and disabled kids compete as equals... something that disabled kids never get to do. This amazing new sport where the participants sit in a sled and propel themselves with sticks on the ice can give kids the chance to feel complete for a little while. We are very dedicated to making sled hockey available to as many kids as possible. Sled hockey is unique... it appeals to able-bodied kids as much as it does to the disabled.

### The Kids Helping Kids

#### 3rd Annual Soccer Challenge Cup

Once again, the Annual Soccer Challenge Cup was a big event for us. More kids participated this year from different area towns (including the State High School Champions), raising the level of competition to a new high. Local area sponsors were very supportive as always. Our proceeds went to our latest and very exciting new focus, sled hockey. (See Letter From Our Founder)

### SwimATHon

It was a splashing success for our great cause when swimmers at the Montclair Beach Club swam laps to raise money. Here's a great example of volunteers turning their interest and talent into a meaningful fund raising activity.



## The Performing Arts

### One World Beat

The One World Beat Festival was a musical weekend dedicated to raising awareness of community service worldwide. Musicians around the world performed and picked a favorite charity to support. Kids Helping Kids was picked as a charity of choice in Northern New Jersey. Robert Matarrazzo's incredible musical talent made it a memorable experience for everyone who participated. For more information go to <http://www.oneworldbeat.org>.

### Glenfield Dance

A local middle school decided to turn their yearly dance performance into a Kids Helping Kids fund raiser. They went out into their town and explained the organization to the local merchants. They showed how dance and mobility went hand in hand and how important it was to them. They got many merchants to contribute prizes and held a raffle at their performance.

### Video Libraries

We donated hundreds of kid and teen videos for kids in the hospital at St. Barnabas Healthcare System and the Valerie Fund Hospitals



# Look What We've Done

## What We've Done

### Why We Do What We Do

Here's what all that hard work  
was able to accomplish

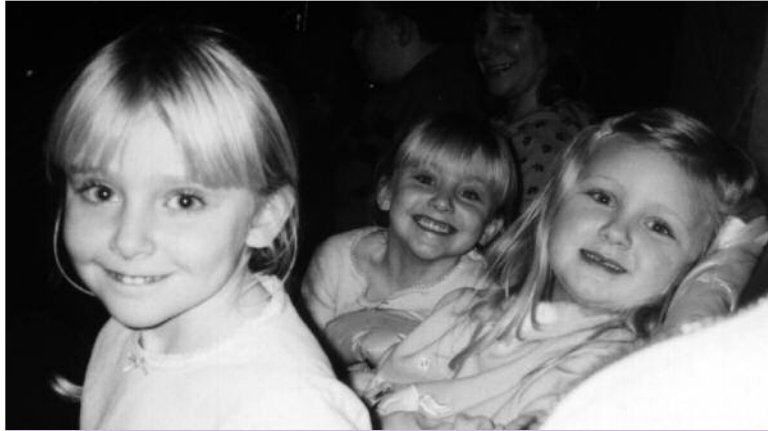


*Jon Matos, age 11, was diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic scoliosis and neuromuscular myopathy requiring spinal fusion surgery. He has great difficulty with mobility and needs to stay on the first floor of the house. We helped his family build a bathroom on that level to make Jon's life easier.*

Ravi Genao, age 20, was struck by lightning at a family wedding when he was 16. Ravi remains totally disabled and needed a specialized wheelchair.

Richard Howell, at the age of 12, has gotten too big for his family to get him into the pool for his daily therapy. We provided a special lift to help him get into the pool so his efforts to improve his mobility can continue. He can also keep sharing fun times with his friends.

Osceola Adams, age 18, diagnosed with acute disseminating meningoencephalitis, needed a ramp for access to his house. The kids raised money for Osceola to be able to have the freedom to move around like other older teens.



*Jenny Flood, age 6, had a traumatic brain injury. She had a special wish to see Disney's Princess Classics on Ice. We sent her, her friends and family. Her mom wrote, "Thank you so much for putting a smile back on our daughter's face."*



*Kitty Kidd, age 8, lost her hearing after receiving chemotherapy for a brain tumor. We were able to provide hearing aids to help Kitty take her place back in school and return to the fun of being a kid again.*

Children's Specialized Hospital requested accessible exercise bikes for their pediatric physical therapy gym. These bikes will help the kids gain more mobility as they transition back into their daily lives outside the hospital.

In keeping with our mission of helping disabled kids stay connected with their peers, we purchased hockey sticks and hockey sleds for the New Jersey Devil's Youth Hockey Club Sled Hockey Team.

