

# Lansdowne Children's Centre



39 Mount Pleasant Street, Brantford, ON N3T 1S7  
Phone: 519-753-3153/3154

Dear Rider:

What a difference it makes in the life of a young person to be part of *Every Kid Counts!* Who doesn't live for the chance to get out with friends for a good game or a spin?

You may take for granted the chance to be part of the gang going out on sleds or gathering for cards. Everyone knows that this 'down time' is part of a balanced life...being able to work hard and play hard gives us a sense of accomplishment.

Of course, it's no different for a young person with special needs. Taking the Boy Scout oath or being able to join in at the gym is what we want for any youngster...yet it's sometimes not as easy as just showing up with the right frame of mind. The 'hand-up' to give some extra assistance to participate is what *Every Kid Counts* provides to 65 children each year as a result of your support. The children who benefit from this program experience difficulty in participating in mainstream recreation because of physical, developmental or communications challenges.

When you participate in the Great Northern Ride, the funds you raise cover the services of a Support Worker and any necessary equipment for these opportunities, which may be out of reach financially for a family which also has extra costs associated with raising a child with special needs. This is a service that is not government funded, so Lansdowne would not be able to link these young people with support to be part of mainstream recreation if it weren't for you!

We can count the calories burned, tally the goals scored, and cheer the better bowling score, but the increased sense of citizenship and belonging - to quote a credit card company - is priceless.

The return on this investment is more rounded young people. The attention you show to these members of our community show that Brant truly cares for its young people – especially those with special needs. Lansdowne can't thank you enough when you sign up to ride for a child. Every dollar that you contribute by your participation and pledges make a difference in the *Every Kid Counts* program.

Sincerely,

*Rita-Marie*

Rita-Marie Hadley  
Executive Director  
Lansdowne Children's Centre