

A Special Citizen

Throughout KidsAbility's history, Rotary clubs have played a crucial role in the evolution of the organization. In fact, the original treatment centre that was established in 1957 was called the K-W Rotary Children's Centre. It's no wonder then that Steve Cameron became tied to KidsAbility the moment he joined the Rotary Club of Waterloo in 1981.

"At that time, an individual's induction to a Rotary Club that supported KidsAbility was conducted in the boardroom of the K-W Rotary Children's Centre," explains Steve. "So your induction to become a Rotarian was inextricably linked to the service work that was its major emphasis in Kitchener-Waterloo."

For Rotarians, their commitment to KidsAbility was very personal and brought about unforgettable life experiences. Often, a member would be assigned a child who attended the Centre. The Rotarian would then take that child to the annual Christmas party and May fishing derby (which, although hard to believe, was held at one of the local hotels whose pool was stocked with fish).

As Steve states, "For many years I was assigned a student with muscular dystrophy. As a young person, he was able to partake in many of the activities, including pony rides without assistance. As he got older, his muscles became weaker. The last time I had the opportunity to take him to the festive season party in December, he was in a wheelchair and his abilities had become much more limited. These personal interactions are particularly meaningful for volunteers and at the same time illuminate the importance of volunteering."

Eventually, Steve joined the KidsAbility Board and became Chair when work began on the new site in Waterloo. His volunteer efforts proved essential in the growth and success of KidsAbility, which he describes as a "world-class facility carrying out world-class treatment for its special citizens."

And for his volunteer efforts, KidsAbility will always include Steve in our thoughts as a special citizen in his own right — one whose life was committed to assisting others in need.

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Stephen Cameron

Rotarian, Volunteer and
2011 Elaine Ormston
Outstanding Butterfly Award Recipient