

Happenings

WE BELIEVE IN PEOPLE

Volume 1, Edition 1



A SPECIAL "WE THE NORTH" EXPERIENCE

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STAY IN THE LOOP



This season, In The Loop Media continues to focus brushing up on-camera and presentation skills. We also have continued our vision, creating opportunities for people to have their voices heard and ownership over those creations.

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A MESSAGE FROM JANET

Thank you for reading this edition of *Happenings* by Community Living Oakville. All areas of the organization have had a busy time, and much work is being done for the future of our services.

The CLO 2.0 Committee has accomplished a great deal in a short time. Plans are unfolding for the building of a new centre that will expand capacity, invite in our community, and offer new opportunities. Many thanks to Gren Weis of Gren Weis Architects and Associates for volunteering his services to understand our vision, and develop our initial conceptual design.



We are pleased to embark on an accreditation journey with the Council on Quality and Leadership as well as to announce that our Ministry of Children Community and Social Services Compliance Review that took place in April, had an excellent result again this year.

Our annual 2019 Ladies and Mixed golf tournaments brought out well over 200 golfers this year and the proceeds will continue to provide many great opportunities and choices for people who use our day services. Thank you so much to our volunteers, sponsors, donors and golfers for the difference they make!

We hope you enjoy reading more news about what is happening at Community Living Oakville in this edition of *Happenings*. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet".

Janet Lorimer
Executive Director

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A GENUINE PERSPECTIVE



Since the beginning, Curtis has shown nothing but determination, perseverance and dedication. Setting goals and finding satisfactions in his everyday life from graduating high school to obtaining a driver's license have attributed to his positive outlook on life. During the infancy stages of our time together, Curtis was consistent with one goal in-particular and that was to work at Halton Healthcare to help people in need.

The motivation to learn and develop had been a trait that shined bright for Curtis as we began job development. Through job development Curtis learned resume writing, interview skills and participated in job trials to build competitive work experience. As the trials and interview skills improved weekly, Curtis prepared himself for his first application to Fortinos as a service clerk. It wasn't the initial goal of being employed in the Healthcare sector, but a stepping stone within the work force. With great preparation and a positive attitude, Curtis secured his first job and this became a confidence booster in more ways than one.

After obtaining his first job, Curtis took on a bigger task of obtaining his G2. Curtis was on a roll and not showing any signs of slowing down.

Behind the scenes and throughout his new opportunities in life, Curtis continued to apply within the Healthcare sector with the hopes of getting that callback for an interview. Curtis got that chance back in February of 2019, turning a dream set over a year ago into a real possibility. This opportunity was much different than past employment offers as the interview process consisted of 2 phone interviews and a panel system interview with 4 interviewers at once. This did not deter Curtis from his goal. His determination and hard work paid off and weeks after the initial interview, Curtis was contacted by Halton Healthcare to report to orientation as they had selected him to be a part of their team.

Curtis now works 2 jobs, sometimes even working up to 12 hour days, however he couldn't be happier. We are so proud of Curtis and his accomplishment. Curtis has inspired many of us to work hard, and never give up on our goals!

• Andre Durie, Job Placement Coordinator

If you are a job seeker or an employer looking for outstanding employees, please contact Andrea Lee, Employment Services Manager at 905-844-0146 x. 255 or email andrea.lee@oakcl.org

RAISE YOUR VOICE COUNCIL

The first half of 2019 was busy for the Raise Your Voice Council. The Valentine's Heart Dance was held on February 15th in conjunction with the Voice Committee; Community Living North Halton where 295 tickets were sold! This was the Council's largest event to date. On May 3rd, 'The Taste Of The Tropics' learn to cook evening at Longos was also a success. Guests enjoyed cooking a dinner with tropical delights like coconut chicken tenders with strawberry, pineapple and mango salsa.

On May 25th, Raise Your Voice Council members hosted the 4th Annual Get To Know Us: Open House. Guest speaker, Steven Crawford MPP of Oakville along with other visitors enjoyed crafts, information tables, presentations, FitDance, henna, potting plants, art programme displays and meeting the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dogs. Amazing appetizers were prepared and served by the Culinary Arts Team, followed by a BBQ and dessert provided by the Raise Your Voice Council bake sale.

