

Angel Hair  
FOR KIDS®



Salon Partner  
AFFILIATE PROGRAM





## **ABOUT THE FOUNDATION**

A Child's Voice Foundation is a national registered charitable organization dedicated to creating and managing programs that tangibly support and enhance the physical and emotional well-being of financially challenged children in Canada who are facing an illness or disability.

Since the doors opened in 1995, the foundation has worked to improve the lives of children across the country through its signature programs: Angel Hair for Kids and Kids Life-Line. These unique programs provide children with necessary products and services not otherwise provided by health care plans, levels of government or other organizations.

By working directly with health and social care professionals, the foundation is able to reach children who are falling between the cracks and have nowhere else to turn. The financial challenges that arise when caring for a sick or disabled child can be overwhelming and A Child's Voice Foundation is determined to provide the necessary care and support when all other doors have closed. We focus on providing assistance that will enhance the quality of a child's life and have a lasting, long-term effect. All applications received are assessed on an individual basis prior to approval.

## **OUR MISSION**

To support and enhance the physical and emotional well-being of disadvantaged children by providing products and services not otherwise provided by levels of government, insurance or other organizations. We strive to fill in the cracks, bridge the gap and open a door when all others have closed.

## **OUR VISION**

Our Vision is for every child in Canada to receive the tangible support that they need to improve their quality of life.

## **OUR VALUES**

We are committed to conducting ourselves with compassion, integrity and respect through working in harmony with our community to fulfill our mission and vision.



## HISTORY

A Child's Voice Foundation began with the vision of one woman, Roslyn Yearwood, who wanted to make a difference in the lives of children in Canada who were facing an illness, a disability or a condition, and whose families and caregivers could not afford the necessary products and services to care for them.

Through firsthand experiences and extensive research, Roslyn was disturbed to find that there were many children falling between the cracks in the healthcare system who needed products and services not provided or limited by levels of government, insurance plans or other organizations. In 1995 that Roslyn made a commitment to those children and A Child's Voice Foundation was born. A place where "Kids Come First".

In the Foundation's humble beginnings, Roslyn established a small office in Mississauga, Ontario and began working each day to reach and support children in communities across the country, while driving a local school bus to fund the foundation's outreach. As part of her efforts to develop the foundation, Roslyn and a team of volunteers helped to implement the breakfast and life skills program in the largest social housing development in the Region of Peel. This allowed her to connect with children and the program led Roslyn to joining the housing development committee, representing A Child's Voice Foundation as a community resource for the children and their families. This experience confirmed that there were many families who could not afford and did not have access to vital products and services required for the specialized care. She felt if this was just one small community in Canada, than there must be an even greater need in many communities across the country. This realization drove her to reach out to social and health care professionals to help these children.

It wasn't long before the requests for support from doctors, social workers and other health care professionals came pouring in. The Foundation is proud to work with these professionals in communities across Canada through hospitals, private practices and community outreach programs; they have become the Foundation's direct connection to the children who need our support. With their help, the Foundation hopes to reach every child and to provide help when there was nowhere else to turn.

Realizing the diversity of requests from hair loss to medical equipment to transportation, it was decided that it would be most effective to create separate programs within the foundation that would best fulfill the varying needs. From there, the Foundation's two specialized and unique programs Angel Hair for Kids® and Kids Life-Line® were created.

A Child's Voice Foundation continues to be guided by its beginnings as a grass roots, community-based charity while operating nationally to reach every child in need of its support. We are focused on managing comprehensive programs and community solutions that make a real difference.



## **ANGEL HAIR FOR KIDS® PROGRAM**

Angel Hair for Kids® is a program of A Child's Voice® Foundation that provides wigs and hair loss solutions to financially disadvantaged children in Canada who have lost their hair due to medical conditions or treatments. Using hair that is generously donated to the program, the Foundation has wigs and hair systems made which are provided, at no cost, to a child. It takes 15+ or more graciously donated ponytails of 12 inches or longer to make one hair prosthetic or wig. The Foundation budgets \$2,000.00 to cover manufacturing and related costs. We are not associated with any other organizations such as the Cancer Society, United Way or receive any government grants. We are responsible to raise our own funds through generous donations.

Every year, many children across Canada will lose their hair due to cancer treatments, or conditions such as Alopecia, Trichotillomania (hair pulling), and burn accidents. By providing a wig, we believe that this will increase a child's self-esteem and improve their self-image during a difficult and sometimes, painful time in their lives. We hope to help them face their condition and daily life with greater confidence. Since the program's inception in 2004, we are proud to say that we have helped hundreds of children across Canada and the demand is steadily increasing.

