

An Outstanding Supporter

For some people, volunteering is an important part of their lives. In the case of Elaine Ormston, it's quite simply part of her DNA.

Over the years, Elaine has spent countless hours lending her expertise to various organizations. Yet today, she can claim with all confidence, "KidsAbility is where I want to be. This is a very special place."

Elaine's start at KidsAbility coincided with the opening of the organization's ground-breaking facility in 1995. However, it came about in an unexpected way: "My husband Charlie was asked by Steve Cameron to join the KidsAbility Board," Elaine explains. "Charlie was too busy, but he said he knew somebody who would be a good candidate. I was the second choice."

While Elaine became a member of the KidsAbility Board, she also wanted to leverage the experience she had garnered over the years as a young candy-striper and a registered nurse specializing in pediatrics and orthopedics at Grand River Hospital. KidsAbility School proved to be a perfect fit.

Today, Elaine still relishes the volunteer time she spends with the children — and the difference one can make in the life of a child. "I remember one boy who had difficulty rolling over," she states. "Most children learn this very early in life, but he was three years old and struggling. He'd practise and practise on a mat. When he finally achieved his goal, everyone was so excited and cheered on this great accomplishment! This is a place where miracles — however small — happen every day."

Elaine went on to have an impact as a Board member too. When it became clear that fundraising needed to play a more significant role in supporting KidsAbility's initiatives, she and John Lynch started the KidsAbility Foundation Board. After two years with John at the helm, Elaine assumed the Chair of the Foundation. Eventually, she became Chair of the Endowment Fund Campaign, which has raised nearly \$10 million to date.

In 2009, Elaine received KidsAbility Foundation's highest commendation: The Outstanding Supporter Butterfly Award. Then to further recognize her ongoing contributions and dedicated support, the award was renamed in her honour. While Elaine may have been "second choice" 22 years ago, there is no doubt that she would be everyone's first choice today.



Elaine Ormston

Volunteer, Donor and
2009 Outstanding Supporter Award Recipient