



# Media Release

**Contact:**

Dayna Giorgio | Strategic Communications Officer  
519.886.8886 ext. 1309 | [dgiorgio@kidsability.ca](mailto:dgiorgio@kidsability.ca)

For Immediate Release

## Local performer gives back in a grand way and is honoured with highest distinction possible by KidsAbility Foundation

Waterloo, ON, November 14, 2018 – Dream big. That’s the concept behind The Sounds of Christmas, a heartwarming multi-performer musical celebration for all ages that Nicole Guse produces and performs in to support KidsAbility—an organization that once played an important role her in own family’s life. At a special event held last week, Guse was awarded the highest recognition possible by KidsAbility Foundation: The Elaine Ormston Outstanding Supporter Butterfly Award.

Each year KidsAbility Foundation recognizes an individual who champions children and youth with special needs. Over the past five years, Guse has raised over \$100,000 donating the proceeds from the Sounds of Christmas to KidsAbility. Her inspiration is her son, Joshua. When he was 18 months old, Joshua’s life, and the life of his family, was transformed through the services he received at KidsAbility.

“We first walked through the doors of KidsAbility, when Joshua was only 18 months old. He did not speak and was not passing the milestones for his age, says Guse. “Our family doctor referred us and we were one of the very lucky families that got in before the large wait list began. In our case, it affected Joshua through his hearing and touch. For the next four years, we visited KidsAbility regularly for both Speech and Occupational Therapy. We celebrated many milestones along the way on our journey at KidsAbility. Things that other parents would take for granted, we would celebrate!”

Guse has used the universal language of music and the joy of the festive season to touch the hearts of people, young and old, and to bring them together in support of KidsAbility. She had a dream of giving back to KidsAbility on a grander scale, while at the same time bringing the community together to enjoy the season.

In December 2013, her dream became a reality with the first production of The Sounds of Christmas, a show that features many styles of holiday music from traditional favourites to country to gospel as well as toe-tapping instrumentals and various styles of dance.



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Since its inception Guse's entire family—well known locally and beyond for their award-winning stepdancing and fiddling abilities—have been involved in this magical production lending their skills and talents onstage and behind the scenes. The show, which includes three generations of family members, also consists of eight professional adult performers, a professional four-piece band, their famous award-winning stepdancing and fiddling that they are known for, and a youth cast of 17 young singers and dancers.

“Never in my wildest dreams, when I started this, did I think it would have the huge outpouring of support that it has had. The Sounds of Christmas has become a tradition for many people to kick off their holiday season and that makes me so happy,” says Guse.

Donations raised through our generous community and events like the Sounds of Christmas help to fund new programs, innovation and equipment, and allow KidsAbility to serve an additional 1,000 children and youth with special needs each year.

“We are so grateful for Nicole and her family's support. Nicole believes strongly in giving back to her community and it's personal when it comes to KidsAbility. Nicole, Josh and her family are an inspiration to all of us at KidsAbility and we couldn't be more pleased to recognize their efforts,” says Lisa Talbot, executive director of KidsAbility Foundation

**Sounds of Christmas 2018 Showtimes:**

- Friday, November 23 – 2pm & 7pm
- Saturday, November 24 – 2pm
- Friday, November 30 – 2pm & 7pm
- Saturday, December 1 – 2pm

**Location:**

Waterloo Mennonite Brethren Church (WMB)  
245 Lexington Road, Waterloo

**Tickets:**

Available for purchase by calling the box office at 519.502.8390 or visiting [ticketscene.ca](http://ticketscene.ca). For more information visit [guseproductions.com](http://guseproductions.com).

- \$30/Adult
- \$25/Group Rate (20 or more)
- \$20/18 and Under



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## Background Information:

Across our community, 7,976 children and youth with special needs receive the help that they need to realize goals important to them. It could be overcoming a stutter, strengthening muscles to take that first step or learning the social skills to make a friend—together, we make these firsts possible. With over 60 years of experience, KidsAbility helps children and youth with special needs and their families to achieve goals important to them at home, at school and in the community. Our goal is to get the right support to the right child at the right time and donations help to make that possible.

KidsAbility Foundation inspires and engages community partners, individuals and groups to help make a difference in children's lives. Demand for KidsAbility's services continues to exceed the resources provided by the provincial government. Through the annual Kids Can't Wait campaign, donations raised through our generous community fund new programs, innovation and equipment, and allow KidsAbility to serve an additional 1,000 children and youth with special needs each year. Without this generous support, more children would be waiting even longer to receive the care that they deserve and so desperately need. Presently, there are over 1,300 children waiting for services at KidsAbility.

With your help, we can help more children to live richer and fuller lives. Together, we can ensure that every child and youth has access to the services that they need where they live, learn and play to realize their full potential.