Finally, with summer-like weather on June 12th, the Council supported the STEPP/CharterAbility 5th Annual BBQ by donating burgers and buns. Chair Jan MacDonald kept her customers happy as she flipped burgers for hours in the food truck.

Members of the Council have advocated and used their "Voice" by giving opinions in the Explore Dream research study. A regular item on their monthly agenda is 'Self Advocacy Discussion Time,' where members identify concerns and discuss solutions to improve the situation for themselves and advocate for others.

On June 17th, members of the Council held a Celebration Pot Luck for their last meeting, until elections in September. Council members have been dedicated, turning up for monthly meetings and coming up with great ideas for opportunities to provide fun and inclusion for others.

They personally report that the committee has benefited them and they enjoy the experience they have shared. Members will also be involved in planning for the COVE Conference over the summer. The conference is scheduled for September 14th, from 1pm to 8pm.

Special thanks to each of these Council members: Jan MacDonald (Chair), Rob-in Coster, Michelle Francis, Andrea Cerven-Lawry, Michel Mariner, Joel Layne, Faythe Horton, Anna Merola, Sammy Rose, Sarah Connor, Greg Kozak, Jason Camacho, Cody Prevett, Carol Forster.



SAVE THE DATES: (Open to all)

- **September 9th**
Invitations to stand for a position on the Raise Your Voice Council
- **September 14th (1pm to 8pm)**
"COVE 3rd Annual Self Advocate Conference "Glitter and Glam" Sheridan Conference Centre
- **October 3rd**
Raise Your Voice Council elections.
- **October 25th (7pm to 10pm)**
Halloween Dance
OE Banquet Hall
- **November 29th (1pm to 4pm)**
Holiday MarketPlace
301 Wycroft Rd
- **December TBA**
Annual Pizza and Movie Night

RAISE YOUR VOICE COUNCIL (CONT'D)

Sincere thanks to the financial supporters of the Council. This includes generous support from the “LeVan Family Foundation (a fund held within the Oakville Community Foundation)”, “The Henderson Family Trust (a fund held within the Oakville Community Foundation)”, “The Shorey Family (a fund held within the Oakville Community Foundation)”, and “The Frank and Azniv Lochan Family Foundation (a fund held within the Oakville Community Foundation).” Thanks also to the fund raising efforts from Community Living Oakville and the many volunteers that support each opportunity.



Visit the Raise Your Voice Council Facebook page (www.facebook.com/raiseyourvoicecouncil) for the latest information and photos from past events.

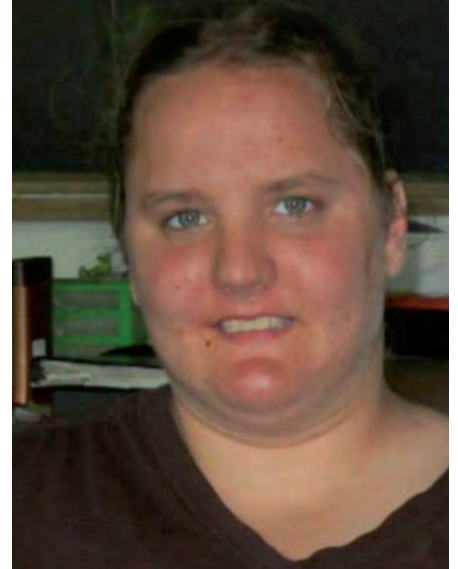
Would you like to join the Raise Your Voice Council or have any questions? Talk to any of the above members or email Stephanie Butcher (Stephanie.butcher@oakcl.org).

CONGRATULATIONS SARAH CONNOR

Participation in sports or a hobby can literally take us places while synergistically releasing a passion, developing a talent and helping overcome boredom, say ‘We the North’. It was all of these for Sarah Connor when she first got her feet wet with swimming. Being successful, called for dedication and persistence. She knew she was talented and loved to swim – in fact she swam so remarkably well - that we joked with her about being a mermaid.

Many people did not know that Sarah would love swimming to the extent that she does, however through conversation and exploration, another joy was discovered - travel. Sarah had not travelled much and had little to compare the experience with – besides why would anyone want to be away from the safety and security of home? Why was everyone being so nosy about whether she wanted to go away from home? Who were these new friends at Community Living Oakville?