## Working With Others

Prestigious non-profit organizations often need to reach out to each other to provide the caring, services, equipment and special wishes that special kids need in difficult times. This year we've worked with:

Give Kids The World • Children's Brain Tumor Foundation • Make A Wish • Beth Isreal Noth (INN) • The Brain Injury Association of New Jersey  
Children's Specialized Hospital • Voorhees Pediatric Rehabilitation Hospital • Saint Barnabas Medical Health System • Valerie Fund Hospitals  
Key Club, Montclair High School Chapter • The Girl Scouts • Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center • Blythedale Children's Hospital

# Look What We've Done Look What We've Done



## Face To Face

### Regular Hospital Visits

Our volunteers continue their regular hospital visits to Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside, NJ. They spend time doing fun things with the kids, connecting in a special way. At Christmas, Mischa dressed up as Santa.

### Pet Visits

Taking a lovable dog to visit a child in the hospital can bring a joyful respite from a dreary day. A new volunteer came up with this idea after he recovered from a life threatening illness. Eric and his yellow lab, Ralph, are certified pet therapists, and are available for home or hospital visits in the NY/NJ metropolitan area. You can contact Eric directly at sixers238@optonline.net.

## Branching Out!

The level of our awareness has grown tremendously in the past two years, and we've expanded our geographical reach. We've also made an impact on kids of different ages.

### The Hillside School Cookie Corp.

This elementary school teaches their kids how to run a business. This year, the kids decided to take their profits and donate them to a great cause...Kids Helping Kids.

### Little Tor Video Night

Video night turned meaningful at an elementary school when admission and the proceeds of a bake sale were donated to Kids Helping Kids. The adults explained to the kids what the organization was all about and how they were helping others.

### A David Roth Concert

As part of the mitzvah project for his Bar Mitzvah, one enthusiastic new volunteer convinced renowned folk singer, David Roth, to donate a performance to Kids Helping Kids. If that wasn't enough, he also organized a raffle that included airplane tickets, restaurant coupons and other great prizes. The event was an amazing success.

### Applebee's Chow Down for Charity

The Applebee's in Mamaroneck was so impressed with Kids Helping Kids, that they agreed to designate a special day and donate a percentage of their proceeds to our cause. Not only that, they picked up the bill to have the NY Knicks' Groove Truck in their parking lot for the afternoon to attract even more crowds.

### Ironman Triathlon Florida

A kid at heart, Dr. David Drucker ran the Janus Fund Ironman Triathlon in Florida for Kids Helping Kids. That's a 26.2-mile marathon, a 2.4-mile swim and a 112-mile bike ride. He raised \$7,000! He did so well, the Janus Fund contributed as well. *Thanks Dave!*

*Hey, Big Kids!* Think about things you can do like Dave did.

## Ideas ! Ideas! Ideas!

USE THESE IDEAS AND  
MAKE THEM YOUR OWN!

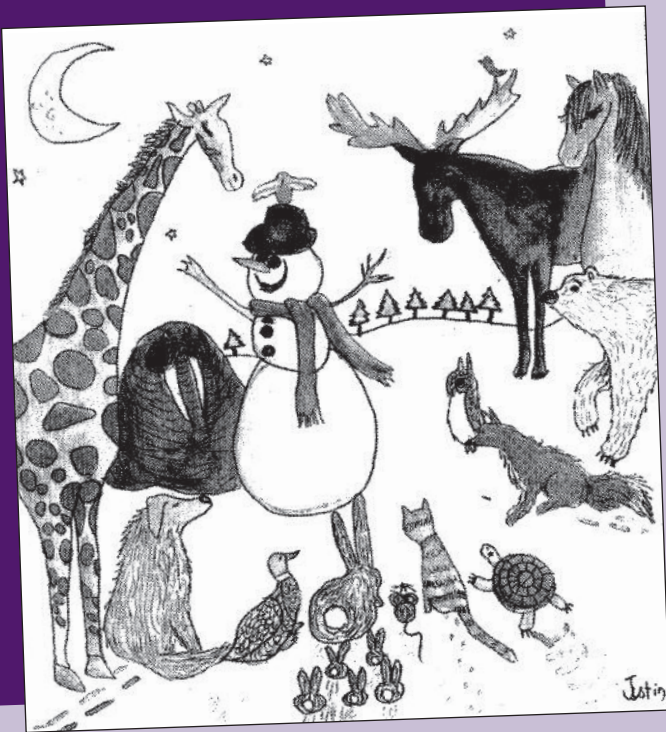
Run your own event and we  
can share your success with  
everyone! Call or email us  
with your ideas.



## On The Horizon!

### Annual Toy Drive and Holiday Wrapping

Our annual Holiday events have always been very successful. Hundreds of toys are brought to many locations and then our volunteers bring them to area hospitals. The kids also raise money by wrapping holiday gifts for donations.



## Annual Kids Helping Kids Holiday Card

*Kids, both well and disabled, are given the opportunity to design a holiday card which is sold through direct mail, featured in our newsletter and this year, will be sold in stores.*

*Our new card can be ordered in time for your holiday greeting needs.*

*The art for this card was designed by 13-year old autistic artist, Justin Canha. If you're interested in seeing your art on our greeting card next year, send it in and let us take a look at it.*

*Greeting inside: Happy Holidays*

*Package of 10 cards is \$10.00.*

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kids

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