



■ Above and inset: Julia Bialy, one of many recipients of a Wigs for Kids prosthesis. Top right: Nikki Fowler, donates her hair to Wigs for Kids.

## Helping children look and feel themselves again

“At Wigs for Kids, Carlo and Tina see firsthand what happens when the power of a loving intention is supported by action. It brings hope. It brings healing. It changes the life of a child.”

By Adrianna Morganelli

**WHEN CHILDREN LOSE THEIR HAIR**, whether resulting from medical treatments, health conditions, or burn accidents, they don't just suffer physically. The change in their appearance can drastically damage their self image and self esteem. To help combat this issue, certified cosmetic therapists Tina and Carlo Turavani have opened the Canadian chapter of Wigs for Kids, a non-profit organization that has been serving children suffering from hair loss since 1997.

More than 300 children have been provided with prostheses, not only in the Niagara region, but all over Canada. It costs from \$1,500 to \$1,800 to make a custom hair piece. Each prosthesis is hand-tied and made from human hair, and care is taken to ensure that the hair piece looks like the child's own hair. There is no charge to the recipient, which is why monetary donations are sincerely appreciated to help offset the expense incurred by the organization.

Each year, more children are visiting the Turavanis' salon, Transitions Studio, to undergo the Wigs for Kids program. The child first visits while in the early stages of hair loss, which enables Carlo and Tina to match the hair

colour and style. At the second visit, the final cutting and fitting, as well as maintenance and care training take place. Finally, the child is able to don his or her new hair piece, and the ensuing smile is priceless.

Most children's immune systems and sensitivities are altered during medical treatment,

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and working with them has motivated Carlo and Tina to change their salon into one that is holistic, healthful, and chemically-conscious. Transitions Studio uses only chemical-free products, which are extensively researched and specially formulated. The salon carries a sulphate and paraben-free unscented hair line, made up of hairsprays, mousses, gels, shampoos and conditioners, guaranteeing better hair health. Only natural skin products are offered, including their highly sought-after mineral makeup line. Transitions Studio's furniture is even environmentally-

conscious, made from reclaimed wood on which no chemicals or thinners have been used.

Carlo and Tina began helping adults who were suffering from medical-related hair loss in 1992, but over time found that more and more children were seeking help. They found that insurance companies were not covering the costs of wigs for children, and so embarked on Wigs for Kids.

At Wigs for Kids, Carlo and Tina see firsthand what happens when the power of a loving intention is supported by action. It brings hope. It brings healing. It changes the life of a child. Their mission is to help children look and feel themselves again, and with your help they will continue. **HWS**



*If you've ever wanted to make a difference in the life of a child, visit Transitions Studio, 244 Grantham Avenue, St. Catharines. Monetary donations of \$10 or more will receive a charitable tax receipt. For more information on how you can help, call 905.937.1623.*