

kids in the news

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Letter from our founder

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first edition of our Kids Helping Kids newsletter, Kids In the News. It's also time for our Holiday Drive, so keep reading and watch for our new Kids Helping Kids Holiday cards and order a lot. I'd like to thank everyone who's helped us grow over the years and to invite anyone who wants to learn more about us to give us a call. Let me tell you something about where we came from.

I, Mischa (pronounced mee-sha) Zimmermann started Kids Helping Kids, a non-profit organization after I was released from the hospital where I had spent 14 months recovering from a catastrophic illness--a malignant brain tumor. When I returned to the "world," I found it difficult to get around, both in the physical and emotional sense. As a result of brain tumor surgery I had become physically disabled and could no longer keep up with my peers. So I formed Kids Helping Kids, Inc. whose mission is to provide disabled/seriously ill children with physical devices to help them get around and special wishes to help them feel and stay connected to the world. We provide wheelchairs, van ramps, electronic wheelchair lifts and scooters, computers, answering machines etc. We send them to concerts and sporting events and much more. Kids Helping Kids helps high school and college students learn how to use their interests and talents to organize events to raise funds for their peers in need. For example, before my illness I was an avid soccer player. I have learned to use my interest in soccer to benefit others as well as myself. Kids Helping Kids has held many soccer fundraising events including our annual Soccer Challenge Cup, a fundraiser where soccer players from two local high schools come together and raise money for our cause. Now that I am a college student at New York University I have begun raising funds to start a sport called "sled hockey." This sport is like ice hockey except you sit down on a sled and propel yourself with two mini hockey sticks. This sport was created for people who could not walk and that's how I first got involved in playing. Now I want to start a team for able and disabled people so kids like me can be with their peers more.

Thank you for your support. We couldn't do any of this without you.

Sincerely,

Mischa Zimmermann

To learn more about Kids Helping Kids, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, visit our website at 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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National Honors

Rosie's Super Kids

What a thrill! Mischa was chosen as a Rosie O'Donnell SuperKid! Not only did he appear in the premier issue of her magazine, he appeared on her nationally syndicated show and was celebrated for his efforts and the success of Kids Helping Kids. And much to his surprise, at the end of the show, Kelloggs gave Mischa a generous college scholarship.

The Caring Institute Award

The Caring Institute is an internationally renowned organization founded to honor and promote the values of caring, integrity, and public service. Inspired by the example of Mother Teresa, the Institute believes that the solution to most problems is the caring of one human being for another. That's why The Caring Institute awarded Mischa a Caring Award, celebrating him as a special individual who devotes his life to helping others in need.



You can help us work wonders

Some of our recipients have chosen to remain anonymous, however some of the kids we've been fortunate to have helped are:

Janice Couch Brain damaged from extensive asthma attacks, Janice couldn't return home from the hospital until she had a wheelchair lift. Our donation helped Janice get that wheelchair lift and she was finally able to go home.



Kari Weiner Kari suffers from a terribly debilitating disease, dystonia. She needed a wheelchair ramp and we were able to help her pay for it. We all enjoyed her visit with us at our meeting when we presented her with a check and she stayed for hours having a great time.

Spenser Scharfman Spenser has a brain tumor and is confined to a wheelchair. We were able to raise the money to outfit his van with a special motorized wheelchair ramp to help him get around easier.

Amanda Orender Amanda's brain tumor kept her from participating in many regular activities. We bought her a specially outfitted accessible bike that she takes great joy in riding now at home.

Look What We've Done

The Events

- Annual Soccer Challenge Cups
- Holiday Toy Drives (over \$100,000 worth of toys distributed to 10 area hospitals)
- Art in the Park Festivals (Volunteers art sold to raise money for the cause)
- Open Mic Nights, featuring our talented teens/college students
- Valentine Video Drives (\$8,000 worth of videos collected for the kids in area hospitals)
- Benefit Concerts
- Kid Helping Kids Awareness Booths at Community Festivals, Sporting Events and Concerts
- Sled Hockey Games
- Hospital Visits





This year, in addition to our holiday mailing, we're very proud to be offering a greeting card which will raise money and awareness for Kids Helping Kids. The art for this card was done by a freshman high school student, *Markel Uriu*. The cards can be ordered in packages of 10. 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.

Kids Helping Kids is a non-profit, volunteer organization run by teens to benefit children/teens. Formed in 1997, one year after 13 year-old Mischa Zimmermann was diagnosed with a brain tumor, Kids Helping Kids provides kids who have been affected by catastrophic illness or injury with peer interaction, mobility equipment, and special wishes.

We've had another busy year raising funds by running concerts, sporting events, other special events and making our regular hospital visits. And we've been able to help some very deserving *kids* with wheelchairs lifts, ramps, accessible bikes and much more.

We couldn't do any of this without the generous support of our friends and sponsors. *Thank you!*

Please accept my tax-deductible gift. **Kids Helping Kids** is a 501(C)(3) organization.

\$30 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$_____

I work for a company that will match this gift. They will contact you.

My check is enclosed (please make payable to Kids Helping Kids)

I am interested in volunteering

_____ Sets of 10 cards @ \$

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