



ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003

The Raptors Foundation is... Believing that every child has potential. Striving to provide access and opportunity to sports and recreation for all youth. Providing the basic essentials to nurture children. Bringing pride to the community by partnering with community leaders in an effort to make a difference for our children. Committed to the philosophy that every child deserves to be a child. **Lifting Spirits. Changing Lives.**

ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND ENRICHING gifts in life is the ability to share in the happiness of others. This year, the Raptors Foundation celebrates this simple philosophy through the stories of some amazing young individuals who have touched our lives. All faced with great challenges, each of these youth have overcome their fears, believed in their dreams and taken risks to achieve happiness. Their life stories are a symbol of courage, hope and possibility.

This is where the Raptors Foundation comes in. We exist for the common good – to make possibilities a reality for our children. But we cannot do this alone. Thanks to our community of generous donors who share our commitment to social responsibility, we can create an environment for kids to play, to grow and to dream.

We often underestimate the power of a compassionate heart, sympathetic ear or helping hand. This year we invite you to join us in celebrating these simple acts of kindness, and thank the donors and the children for constantly reminding us of the true meaning of community.

THE HONOURABLE LINCOLN ALEXANDER
CHAIRMAN, RAPTORS FOUNDATION

BEV DEETH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RAPTORS FOUNDATION
AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS
TORONTO RAPTORS BASKETBALL CLUB



A TRIBUTE TO OUR HEROES

Sometimes in life you have the chance to meet people who inspire you in a way you never imagined. These young heroes have left lasting memories and a legacy that reminds us about courage, hope and the true meaning of life...



STANFORD KUDZAI STANFORD
"STAN THE MAN" (1990-2004)

Letter to a Departed Angel

Dearest Stanford,

How can I thank you for helping me move closer to God?

How can I repay you for all that I have learned about being strong and having faith?

How can I explain to the world what an extraordinary young man you were?

I will tell others about how you always remembered to begin your prayers with "Thank you God..." no matter what setbacks and complications you suffered through the day.

I will tell them about how you always remembered to pray for others, despite the terrible pain and distress you were in.

I will tell them about how you persevered, leaning on your faith even until the very hour God called you home.

I will tell them that you gave me more hope and strength than I managed to give you.

I will pray that you have the everlasting peace in heaven that you did not have on earth.

I will pray that my fond memories of you never fade.

Most of all, I will continue to thank God for you and pray that the lessons He taught me through you will remain with me always.

May God bless you Stanford. May your spirits rise up and have peace in heaven.

May the Holy Spirit encamp around your family and friends.

Amen.

- ANONYMOUS



BRENDON DESOUZA
(1990-2002)

A Poem for My Friends

Friends are truthful,

For truth is the special bond between friends.

Friends listen,

For the time to listen to one another is golden.

Friends care,

Not just when times are good but especially when times are difficult.

Friends are helpful,

They carry the load of any burden.

Friends are reliable,

They are always there, rain or shine.

Friends forgive,

Because friendship is more important than just being right.

Friends are kind,

For they give when they have so little to give.

Friends are lucky,

I'm very lucky to have you all, as my friends.

Thank you all very much.

- BRENDON DESOUZA
(MAY 2002 - 11 YEARS OLD)

GIVE-A-KID-A-GAME
TICKET DONATION PROGRAM

Raptors ticket holders make the dream of seeing NBA heroes a reality for thousands of children in need every season. The Give-A-Kid-A-Game Ticket Donation Program is truly a win-win for both the donors and the kids. Fans who are unable to attend Raptors home games donate their tickets to the Raptors Foundation to be distributed to various at-risk youth registered charities. Thanks to their tremendous support, kids have the opportunity to experience the excitement of an NBA game live! Here are just a few comments from the kids who have been touched by this valuable program...



