

Local charitable organization surprises cancer-stricken boy with backyard playground

SUBMITTED BY
MILLION DOLLAR SMILES

Many took part in a little miracle when Million Dollar Smiles built eight-year-old Anthony Pileggi his very own playground in his own backyard.

Battling cancer for more than two years, Pileggi is currently in his second year of three-and-a-half years of treatment.

Million Dollar Smiles surprised Pileggi and his family with a little something to brighten their day this past Sunday. A group of volunteers from the Vaughan-based charitable organization put together the playground in Pileggi's Mississauga backyard.

"We are really excited as this is the first of three playgrounds we will be building for children living with life-threatening illnesses this summer," said Anna Lopes, founder and director of Million Dollar Smiles. "Million Dollar Smiles, is a non-profit organization that exists primarily to put smiles on the faces of people facing major challenges in their everyday lives."

Pileggi's playground was

made possible by the incredible fundraising efforts of Vaughan-based Salon, David Alexander Salon, Alex Settino, owner of David Alexander, and his staff and his clients helped raise the money in eight months with donations to the Million Dollar Smiles Teddy Bear Hug campaign in his salon.

"We are so pleased to be a part of this very special experience for this little boy. Our clients and staff jumped at the opportunity to make such an incredible impact on a child's life," said Settino. "We can't wait to see the smile on Anthony's face. We are incredibly proud to be a part of this amazing experience and I thank all of my staff and clients for making this possible."

Through gift-giving and events geared to supply positive energy to those in need, Million Dollar Smiles strives to make a difference in the lives of people who need a little joy in their lives. The organization does this with the assistance of volunteers giving back to their community.

Over 10 volunteers



Anna Lopes (far left), founder of Million Dollar Smiles, and a group of volunteers came together to build a backyard play structure for Anthony Pileggi (front in blue) an eight-year-old Mississauga boy who has been battling cancer for more than two years.

Anthony's playground was made possible by the fundraising efforts of David Alexander Salon, a Vaughan-based salon.

joined Million Dollar Smiles this past Sunday as they built and presented Pileggi with his very own playset in the most precious place in the world, his very own backyard.



Left - Volunteers put the finishing touches on the backyard play structure before Anthony and his family were presented with the gift.

Top - Anthony (left) and his younger brother Joseph enjoy the view from atop their new backyard playground.



**PRIVATE
ESTATE
SALE**
**15 ACRE
RESIDENTIAL LOT**

- Paved road near Nobleton
- Hundreds of mature trees
- Natural Heritage Assessment completed
- Small pond & existing well
- Financing Available, OAC

Multiple Building Sites Approved by TRCA **905-859-1234**