

Music with a Message

You might be surprised to learn that the first time that children’s entertainer Erick Traplin came to KidsAbility (then known as the K-W Rotary Children’s Centre) was to actually play for the Board of Directors. Back in 1999, a member of the Board that year had invited Erick to play. During this first meeting, he was given a tour and introduced to some of the children — after which he was hooked!

That same year, Erick wrote a song called “Kids Can’t Wait... for Your Helping Hand” echoing the theme for KidsAbility Foundation’s Kids Can’t Wait annual fundraising campaign. That song was featured on the CD bearing the same name, and included a special guest who accompanied Erick on vocals for his song “Love, Love, Love”: The 1999–2000 ambassador, Melissa Clark. The experience of working with Melissa remains Erick’s most cherished memory.

To date, more than \$6,000 has been raised from the sale of the CD. Over the years, Erick has written several other songs for KidsAbility and his musical talent always brings a string of smiles at special events. In 2007, Erick was honoured with KidsAbility Foundation’s highest award: The Outstanding Supporter Award. Erick says, “My support comes in the form of free concerts and 100% of the proceeds of the Kids Can’t Wait CD that go to support the services at KidsAbility. I like to give this way as it’s what I love to do, and I get to have some personal contact with the kids, parents and staff at KidsAbility.”

Erick humbly reflects: “My contribution is small, but I think that everybody’s giving, big or small, goes into a pot that gets divided up to make a big difference in the lives of children and families in our community. Donations of either money or services is an investment towards a healthy, happy society.”

“Help”: That is the first word that comes to mind when Erick thinks of KidsAbility. His immediate impression back in 1999 still stands true today — that KidsAbility is a place that, when parents are at a loss and don’t know where to turn for help, can provide guidance and incredible services for their children. It’s a place where kids have the opportunity to reach their full potential in a loving and supportive environment.

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Erick Traplin

Donor and
2007 Outstanding Supporter Award Recipient