

# Just What the Doctor Ordered

Finding a family physician isn't always an easy task. After all, you want someone who cares deeply about your well-being and that of the rest of your family. Dr. Mike Lawrie was such a doctor – and more. He took his desire to help families to another level by volunteering his time in support of children and youth with special needs.

It all began in 1987 with a simple request from the president of the Rotary Club of Cambridge Galt. At that time, the Cambridge Times was looking to partner with local Rotarians to put on a charity run – and Mike was asked to join the committee to organize the event. The recipient of the funds raised was to be none other than the Rotary Children's Centre (which eventually evolved into KidsAbility Centre for Child Development).

For Mike, it was the perfect fit. As a family physician, he had referred some of his young clients to KidsAbility and had seen the remarkable results firsthand. So when it came time to sign on as a committee member of the Cambridge Times Rotary Classic, he did so wholeheartedly.

"I really loved the community involvement," says Mike, "and the way the event focused on neat kids and their families. Rotary and KidsAbility really went out of their way to get children with special needs involved. It was wonderful to see parents pushing children in wheelchairs, youngsters using assisted walking devices and other participants running in support of family members. It became a party and celebration!"

In 1991, after four years as a committee member, Mike became chair and event director – positions he held for 14 years. While he eventually gave up those roles, he stayed on as an advisor and participant. In fact, over three decades of the event, Mike rarely missed a chance to run. One of his fondest memories occurred when he, his wife and daughter all won medals in their respective age categories. Yet, even that paled to the "yearly joys of the kids as they crossed the finish line."

After 30 years, the Cambridge Times Rotary Classic continues to thrive, having raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for KidsAbility – thanks, in part, to tireless advocates like Mike. "I derived great pleasure from volunteering at the run and made some wonderful friendships," he states. "I wanted to do more beyond my medical practice and volunteering made me feel I was helping with a cause that really mattered."

For KidsAbility, Mike was just what the doctor ordered – an individual who cared deeply about the well-being of our children and who went the extra mile to make a difference.



*Dr. Mike Lawrie*

Rotarian and Donor