



Media Release

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For Immediate Release

Potential Realized for Fergus Children, Youth and Families

Fergus, ON, September 1, 2017 – For each of the over 1,000 children and youth with special needs impacted by the services offered at KidsAbility’s Fergus site, “Potential Realized” has taken on its own unique meaning.

Whether for a child it has meant learning how to walk, learning life skills that have led to independence — thanks to the foundational vision and support of Rotary over the years, children and youth with special needs have been empowered with the skills and support that they have needed in Fergus.

“Rotary and KidsAbility have a long, and proud history in our community. In fact, if it wasn’t for the incredible vision and support of our local Rotarians, we wouldn’t even exist,” says Linda Kenny, chief executive officer of KidsAbility.

Founded and supported by Rotarians since 1957, KidsAbility’s first site opened that year in Kitchener. Providing services as close as possible to where children, youth and families live, learn, work and play has been a key priority for KidsAbility throughout the years. As the needs of the community grew, so too did KidsAbility adding additional sites in Cambridge, Guelph, Kitchener, Waterloo and in 2000, Fergus. Once again, KidsAbility turned to local Rotarians whose support continues to make it possible for families to access services close to home.

“The support of the Rotary Club of Fergus-Elora cannot be understated,” says Lisa Talbot, executive director of KidsAbility Foundation. “To date, they have given us close to \$200,000 and supported vital initiatives. From hosting a Christmas party every year for KidsAbility families to funding renovations at our Fergus site, extra occupational and physiotherapy sessions, our 6 and Up program or even speech and language services for two years, Rotary epitomizes the best qualities of a community partner – and we’re truly thankful.”

Last year alone, KidsAbility provided therapy and support services to 157 children and youth with special needs who call Fergus home. KidsAbility’s dedicated and passionate team of staff work with each individual and their family to determine goals important to them and then work towards achieving these goals. This is done out of KidsAbility’s site located at 160 St. David Street in Fergus.

“Sixty years of service to our community is a celebration of the over 60,000 children and youth who have received critical therapies and services to realize their own full potential,” says Ms. Kenny. “As we celebrate our rich history, we are also looking to the next 60 years as we continue to grow to meet the changing and evolving needs of our children, youth and families in Fergus.”

Background Information

Founded and supported by Rotarians since 1957, KidsAbility™ Centre for Child Development is the recognized leader in Waterloo Region and Guelph-Wellington for empowering children and youth with a wide range of complex special needs.

KidsAbility's passionate and talented team of staff and volunteers provided therapy and support services to 6,963 children and youth with special needs last year. Providing services that are accessible, seamless, and focused on client and family-centred care remain core priorities for KidsAbility. In order to be as close as possible to where children and youth with special needs and their families live, learn, work and play, KidsAbility offers a wide range of services at multiple sites in Cambridge, Fergus, Guelph, Kitchener, Mount Forest and Waterloo.

KidsAbility serves children and youth from birth to school exit with special needs ranging from communication, physical, general and developmental delays, to more complex diagnoses such as autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and other rare medical syndromes. KidsAbility provides therapy and support to many children who do not yet have a diagnosis.

Although funded primarily through the Ontario Ministry of Children & Youth Services, KidsAbility Foundation inspires and engages community partners, individuals and groups to help make a difference in children's lives through donations. Donations raised annually allow KidsAbility to serve as many children as possible through innovative programs, talented therapists and advanced technology.

Through the generous support of donors, KidsAbility empowers thousands of children and youth with special needs to realize their full potential every year. There are 942 children who are waiting for services at KidsAbility. With continued support from our community, more children will be able to access the services they need to live the best lives possible and realize their full potential.