



**June 23, 2005**

**For Immediate Release**

**Community Shows An Outpouring of Support for McMaster Children's Hospital  
In Honour of Youngster's Fight Against Cancer**

Hamilton... Unlike the many other trips Andrea and Jay Lack have made to McMaster Children's Hospital with their youngest son Sam, for chemotherapy or clinic visits, today their family will visit the Hospital to present a cheque for \$17, 660 to McMaster Children's Hospital to purchase equipment and resources for the pediatric ward, oncology clinic, and physiotherapy department to enhance patient care.

The family raised the money by organizing *Sam's Day*, a family fun event in support of McMaster Children's Hospital held at Brant Hills Community Centre on Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>, which was Sam's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. This was a special milestone for Sam who has had chemotherapy and surgery to treat the neuroblastoma tumor in his abdomen.

Sam's mom Andrea Lack noted, "Sam's Day was an opportunity for us to thank everyone who has been so supportive through this entire journey and to also join together with our community and corporate supporters to raise funds for the hospital which is a very special place for children who are dealing with catastrophic diseases. It also allowed us to raise awareness of childhood cancer and to put out a call to action to the community in helping to find a cure."

Sam's dad Jay added, "Once something like this has happened to your family you realize that the loss of a child's innocence to cancer is dreadful and the loss of even one child to cancer is tragic. Cancer changes your life forever. Survivorship is a community and we feel this has been a chance to make a difference that will benefit hundreds of kids who rely on the staff, technology and research at MacKids to save their lives."

Sam's Day was attended by more than 400 people who enjoyed a host of activities including live entertainment, a carnival, a Home Depot workshop, a Discovery Toys Play Station, a BBQ lunch, raffles, a 50-50 draw, and silent auction. The day's highlights for Sam was his arrival on a school bus with his big brother Ben, and sitting in the driver's seat of a fire truck with help from Burlington fire fighters.

Jill Davies, Sam's aunt, who was involved with organizing the day said, "Families couldn't believe everything they got to enjoy with their Family Fun Pass and felt great knowing that at the same time they were making a contribution to such a worthy cause."

Sam was deemed in remission in mid-April. He continues to visit the clinic regularly to be monitored.

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