Thanks for the time of my life!! my throat still hurts from all the screaming



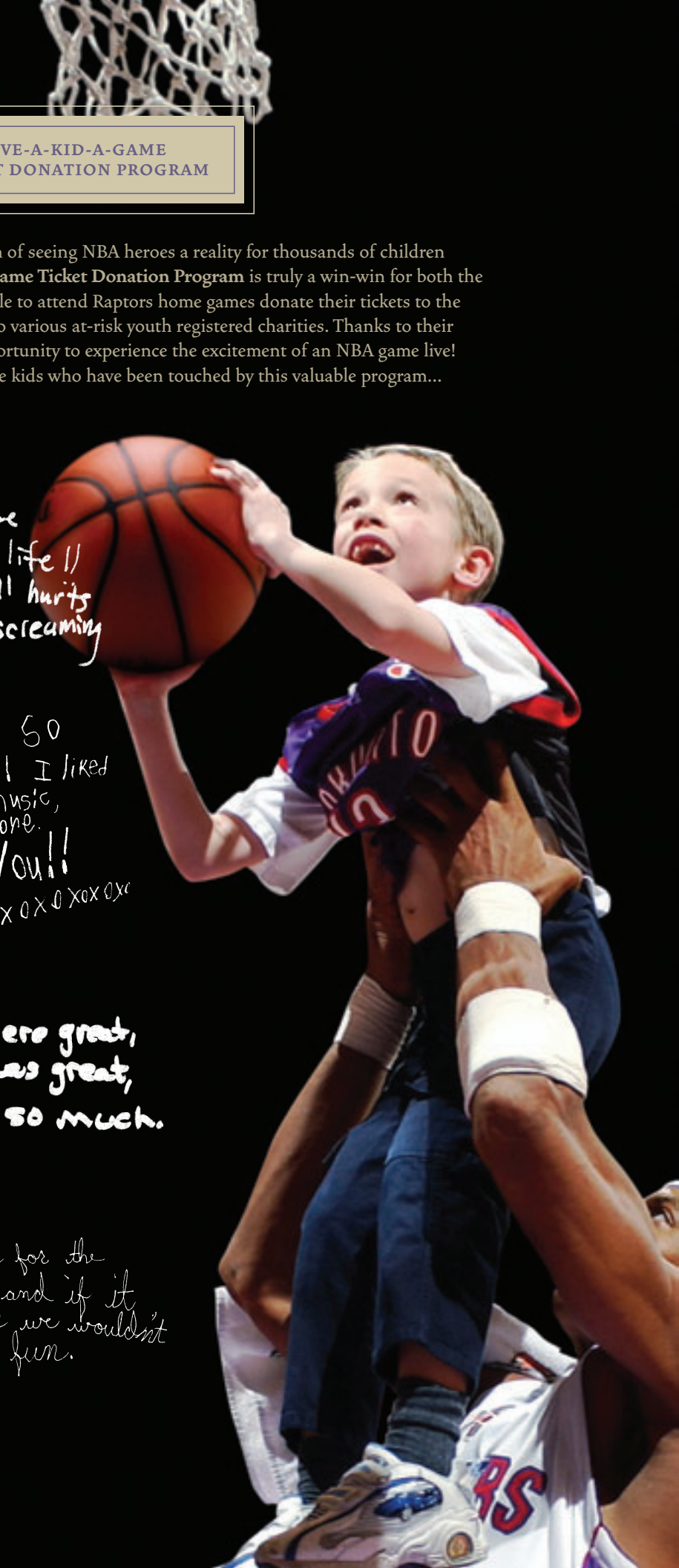
It was so much fun!! I liked cheering the music, and keeping score. Thank you!!
Oxox oxox oxoxoxoxox



The seats were great, The game was great, Thank you so much.



Cassie thank you for the raptors tickets and if it weren't for you we wouldn't have so much fun.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

For more than nine years the Raptors Foundation has been committed to making a difference in the lives of youth. Our annual events are an essential part of raising the money needed to change lives. They are also opportunities for our supporters to make a financial investment in the Raptors Foundation while having fun with colleagues and our team.



KINGPIN CHALLENGE

Each winter, the entire Toronto Raptors basketball club trade in their high-tops for funky bowling shoes and take to the lanes for the annual Raptors Foundation Kingpin Challenge. From cosmic bowling to the commemorative bowling shirts, participants are “bowled over” with the chance to hang out and be “teammates” with the Raptors players and coaches. It is an afternoon of strikes, spares, food, prizes and fun for all ages. The event includes a silent auction filled with unique sports memorabilia, prizing for top teams and the popular “Bowl Off” for bragging rights, featuring 2003 champion Morris Peterson, Raptors co-captain Vince Carter and the Raptor mascot.



RAP UP CHARITY EVENT

This year's gala was truly a special occasion as the Raptors Foundation and Toronto Raptors hosted hundreds of fans and donors on “centre court” of Air Canada Centre. The arena was transformed into an elegant dining room with dazzling candelabras and tantalizing gourmet food stations, as smooth live jazz filled the air. Front and centre were the Raptors players, donned in personalized aprons, preparing delectable dishes, pouring exquisite drinks, taking photographs and mingling with guests. The evening included opportunities for fans to shoot hoops one-on-one with the Raptors and even compete in Playstation's popular NBA Live video game. With an elaborate silent auction, exciting live auction and chances to win exclusive vacation getaways, the Rap Up Charity Event presented by Siemens was extremely successful in raising funds for at-risk youth across Ontario.