This special program is unlike any other and is the only one of its kind in Canada. Every Angel Hair for Kids recipient is given a personal appointment at a salon that specializes in wigs and hair loss. These Salon Partner Affiliates have been pre-selected by the Foundation due to their experience, ability and desire to work with children in need. With care and compassion, the experts will walk the child and their family through the process of choosing a wig that best meets their needs. Once selected, the wig is fitted and styled especially for that child, making it their very own. In addition, the child will receive an Angel Hair Care Kit that includes a wig stand, shampoo, conditioner, a wig brush, care instructions and a surprise little gift. If a child is too ill to come into the salon, or there is not an Angel Hair for Kids qualified Salon nearby, the Foundation will arrange a Zoom call and provide guidance any way we can.

A Child's Voice Foundation is committed to understanding and celebrating the diverse needs of children. Research is conducted regularly to better understand hair loss conditions and the children are affected by it. We hope to continue to gain a greater understanding of how to best help these children and their families.

To learn how to donate hair or to raise funds, visit our website [www.acvf.ca](http://www.acvf.ca)



### **KIDS LIFE-LINE® PROGRAM**

Kids Life-Line® is a vital program of A Child's Voice Foundation that extends a helping hand when all other resources have been exhausted and there is nowhere else to turn. This unique program strives to provide a one-time fulfillment of a necessary product or service that will enhance a child's quality of life and is not otherwise provided by healthcare plans, levels of government or other organizations. The purpose of this program is to fulfill an immediate, essential and sometimes, critical need for a child which, in turn, can contribute to a lasting long-term effect on their physical and emotional well-being. Caring for a sick or disabled child can be financially challenging and sometimes, life can take unexpected turns. This program is here to extend a much needed 'Life-Line'.

Kids Life-Line program is able to provide children and their families with the necessary support and assistance which improves the child's health and well-being. Some of the requests we have answered include and are not limited to:

- Small medical equipment and supplies
- Limited in-home nursing care or therapy
- Transportation to and from medical appointments
- Parking permits for hospital visits
- Medication not covered by government or insurance
- Dental procedures not covered by government or insurance
- Specialized or needed furniture and equipment

It is the Foundation's goal to work with its community partners to fulfill requests submitted to the Kids Life-Line Program. We understand that many of the requests can be very costly and exceeds our funding limits. In these cases, A Child's Voice Foundation is happy to partner with other organizations through the Kids Life-Line by contributing partial funds to fulfil the needed request.



## **FOUNDATIONS FACTS**

### **WHO WE HELP**

The Foundation helps financially challenged families with a child facing an illness or disability in need of support to enhance their emotional and physical well-being.

### **HOW WE HELP**

Caring for a child who is sick or disabled is not only emotionally challenging but can also be financially devastating. Thus, it is our mission to make things a little easier for these children, their families and caregivers. Through our programs, Angel Hair for Kids® and Kids Life-Line®, we provide a service or product not covered by insurance plans, levels of government or other organizations.

### **PRODUCTS OR SERVICES THAT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO CHILDREN**

Wigs/hair prosthesis, hair enhancements, medication not covered by government or insurances, respite, small medical appliances, specialized or needed furniture and equipment, necessary food and clothing, and transportation assistance.

### **HOW CAN I GET HELP?**

It starts with an intake form for either Angel Hair for Kids or Kids Life-Line. This form is provided to you by your social worker, a healthcare professional or email [admin@acvf.ca](mailto:admin@acvf.ca) to request an Intake Form. The Foundation relies on the knowledge and expertise of social workers and healthcare professionals to submit the intake request on behalf of the child. The form must be signed by a medical doctor. The Foundation communicates regularly with community support workers and healthcare professionals to learn about the condition the child is facing and how best to support their needs. We also look to these professionals for information and insight to effectively develop the Foundations' programs and services.

### **LOCATIONS**

A Child's Voice Foundation has one location – located in Mississauga, Ontario.

### **DONATIONS**

All donations of \$25.00 or more will receive a tax receipt at year end.

The Charitable No. is 887549285RR0001

We accept cash, cheques made payable to A Child's Voice Foundation, or through Canada Helps.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q.** What is Angel Hair for Kids Program?