In April 2019, circumstance loudly offered an opportunity to compete with peers in Montreal – but this involved being away – alone – overnight – and a long journey in between. Sarah loved swimming but that was the only known fact in a swirling sea of uncertainty that refused to stop moving – she was apprehensive. Life conveyed many recent transitions and she was extremely apprehensive about travelling unaccompanied. Still, Sarah recognized the opportunity and remembered conversations of travel in the past. This was a prospect to test her skill in the water by crossing different geographic boundaries and see Canada differently. Never having a passport, Sarah asked if one was required to leave or return from another province; this too conjured up slight hesitation. Nevertheless - true to her spirit of adventure, Sarah expressed she wanted to go on the long trip - and swim - and win.



She received several commendations, winning both silver and bronze! Her delight could not be contained, however, knowing she had made the journey on her own was priceless. Sarah realized that she had accomplished something. Crossing provincial lines is something that most take for granted and this had awakened new confidence; an experience no one could take away. This experience was truly achieved through facing her fears and apprehensions.

The emotion that Sarah evoked is difficult to define, yet her spontaneous journey reflected feelings of pride, respect and joy. Knowing how perplexing it is for anyone to face uncertainty by taking on a new experience intensified the emotion.

Congratulations Sarah – we were there with you all the way! In recent perspective – to those who know you, this was like a fan watching the Raptors make history by winning game six of the finals. You have the will of a champion in so many different ways!

WE THE NORTH



With the Toronto Raptors securing their first-ever NBA Championship, fans were overjoyed and over two million flocked to Toronto for the victory parade. As the Raptors toured around town on their open-air double decker buses, crowds cheered and could not hide their excitement. Kyle Whyte was one of the lucky few people to get front row and up close as the Raptors' bus passed. As Kyle was cheering alongside his friends relinquishing in this historic moment, Raptors Center – Marc Gasol reached forward and gave Kyle his very own Raptors t-shirt. This moment in history is one in which Kyle will be sure to never forget!



GOLF TOURNAMENT 2019

On June 4th, we hosted our 34th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Royal Ontario Golf Club. Over 200 golfers joined us on the greens that day for the Ladies Nine and Dine Tournament in the morning and the 18-hole Mixed Tournament in the afternoon. With the weather changing from cloudy and cool to sunny and warm, the challenging course and exceptional meals made for an outstanding day.



Throughout the day, we heard from Maureen and Erinn Bursey, Caitlin Danylkiw, Curtis Walker and Nina Callander speaking about the positive impact that Community Living Oakville has on their lives.

We want to thank Maureen, Erinn, Caitlin, Curtis and Nina for sharing their heartfelt messages with our guests!

We want to acknowledge our amazing volunteers who made the event seamless – from set up to the end of day clean up – your hard work helped make this year's event such a huge success. This event would not be possible without our amazing Golf Committee – Brenda DiFonzo, Marlyne Van Exan and Shelley and Nicole Delorey, as well as our incredibly supportive Board of Directors.

Thank you to Peter Hnatiw for the Live Auction donation of 20 Molson's tickets to see the Maple Leafs in their private suite and Raptor's tickets (for next season)! A special thank you to our two wonderful MC's: Alexandra Hoeck-Murray for the Ladies Nine and Dine and Chris Mei from The Weather Network for the Mixed Tournament who kept the energy going until we reached our goal.





SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We are grateful for the outstanding support we received from our generous sponsors. Our sincere appreciation goes out to the following supporters:

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We would also like to recognize Jack Houlahan, a very talented gentleman who was previously a member on our In The Loop Media team and recently moved to Ottawa. Jack is an avid golfer who has won two gold medals at Special Olympics North America and just recently came in fourth place at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi in March of this year. Thank you Jack for hosting our 'beat the pro' event on the course and for joining us all the way from Ottawa!

Thank you to our golfers, donors, and sponsors as we once again surpassed our goal of \$60,000! With your help, the funds raised will enable us to offer many recreational and educational options free of cost to the people we support. This impact will provide people with equal access to our sought-after programs.

We cannot thank you enough for the profound difference you have made. We hope to see you again next year.



If you have any questions about sponsorship, registration, volunteering or to be added to the email list for future golf tournaments, please contact Tina Eidukaitis via email at tina.eidukaitis@oakcl.org.