TIP OFF DINNER

The inaugural Tip Off Dinner made its debut on the Foundation's fundraising roster and immediately became one of the most popular events. To the delight of 150 guests in attendance, Raptors players and coaching staff teamed up to serve a memorable meal prepared by the Keg Steakhouse & Bar. It was non-stop entertainment with the Raptors mascot and Raptors Dance Pak but the greatest highlights were Raptors celebrity bartenders/waiters, who sported custom-designed aprons that were later sold to the highest bidders.



LADIES SUMMER SWING

Ladies got a jump on summer with this premiere golf event, exclusively for women. A partnership with the Raptors Foundation and Go Kids Go! The Leafs Fund, this event brought the spa to the golf course for a day of pampering on the links, while raising funds for two worthwhile causes. From delectable antipasto and vintage wines on the holes to specialized golf clinics and shiatsu massages, Summer Swing is quickly becoming one of the most popular female golf tournaments in Ontario, with the help of title sponsor Accenture.



RAPTORS FOUNDATION CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

Toronto Raptors players and coaching staff spent an afternoon on the greens with more than 250 avid golfers at the Raptors Foundation Charity Golf Classic. Golfers were treated to first-class amenities like Ruth's Chris steak sandwiches at the halfway house, lockers filled with golfer gifting, swing analysis and massages on the holes, and interactive contests to win spectacular prizes. In addition to hanging with NBA stars, guests were treated to a savoury dinner and fabulous entertainment.





COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Since 1995, the Toronto Raptors have been instrumental in growing the game of basketball across the country. The team's effort on the court has often overshadowed their successes outside the basketball arena, but the Raptors' vision of creating champions reflects a broader role off the court and defines success beyond wins and losses.

The Raptors demonstrate their dedication to creating champions off the court by being good citizens and exemplary role models in the community. With the support of the team's ownership, Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd., and the Community Relations department, the Raptors donate more than a million dollars each year to support initiatives that align with their vision and values.



ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

Access and opportunity to basketball are cornerstone philosophies of the Raptors community relations programs and initiatives. They give youth, both physically challenged and able-bodied, a chance to improve their skills, focus their energy positively and most importantly develop fundamental life skills. Programs such as **Raptorball** – a community-based league dedicated to children between the ages of seven and 14 offering the opportunity to enjoy and learn basketball in a fun environment – and the **Rollin' Raptors** – where 40 top Ontario wheelchair basketball players are invited to attend this clinic, which includes personal instruction from Raptors players – focus and contribute to access and opportunity that better position youth for life's greater challenges.



LITERACY

Encouraging and promoting student literacy can open several opportunities. The Raptors **Read to Achieve** program supports literacy by promoting the value of print and on-line learning and encouraging adults to read regularly with young children.

For the Raptors, the values and virtues of literacy are promoted through their direct involvement with school visits and reading with kids. Raptors Community Relations support these efforts with book and school material donations, and providing resources and financial assistance to facilitate learning.



FAN AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Fan and skill development emphasize fun, good sportsmanship and life skills, while growing the game of basketball and the fan base in Canada. The **Raptors Jam Van** is a basketball clinic on wheels, equipped with basketballs, nets, a great sound system and enthusiastic individual trainers. However, the most important part of the Jam Van tour is the life lessons it brings to each stop. Each Jam Van session stresses teamwork, effort and dedication. The Jam Van visits 60 sites across Ontario each summer and has reached more than 350,000 children during the last six years.

The **Kellogg's Free Youth Clinics** are a series of summer basketball clinics that teach fundamentals such as shooting, passing, dribbling, footwork and defense. They're held annually at Air Canada Centre, home of the Toronto Raptors, and are geared towards boys and girls between the ages of six and 15.



PLAYER TICKET PROGRAMS AND MERCHANDISE DONATIONS

Throughout the Raptors team history, past and present players have supported the community in their own way through their individual foundations and ticket programs. Player ticket programs recognize youth from various charitable organizations across Toronto.

Each season, the Raptors Foundation and Raptors Community Relations donate more than \$300,000 in tickets and autographed merchandise and equipment to support Ontario registered charities in their drives to raise funds and support themselves.

