

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Knox Presbyterian Vacation Bible School Raises \$4,000 for Sacha's Park

August 9th, 2015

Vankleek Hill, ON -

Four thousand dollars was raised for a universally accessible playground by over sixty local children who attended a week-long vacation bible school at the Knox Presbyterian Church in Vankleek Hill. The funds collected will be put towards Sacha's Park, a playground project to be built in L'Orignal in memory of Sacha Chenier. The park, once built, will be one of the most inclusive playgrounds in Canada and feature items that will allow children of all abilities to play together.

The vacation bible school, which took place between July 27th to the 31st, is put on annually by the Knox Presbyterian Church. Organizer, Karin Mode, explains that each year, a worthy cause is chosen as the bible school's mission project and incorporated into the things that the children learn about. Karin explains, *"Our goal is to teach children the importance of sharing God's love with others who need our help. We saw Sacha's Park as a great mission project for VBS because it's something the children could easily relate to"*.

Over the course of the week, funds were collected by the children and the church members towards the mission project, resulting in two thousand dollars being raised for Sacha's Park. Those funds were in turn generously matched by Dave and Brenda Godmere, who are members of the Knox congregation.

The money donated will go towards the on-going fundraising efforts for the purchase of accessible playground equipment that is being led Sacha's family, who have donated land for the project. Jacquelyn Chenier, Sacha's mother, expressed her gratitude for the generous contribution: *"We were thrilled to have been given an opportunity to speak to the children about Sacha and the project he inspired. They really seemed to understand the need for all children to have an equal opportunity to play. Their grasp of why this kind of project is so important and their enthusiastic support has been a true blessing"*.

The park's fundraising efforts will continue at an upcoming Zumba Mega-Party hosted by Lou Stephenson on August 29th at The Vankleek Hill Arena, with proceeds from the

event going to the cause. Info and tickets can be obtained online at:
louises.zumba.com/we-got-the-power

More information about Sacha's Park can be found online at
gofundme.com/EveryoneCanPlay

Attached Photo: Karin Mode and children pose in front of a display about Sacha's Park at the Knox Presbyterian Church vacation bible school.

About Sacha's Park:

A playground, to be known as Sacha's Park, is being proposed for the new Place La Seigneurie development in L'Original. The playground, once built, will be different than a typical playground in that it will be universally accessible allowing children of all abilities to fully enjoy the park and its equipment. The goal for Sacha's Park is to create a playground that is inclusive and where the equipment works for everyone, including children with disabilities. A playground where EVERYONE can play. The Chenier family have purchased property for the park to be built on and are working with the Township of Champlain, who are supportive of the project, to secure funding for the equipment, which will cost several hundred thousand dollars.

About Sacha Chenier:

Sacha Chenier was an 11 year old boy who lived in L'Original, Ontario. He was severely affected by cerebral palsy and required the use of a wheelchair for most of his life. He was also born blind, epileptic, and with severe cognitive delays. Sacha required assistance for his daily care, as he was unable to do the most basic of tasks without help. He was lovingly cared for at home where he lived with his parents Jason and Jacquelyn and his older brother Sebastien. Despite his many challenges, Sacha was a happy little boy who loved to be around other children. He attended school in Hawkesbury at Ecole Paul VI where he was loved by his many friends. Sacha always had a smile on his face and his infectious laughter could brighten up a room. Sacha passed away suddenly on June 9th 2014 due to epilepsy related complications.

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More information about Sacha's Park:

[GoFundMe.com/EveryoneCanPlay](https://www.gofundme.com/EveryoneCanPlay)

[Facebook.com/SachasPark](https://www.facebook.com/SachasPark)

Tumblr: sachaspark.tumblr.com

Twitter: [@SachasPark](https://twitter.com/SachasPark)