**A.** *Angel hair for Kids is a program of A Child's Voice Foundation that provides wigs or hair replacement to financially challenged children and their families who have lost their hair.*

**Q.** Does the child and their family have to pay for a wig for the child?

**A.** *No, once the child qualifies for an Angel Hair for Kids Program, the child receives their wig at no cost*

**Q.** How many children need a wig?

**A.** *This is a difficult question to know for sure, but approx. 10,000 children across Canada will lose their hair to cancer treatments, 1 in 1,000 will have hair loss to alopecia. We also see children with burns from accidents and many children with physiological behaviours that pull their hair out. Some of these children come from financially challenged families who cannot afford the cost of a quality human hair wig.*

**Q.** How many children are waiting for a wig?

**A.** *At any given time, Angel Hair for Kids has between 5 to 8 applications waiting to be processed and the demand will keep on growing as the Angel Hair for Kids Program becomes better known across Canada.*

**Q.** Where do the requests come from?

**A.** *Requests come to us mainly from social workers and healthcare professionals working in places such as Children's Hospitals, Paediatric Oncology, Dermatology, Endocrinology, Physiology Departments, and through schools or by word of mouth.*

**Q.** Who can donate their hair?

**A.** *Anyone can donate their hair that is 12 inches or longer and is untouched by colour. Often children will grow their hair to donate it to help another child.*

**Q.** Can hair that has been chemically processed be donated?

**A.** *Our wig manufacturers will not accept hair that has been permed or permanently colour treated. They only use good, strong healthy hair.*

**Q.** Would you sell my hair?

**A.** *No, we do not sell the hair. We give the hair to our manufacture. Once the hair passes their test it will then be used towards making a wig for Angel Hair for Kids. If it doesn't pass the test, they will sell it and reduce our cost of the manufacturing the Angel Hair for Kids wig.*



**Q.** Will my hair definitely be used to make a hair system for a child?

**A.** *Most likely, although we cannot guarantee that all hair collected will be used. The manufacturing company determines the quality of the hair. But it will not be wasted. The hair will still help a child by raising funds to manufacture the wig.*

**Q.** How many ponytails does it take to make a wig for a child?

**A.** Approximately 15+ ponytails are used to create one wig. Our Angel Hair for Kids wigs are available in three different sizes and two different densities to give a perfect look and fit for each child.

**Q.** Can I donate my hair to a specific child or to a specific city, town or province?

**A.** *Unfortunately, No. A Child's Voice Foundation has no way of tracking the hair. Remember it takes approx. 15+ ponytails to make one wig for a child. The hair will be bundled together by length, curl pattern, density, and hair colour. Once it is bundled, the ponytail is hackled to remove all shorter hairs (as every ponytail has different growth length in it). Each bundle of hair could come from 15 different donors.*

**Q.** How do I know that Angel Hair for Kids Program will make a wig for a child?

**A.** *Angel Hair for Kids, is part of A Child's Voice Foundation that abides by a strict Code of Ethics. We are accountable to the Board of Directors and to the medical professionals that refer the children to the program. Our mission is to support and enhance the physical and emotional well-being of less fortunate children in Canada who have lost their hair. The Foundation stands by this commitment to providing financial challenged children with hair loss with a solution that best meets their needs.*

**Q.** Can I meet the child who receives my hair?

**A.** *Unfortunately, you cannot. It impossible to track each donated ponytail from intake to final wig. More importantly, the children are under the age of 18 and we are committed to protecting their privacy.*



## HOW AN ANGEL HAIR FOR KIDS WIGS ARE MADE

1. It starts with hair donors that meet the requirements, filling out the hair donation form. The hair must be clean and dry, tied in several ponytails (see our Hair Donation Guidelines). The hair must be 12 inches or longer and not chemically treated.
2. The hair and the donation form are sent to A Child's Voice Foundation national office.
3. The hair will be sorted and sent to the manufacturer along with our AHFK wig specifications.
4. The manufacturer treats the donated ponytails in a chemical bath and purified.
5. The ponytails are then colour blended to create the five different colours that our AHFK wigs comes in.
6. The Hair is hackled to remove all the shorter hairs and to complete the blending process.
7. Meanwhile, a AHFK custom cap is designed in one of the three cap sizes available to AHFK (extra small, small or medium).
8. The hair is then hand tied into the cap by talented ventilators. It will take approximately 10 to 12 weeks to make one wig for a child.
9. Finally, the wig is delivered to A Child's Voice Foundation's national office and ready for our AHFK recipient.

**Did you know that it takes 15+ ponytails to make one of AHFK wig?**

*A Child Voice Foundation serves children suffering from hair loss due to cancer treatment, alopecia, trichotillomania, burns and other medical conditions or hair loss issues.*

**Did you know that it takes \$2,000 to cover the cost of one wig for one child for one year?**

*Monetary donations are necessary to cover the cost of creating and maintaining the wig, including the AHFK Wig Care Kit, processing, supplies, quality checks, working with our network of salons partners to collect hair, meeting the families of affected children and much more. But in the end, our vision is to help a child look and feel like themselves again.*



**A Child's Voice Foundation**

**Angel Hair for Kids Program**

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[www.acvf.ca](http://www.acvf.ca) Twitter: [@angelhair4kids](https://twitter.com/angelhair4kids) | Facebook: [Angel Hair For Kids - Program of A Child's Voice Foundation](https://www.facebook.com/AChildsVoiceFoundation) |

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