LIFTING SPIRITS.
CHANGING LIVES.

The Raptors Foundation tagline is “Lifting Spirits. Changing Lives.” What you will see on the following pages is just how far your contributions, generosity and overall collaborative efforts with the Foundation have gone towards lifting the spirits and changing the lives of five very special individuals. Each story offers a unique sense of courage and hope, proving that every child truly has potential.



Grace Chudleigh

FROM THE MOMENT YOU MEET HER, FOUR-year-old Grace Chudleigh touches your heart in a way that leaves a lasting impression. Each day she runs to the bus that takes her to school, blowing kisses as she leaves the driveway. And each day, her parents, Anne Marie and Mike, find comfort in the knowledge that a community of caring teachers, specialists and volunteers want to see her grow and flourish.

Grace was born with Down syndrome, and very early on her family was embraced by Centennial Infant and Child Centre. Grace participated in The Infant Development Program at 10 weeks where therapists would come to the Chudleigh residence, working closely with Grace and her family, free of charge. Once a week Anne Marie and Grace would come into the centre for Baby Group and Anne Marie had a chance to connect with other parents and children. For the past two years, Grace has thrived in the one-to-one Preschool Program, developing her cognitive, motor and social skills with the help of dedicated volunteers.

Grace has just completed her final year at Centennial with a graduation ceremony for classmates, family and friends. Now Grace and her family prepare to embark on a new chapter in their lives as Grace enrolls in an integrated school in the fall. “When Grace was born we knew what an incredible blessing we received – she taught everybody to open their hearts wider,” says Anne Marie. Her name is perfect, as Grace brings perspective to the world and what we really need – more love.

CENTENNIAL INFANT AND
CHILD CENTRE FOUNDATION

Centennial Infant and Child Centre Foundation is dedicated to supporting children who have special needs and those at risk for delays in development. The centre aims to offer children the best possible start towards achieving their full potential. For more information please call 416.935.0200/416.935.1200 or visit www.cicc.on.ca



A close-up portrait of Kariym Joachim, a young Black man with a slight smile, looking towards the camera. He is wearing a grey and white patterned button-down shirt.

Kariym Joachim

FROM BIRTH, KARIYM'S FAMILY KNEW THEY had a special gift in their son. Little did they know how much of an influence their child would have on everyone he touches. Kariym was born with Treacher Collins Syndrome, a genetic condition involving underdevelopment of the structures of the head and face. In his 17 years, Kariym has undergone more than 10 surgical procedures including cheek reconstruction, eye surgeries and several operations to provide him with outer ears.

During his elementary years, an organization called AboutFace came to Kariym's school and made a presentation that had a lasting impression on his life. The group encouraged children to look for the beauty inside a person, and not to judge a book by its cover. Kariym was moved and made the choice to become involved. "AboutFace was the first organization to allow me to speak to an audience and educate staff and students on my experiences," he said.

In 2002, the Raptors Foundation selected Kariym as one of its original 10 Mr. Big Heroes. This program honours local young people for overcoming great challenges and for their impact on the community. Kariym was treated to a Raptors game, a meet and greet with Vince Carter and a Big Hero medallion. In an unforgettable moment, Kariym's story was displayed in front of 20,000 cheering fans, and Kariym's family was there to share his joy.

As he completes high school, Kariym plans to enter the field of medicine as an otolaryngologist, or ear, nose and throat doctor.

ABOUTFACE INTERNATIONAL

AboutFace International is a charitable organization dedicated to providing emotional support, information services and educational programs for and on behalf of children and adults with facial differences and their families. For more information please call 416.597.2229 or visit www.aboutface.ca



Elisa Linton

THIS IS A REMARKABLE STORY OF FAMILY, FAITH and selfless sacrifice. Although Elisa Linton appeared completely normal at birth, now 10 years old, Elisa is battling a rare genetic disorder called Sanfilippo Syndrome, for which there is no cure. Children with Sanfilippo Syndrome are missing an essential enzyme that breaks down sugars, resulting in a build-up in the brain and other organs, ultimately stopping development. Most children do not live to adulthood.

Instead of succumbing to the disease however, Elisa's parents Randall and Elisabeth chose the road less traveled and began a foundation to share the story of their daughter and spread awareness about Sanfilippo Syndrome. Entitled "A Life For Elisa" the ultimate goal of the foundation is to raise money to fund research and hopefully find a cure – it is a daily crusade that the Linton family willingly charts. Siblings Jessica and Connor, along with their parents, have devoted their lives to helping Elisa. Their community of friends, medical specialists and local businesses have all joined in, surrounding this

family with love and financial support, helping to raise more than \$1 million since 1999.