SORTING IT OUT

'Just because you met one person with autism does not mean you met everyone with autism' – Matteo Esposito – Sorting it Out.



'Sorting It Out' is a play written by Matteo Esposito and directed by Anthony Tullo. This wonderful play depicts the awakening of a young man who shows a growth in understanding from his narrow-minded, undeveloped outlook towards people who have a disability or are different. As part of the plot, he faces an acquired disability and the physical humbling transformation, results in a spiritual development; powerfully stunning the audience.

Leonardo da Vinci reportedly took between ten to a minimum of four years to paint the Mona Lisa. Vincent van Gogh's career resembled Captain Hook's left arm; long, flat and then a quick spike at the end when years of artistic perspiration came to a crescendo. Matteo is on the same journey as the masters – an exciting but lonely travel where he is in the company of masters of arts. He is experiencing emotional ups and downs of a life where one bravely pursues one's passion while managing the challenges of the journey.

Matteo's passion is acting; theatre in particular and not just for entertainment. As a social champion, he is in the company of Marx – Che Guevara – Steve Biko – Ghandi who spoke out about the world both critically and colourfully. Matteo uses the theatre as his canvas, awakening society to necessary social change. Flirting with unpopularity and scorn, but speaking out about the truth as they saw it and delivering the underlying message of understanding and caring.

On Thursday April 25th, 2019, the curtain rose on Matteo's labour; despite a weekend cancellation by the lead actor in the play. Faced with a leadership challenge and limited options, Matteo stepped in. Matteo knew the show must go on, so true to the spirit of theatre he took on the lead role and from all accounts performed brilliantly.

After the show, the lobby was abuzz with members of the public thrilled with having been so wonderfully entertained.

His journey has been long and passionate with a true love and regard for live performances. At Community Living Oakville, he helped peers embrace the art by starting the 'Take Flight Theatre Group.' What is remarkable, is Matteo's courage to tell the story – not about - but as a person who understands what it takes to live with a disability. This includes the barriers and challenges that entails. His courage itself is a message; and yet because he challenged and overcame the status quo – he faces a new kind of discrimination. People argue that his courage and perseverance, hard work and success – exclude him from having any kind of disability. "You can't win" says Matteo with his trademark thoughtful smile.

That smile shows the added dimension of his talent that could shelter greatness. His ability to quickly and clearly see into the irony and hypocrisy in societal values. Matteo is able to spin them like fine cloth into a theatrical tale that will clothe protect and shelter our society. Matteo's journey because of his talents may be lonely, as other artists, however he will never be alone. No doubt he is in unique company of masters who loved the world and tried to change, shape and beautify it – with art.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. SUTTON!

Gerald Sutton, long-time friend and supporter of Community Living Oakville, received his honorary Doctorate degree from Queen's University on June 11th, 2019. He was invited to give a convocation address to the graduating class and the Principal remarked on Gerry's leadership, philanthropy, impressive business career and support of others in his introduction.



ALL AROUND ATHLETE OF THE YEAR **KAITLIN NESBITT**



Kaitlin Nesbitt is the proud recipient of the 2019 Special Olympics All-Around Athlete of the year! Kaitlin joined the Special Olympics when she was 8 years old and is a member of both the swim team and 5 pin competitive league. The challenge of competing and having made friends on both teams is what Kaitlin finds most rewarding. Kaitlin is thankful to both of her coaches Lino Fera and Bernie Cuzzolino for always being supportive and inspiring.

The All-Around Athlete of the Year is voted on by representatives from the various teams who form their community council. Coach Bernie says that Kaitlin has shown leadership in assisting others in swim lanes, growth in trying new techniques and attending more swim competitions. A positive attitude and motivation to put her "best foot forward" have resulted in Kaitlin being honoured with this year's award.

The Special Olympics organization provides opportunities to develop physical fitness and athletic skills, while demonstrating teamwork and sportsmanship. They are the world's largest sports organization for individuals with an intellectual disability and have been enriching the lives of their athletes for over 50 years. Please help us congratulate Kaitlin and the Oakville Special Olympics for 'Changing the World' through competitive sport.

