

Harley's Life Journey

When Harley Kaufmann-Sacrey's mother first brought him to KidsAbility when he was just four months old, she never imagined that 10 years later her son would be asked to be the Kids Can't Wait Ambassador in 2002–2003. Fast forward seven years, as she watched as Harley received the inaugural Carol Shantz Bursary Award. This graduate of the University of Waterloo's Legal Studies program with a graduate certificate in Public Service from Conestoga College is removing barriers and challenging perceptions of what a person with spina bifida can do!

Harley benefited from a wide variety of therapy and support services at KidsAbility until 18 years of age. The memories that he carries of his years at KidsAbility are some of his favourite moments throughout his childhood and young adult life.

"Playing in the pool was always fun and borrowing toys from the toy library were my favourite memories as a child," Harley states. "Receiving the bursary was my favourite memory as a young adult."

KidsAbility was very instrumental in Harley's life. "The first word that comes to mind thinking about KidsAbility is "access." Because of them, I have been able to access adaptive equipment, therapies, confidence, and even though I ended services at 18 years of age, KidsAbility still helped me in my university days with a bursary," Harley shares. Some of his many accomplishments at KidsAbility include learning to use a wheelchair, along with learning how to use braces.

One thing that helped Harley's mother when he was young was being able to talk to other parents whose children were facing the same challenges both early on and later in their journeys.

“ Receiving the bursary was my favourite memory as a young adult. ”



Harley Kaufmann-Sacrey

Kids Can't Wait Ambassador
2002–2003 and
2011 Carol Shantz Bursary Award Recipient