Elisa began to regress at six years old and today struggles to form words. But like the symbol for the foundation – a rose – Elisa's bright eyes and brilliant smile communicate a vibrant beauty within. It is this beauty and her spirit that inspire the Linton family to continue on their journey.

SANFILIPPO CHILDREN'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Sanfilippo Children's Research Foundation began in 1999 by Elisa's parents, Elisabeth and Randall Linton. The goal of this charitable foundation is to fund medical research and find a cure for Sanfilippo and its related neuro-genetic disorders. For more information please call 416.223.1911 or visit www.alifeforelisa.org



Iman Warsameali

IMAN DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL AT THE AGE OF 18. Confused by pressures from friends pulling against the extreme pressures of his family, he found himself at an important crossroads in his life. Iman's family moved to Vancouver and it was decided that he would not join them. He was left alone in a big city to fend for himself – a high school dropout, with no job and nowhere to go.

Iman entered Toronto's emergency shelter system and for two years he lived on the streets, bouncing from shelter to shelter, never allowed to stay in one place for more than a few weeks.

After an eight-month application process, Iman was selected as one of the original residents of Eva's Phoenix, a unique new long-term residential site for homeless youth, designed by the parent organization Eva's Initiatives. He joined 50 youth ages 16-24, living in townhouse-style units while receiving skills training, mentorship and employment programs carried out by an expert team of counselors. This was a sanctuary for Iman. He now had a place to call home and more importantly, a second chance at life.

After completing his high school diploma, Iman enrolled in the University of Toronto where he is majoring in history with a double minor in religion and psychology. He has since reunited with his family, and while he has left Eva's Phoenix, he remains involved as a peer mentor. For Iman, using his experience to help others brings him fulfillment: "Only when you help others can you achieve happiness for yourself."

EVA'S INITIATIVES

Eva's Initiatives (including Eva's Place, Eva's Satellite and Eva's Phoenix) works collaboratively with homeless and at-risk youth to actualize their potential to lead productive, self-sufficient and healthy lives by providing safe shelter and a range of services. They create long-term solutions by developing and implementing proactive and progressive services. For more information please call 416.977.4497 or visit www.evasinitiatives.com

Leila Hughes

TO SEE LEILA IS TO SEE A CHARISMATIC, articulate, confident young woman. But to know Leila is to know a lifetime of struggles and overcoming challenges. Leila is the middle child in a family of five children. When she was three, Leila's father died and home life was very difficult as her mother was an alcoholic and suffered from depression. At age 15, Leila was admitted into foster care through the Children's Aid Society and after a few years, she moved to an independent living situation where she also took on the emotional and financial role of parenting her younger sister.

Despite many challenges, Leila flourished in high school and participated in many team sports and various student councils. Leila was accepted to Guelph University, but was very concerned with the cost of attending, even with her part-time job.

Leila vividly remembers coming home one night to see a letter that stated she was the recipient of the 2002-2003 Raptors Foundation scholarship through the Children's Aid Foundation. This financial support meant the world to Leila. Knowing that the Raptors believed in her ability to succeed provided her with incredible motivation.

Since entering university, Leila has spent her summers playing rugby and has played nationally for Ontario. She also works part-time in a local restaurant and plans on mentoring young girls and being a Big Sister. This September, Leila will be entering her third year at Guelph University with plans to continue with post-secondary education in law.

CHILDREN'S AID FOUNDATION

Children's Aid Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of abused and neglected children. As a registered charity, they raise funds to give these children the skills and support they need to reach their full potential. For more information please call 416.923.0924 or visit www.cafdn.org



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
 GENEROUS SUPPORT

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Children's Aid Foundation
Children's Aid Society of Haldimand-Norfolk
College Montrose Children's Place
Community Living Chatham-Kent
Community Microskills Development Centre
COSTI Immigrant Services
Dam Youth Drop-in
Dixon Hall
Earlscourt Child & Family Centre
Elmbank Community Centre
Eva's Initiatives
Family Transition Place
Friends of Community Schools
Grand River Hospital
Hamilton East Boys & Girls Club
Holy Family Community Centre
Hope for Children Foundation
Hospital for Sick Children
John McInnis Community Recreation Centre
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Kids.now
LAMP Health and Community Services Centre
Literacy Council York-Simcoe
Literature for Life
MADD Canada
Mixed Company Theatre
National Service Dog Training Centre
North Kipling Community Centre
Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations
Ontario Special Olympics
Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association
Onward Willow Community Centre
People Bridge Charitable Foundation
Perinatal Bereavement Services
Pride in Heritage Children's Centre
Project CANOE
Quinte Regional Children's Foundation
Ralph Thornton Centre
Regent Park Community Centre
Rexdale Community Health Centre
Rose Avenue Community Recreation Centre