5TH ANNUAL STEPP/ CHARTERABILITY BBQ

STEPP in partnership with CharterAbility held their 5th annual BBQ on Wednesday June 12th, 2019. The BBQ was a huge success with a turn out of 211 people across several agencies including CWSDS, Community Living North Halton and Community Living Oakville.



CharterAbility along with their amazing captains and support crew; who continue to volunteer their time, was able to complete 20 boat trips down Sixteen-Mile Creek. This has quickly become a much loved activity, allowing people to come together, socialize and catch up with each other. This BBQ however, would not be able to run without the amazing support from our sponsors and volunteers.

A special thank you to Access Abilities who continue to sponsor this special event. Without their support, this event would not be made possible. This year, Access Abilities also had a special surprise and organized an ice cream truck with slushies and ice cream for everyone. Thank you to Mr. Iceberg; this was a huge hit, because really, who doesn't love ice cream?!

Community Living Oakville's very own Raise Your Voice Council (RYVC) was another main sponsor and contributor to the BBQ. A special thank you for their support and for providing the hamburgers and all the fixings! Jan

MacDonald, Chair of RYVC also volunteered her time as one of the fine chefs for the day.

We would also like to give a huge thank you to Samir Ravo for cooking up a storm and providing his food truck 'Curb Side Food Inc.' which was used to cook the burgers and hot dogs.

Last but not least, a special thank you to Therese Woodrow who continues to organize this event annually. Therese continually works with all of our sponsors to cultivate successful and meaningful partnerships which have allowed us to continue this amazing event.

Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed the day. Your joy and smiles are really the cherry on top!





2019 was launched with the creation of videos which incorporated the use of favourite quotes and were shared each Monday and Wednesday. 'Monday Motivation' and 'Wednesday Wisdom' can be followed both on Facebook and Instagram and will inspire and lift you up! This season, In The Loop Media continues to focus brushing up on-camera and presentation skills. We also have continued our vision, creating opportunities for people to have their voices heard and ownership over those creations. By following our In The Loop Media team, you can get front row seats to the action! We work collaboratively - sharing weekly positive stories via our social media networks.

The year also started with a wonderful opportunity to interview a #1 international motivational speaker, best selling author and athlete - Unstoppable Tracy! Adam, In The Loop Media reporter, started off the interview with "What makes you laugh?" From there we learned about becoming successful when facing challenges. Tracy stays true to her name 'Unstoppable Tracy' and inspires everyone to reach for so-called 'impossible' goals.



Being close to the biggest media hub in the country; Toronto, allows us to have access to popular television shows such as 'The Social'. Our team was able to access tickets to this show and experience a live taping. Thank you to The Social at CTV and to Cynthia Loyst and Marci Len for posing with us and capturing a memory after the show! Other recent memorable moments include visiting HIDESEEK; a pop-up exhibit inspired by childhood nostalgia and joining Justin Moy from Green Pink & Yellow Productions who taught us film techniques and interview tips; resulting in the best quality video In the Loop Media released to date!



Our In The Loop crew also enjoy celebrating national days that bring about public awareness. Through these channels, we advocate for others by educating our followers. In our quest for positive stories and inspirational people, we were also recently connected to Michael McManmon - speaker, writer, artist, psychologist and founder of the 'College Internship Program' who we were able to interview.

IN THE LOOP MEDIA (CONT'D)

In April, the team attended Distinctability's 'Disruption Event' where we were informed about technology and how it assists people with disabilities in life and the workplace. We interviewed many remarkable people at this event who are making a difference, as well as learned some Makaton – a language program using signs and symbols to help people communicate.


May was 'Community Living Month' and the In The Loop Media team collaborated with Community Living Toronto by visiting their studio and discussing advocacy on camera. Each day in the month of May, they released a video of people from various agencies, sharing their views called '31 Days of Community Living'. Following this experience, we headed to Queens Park for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Here we met wonderful advocates and even got to meet and speak to former Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne who is working on making Canada more inclusive and accessible!

The excitement doesn't end here! Our In the Loop Media team participated in a research project with Heryka from 'Explore Dreams' and also enjoyed a private, behind-the-scenes tour of The Weather Network. Here, we experienced a broadcast, control panels and the green screen where the meteorologist host their segments. We even practiced hosting our own weather report!

In closing, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to our local MP Pam Damoff, for the shout out in the House of Commons and for recognizing the value of our work. We truly thank her for advocacy in making Canada a more inclusive and accessible country.

For full stories, photos and videos google 'In The Loop Media' and follow us on the links below. It's the best way to Stay In The Loop!

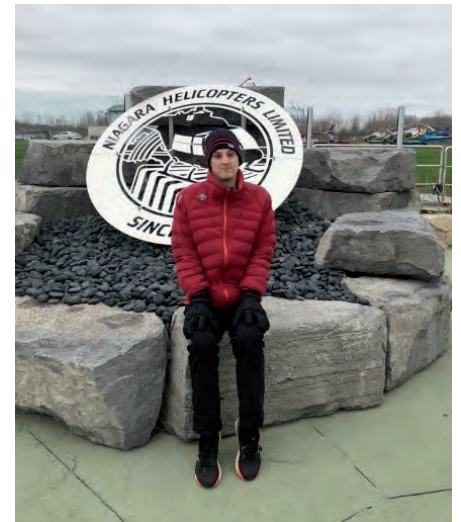
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NIAGARA FALLS



Niagara Falls – a natural wonder so close to home and not to be taken for granted! This past spring, Zachary, Jason, Timothy and Michael ventured to Niagara Falls for a three-day getaway that included relaxation and entertainment.

Staying at a local indoor waterpark, allowed for plenty of time to lay by the pool, challenging one another to various waterslides and relaxing in the hot tub. This trip also included a Niagara tour which included visiting the majestic falls, exploring trails, enjoying a night time light show and ending the evening with a lavish meal.

When asked what everyone's favourite part of the trip was, "swimming" was the consensus. Each night everyone was enthusiastic and truly enjoyed their vacation. This memorable trip is only the beginning, as there are many more adventures to come!

HALTON REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE HOST 25TH ANNUAL SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY!



The Halton Regional Police Service and Police Services Board hosted their 25th Annual Special Friends Day on June 9th, 2019. This outstanding and very special annual event, provides an opportunity for people with developmental and physical disabilities to join regional emergency service personnel for a day of fun-filled activities. These activities include: a parade, music, carnival games, crafts, sporting activities and special guests such as the Oakville Lions Club foster guide puppies in training. Volunteers from police, fire, emergency services; along with their community partners, organize everything for this highly anticipated event.

Community Living Oakville congratulates and celebrates our Halton First Responder Services on their 25th anniversary of Special Friends Day. We thank you for your generosity, your belief in people and your support of full community participation!



STAFF APPRECIATION

On the evening of June 18th, Joshua Creek Heritage Arts Centre welcomed Community Living Oakville for their staff appreciation event. On behalf of all of us, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to Sybil Rampen; owner of Joshua Creek Heritage Arts Centre, for allowing us to use this wonderful location. Sybil's art centre not only provides a picturesque venue, however, much loved art classes that are enjoyed by local artists. Art adorns the walls of this historic site and leads guests further onto the tranquil patio and calming views of gardens and rolling green space.



At this year's event, 45 staff were in receipt of 5 year milestones and many celebrated 10 and 15 years of service. Janet Lorimer, Executive Director delivered a presentation including quotes and memorable moments from people we support, staff colleagues and managers as well as a token of appreciation. Other longstanding staff such as Jonathan Camp, celebrated 20 years and Sandra King, Rosemary Harris, Nicole Messenger Lehmann, Cheryl Henderson and Linda Greco all cele-

brated 25 years of service. Across the board that totals 450 years of experience and dedication!

The overwhelming feeling of care, advocacy and passion were reflected that evening. On behalf of Community Living Oakville, we thank all of our staff for their compassion and dedicated years of service!



IN MEMORY OF: NICOLE ADDLEY

'To the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure.' - J.K. Rowling

It is with deep sadness we inform you, Nicole Ann Addley passed away, unexpectedly yet peacefully at home on May 1st, 2019. Nicole was full of life, a devoted family member and dear friend to everyone she met.

Her zest for life began early in the morning, by blasting her music and serenading the day's challenges. "You always knew Nicole was awake because of her music, she always got ready this way," says Lucia Carty who arrived each morning at her home for 6:30 am. Nicole and Lucia would share make up, along with fashion. Nicole would often ask "hey girl, what do you think of this new eye shadow?"