SAGE Youth
Scadding Court Community Centre
Secord Community Centre
Silent Voice Canada Inc.
Silver Creek Nursery for Children with Handicaps
South Oshawa Community Health Centre
Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario
St. Stephen's Community House
Thames Valley Children's Centre
The Children's Emergency Foundation
The Civic Garden Centre
The Family Counseling Centre of Brant
The Gatehouse Child Abuse Advocacy Centre
The George Hull Centre for Children and Families
The Kidney Foundation of Canada
The Learning Partnership
The Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada
The United Way Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington
Toronto Foundation for Student Success
Trinity Home Hospice
Tropicana Community Services
University of Toronto
University of Waterloo
Variety Village
West Indian Community Support Services
Windsor Essex Therapeutic Riding Association
Woodgreen Community Centre
York Region Abuse Program
Youth Assisting Youth
Youth Employment Services
Youth Unlimited

GIVE-A-KID-A-GAME TICKET RECIPIENTS

AboutFace International
Adventure Place
Aisling Discoveries Child & Family Centre
Alexandra Park Community Centre
Applegrove Community Complex
Associated Youth Services of Peel
Bereaved Families of Ontario
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Toronto
Big Brothers of Halton Inc.
Blake Boulbee Youth Outreach Service
Bloorview MacMillan Children's Foundation
Cabbagetown Youth Centre Inc.
Canadian Cancer Society
Canadian Diabetes Association
Canadian National Institute for the Blind
Central Neighborhood House
Central Toronto Youth Services
Child Find Ontario
Children's Aid Foundation
Children's Aid Society of Toronto
Children's Wish Foundation of Canada
Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre
Community Centre 55
Covenant House Toronto
Dam Youth Drop In
Delisle Youth Services
Delta Family Resource Centre
Dixon Hall
Doorsteps Neighbourhood Services

Durham Children's Aid Society
Earlscourt Child & Family Centre
East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club
Eva's Initiatives
Family Service Association of Metropolitan Toronto
Family Transition Place
Geneva Centre for Autism
Halton Children's Aid Society
Harbourfront Community Centre
Hope for Children Foundation
Horizons for Youth
Hospital for Sick Children
Inner City Angels
Inner City Outreach
Interlink Community Cancer Nurses
Jane and Finch Community and Family Centre
Jessie's Centre for Teenagers
Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Foundation
Kids Help Phone
Leave Out Violence
Loft Community Services
Make-a-Wish Foundation (Toronto)
Malvern Family Resource Centre
Moorlands Community Services
Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation
Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
Nellie's (Women's Hostels Incorporated)
Ontario Association of Food Banks
Ontario Special Olympics
Oolagen Community Services
Operation Springboard
Reach for the Rainbow
Reena Foundation
Ronald McDonald House
Rotary Club of Toronto
Safehaven Project for Community Living
Sanfilippo Foundation
Scadding Court Community Centre
Scouts Canada
Sports Celebrities Festival
St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club
St. Christopher House
St. Stephen's Community House
Starlight Children's Foundation of Canada
Surrey Place Centre
Syme-Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre
The Creche Child & Family Centre
The Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto
The Gatehouse Child Abuse Advocacy Centre
The George Hull Centre for Children and Families
The Greek Community of Metropolitan Toronto
The Hincks-Dellcrest Centre
The Kidney Foundation of Canada
The Lung Association of Sudbury and Area
The Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada
The Salvation Army
The Yonge Street Mission
Toronto Child Abuse Centre
Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre
Toronto General and Western Hospital Foundation
Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs
Touchstone Youth Centre

Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Ontario
Turning Point Youth Services
United Way of Greater Toronto
Variety Village
Wellspring Cancer Support Foundation
Windfall Clothing Services
WoodGreen Community Centre of Toronto
YMCA of Niagara
York Region Neighbourhood Services
Yorktown Child & Family Centre
Youth Employment Services
Youth Haven (Barrie)
Youth Unlimited
Youth Without Shelter
Youthdale Treatment Centre
YWCA of Greater Toronto

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