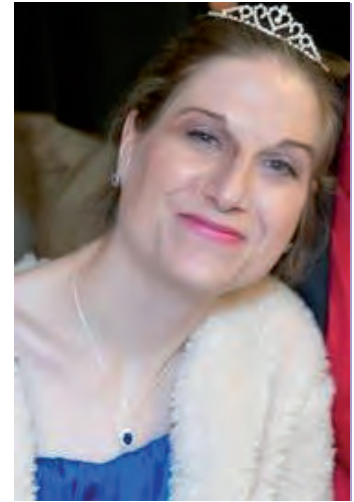
Nicole would pack her favourite books, an extra sweater and head to work as a receptionist at Community Living Oakville. After her shifts, she would join her friends for the remainder of the day, enjoying various activities and events with them.

Speaking with friends and colleagues at Community Living Oakville, the finding was unanimous; Nicole was the first smile you saw when you walked into the building. Working as a receptionist at the front, she would always greet you with "hello, what can I do for you today hun?" as she smiled over her freshly brewed french vanilla cappuccino. Nicole always took her role seriously and professionally. Her voice over the intercom – like a favourite dj on a radio station now silent.

Nicole's family states: "Nicole did not want to be defined by her illnesses. She was a delicate rose of a woman who faced adversity bravely with the feisty spirit of a true fighter. What made her truly remarkable was the life she lived."

This could not be more true of Nicole. Born with severe heart complications discovered shortly after her birth; she spent her early life in and out of Sick Kids Children's Hospital. On July 27th, 1998 at 16 years old, Nicole was given a second chance when she received a heart transplant. Nicole and her friends would celebrate the anniversary of her transplant every year on July 27th, similar to her birthday, but coined "Happy Heart Day".

Living the next 21 years of her life to the absolute fullest, she travelled from Canada to Florida, California, Costa Rica, London, England and back to Canada. Nicole truly lived for adventure. She lived for life. She also enjoyed travelling locally around the GTA with friends. One of her favourite destinations was heading straight to fashionable Yorkville. Visiting high-end boutiques, fine dining and the shoe museum to pursue her love for all things fashion.



Even though Nicole was surrounded in a world of high speed technology and instant gratification, she would often be found curled up in a blanket lost in her latest novel.

Nicole readily would be relinquishing in books such as Life of Pi, Twilight and of course Harry Potter. She would peer over the top of her novel to those obsessing over life's trivialities and state "oh get a grip would ya," as she fell back into her book.

Nicole's literary passion inspired her and her girlfriends to create the infamous 'book nook' outside of the cafeteria at Community Living Oakville. Subsequently, the book nook turned into the place to hang out. She enjoyed 'chillin' there, hanging out with her 'besties', sharing headphones with AJ, listening to Joel rhyme off his latest lyrics, or sitting back and chatting with her friends.

While at work, Nicole was one of the founding members of 'famous at work' a six-member group of celebrities. Kelly Pitcher as Katy Perry, Andrea as Madonna, Whitney as Shania Twain, Katherine as Taylor Swift, Megan as Emily Prentice and Nicole as.....you guessed it – Kate Middleton.

As the day ended, Nicole would walk with her friends or take the bus home and of course turn her music up when she got there. Sandra Hammond notes that when she arrived on shift, "you could always tell how Nicole's day went by the music she listened to." Rihanna, Pink, Eminem or Britney Spears were some of her favourites to listen to when she was happy; however, if Carrie Underwood or Taylor Swift were playing, she knew Nicole would want to chat about her day.

Nicole loved to be in the kitchen. On Thursdays, her roommates would leave during the evening and Nicole would be cooking up her latest pasta creation for 'Pasta Thursday.' She would binge watch her latest series, wash off the day's make up and head off to bed to get warm, then do it all again the next day.

There was never a dull moment in Nicole's day. She truly appreciated and lived for each moment; spending her day embracing love and laughter.

YOU CAN'T ASK THAT

This June, CBC and AMI television stations aired the documentary TV show 'You Can't Ask That'. This series featured people living with various disabilities and provided a platform for them to share their experiences and views on particular topics. Erinn Bursey and Katherine Thompson were two of the lucky finalists chosen to be featured on this show. In celebration of the broadcast, In The Loop Media hosted a viewing party and rolled out the red carpet!



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