

## Joshua – A Caring, Community-Minded Citizen

This is Josh. He is a bright, funny, engaging and tenacious young man. He is a son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin, high school graduate, and friend.

Josh is also a community-minded citizen and likes to help out others. While he was in high school, Joshua used his Special Services at Home (SSAH) funding to facilitate his involvement in a number of initiatives and non-profit organizations.



With the support of his attendants, Joshua helped serve meals at a local community dinner that was open to anyone. He was a greeter for children's programs with the local Hospice organization. One of his favourites jobs was leading a walking group that was organized by a physiotherapy clinic. With this position, he led the group through a park while the therapist coached walkers using Nordic polls.

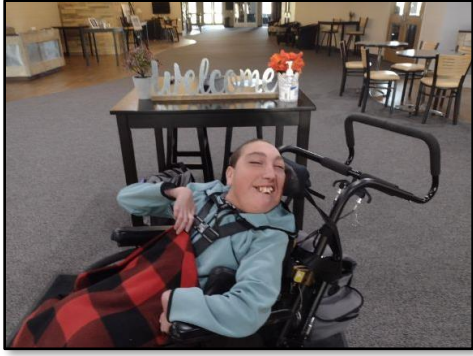
These experiences were important as a teen to set the ground work for life after school. His family loves being out with Joshua and having people they don't know walk up to him and start chatting. These folks are Josh's friends and acquaintances. By finding his interests and going out with assistance from a support worker, Joshua was creating his own good life and making his own connections, just like many teens.

Unfortunately, he graduated in middle of the pandemic and during this time all his community work came to a halt. It was something that he missed dearly but due to his health condition, he had to be careful. After three, long years, Joshua is proceeding with caution as he slowly starts returning to community-based activities.

To begin again, Josh worked with his network, particularly, Jay. Jay is one of Josh's team members and is contracted through Josh's individualized funding. Josh and Jay are a great pair as they both are very social and enjoy being around others. Jay has been part of Josh's team for over a year and has really become acquainted with his interests and unique personality. With both of them being eager to get out there, Jay started looking into possible community activities that Joshua might be interested in.

To Josh's delight, Jay found a neighbourhood church which also acts as a community hub by hosting many non-profit organizations during the week. One of the activities is an exercise group run by the VON. Joshua started volunteering as a greeter and directed people to the class. Over a few weeks, the organizers and participants got to know Josh and everyone wanted him to stay and join in the fun. Once he finishes greeting, Joshua now takes laps around the gym with the group and participates in some of the exercises. Each week, Josh increases his connections and his network. He is able to share his talents and receive friendship and connection in return.

With summer around the corner, Josh will be looking to new opportunities to explore his interests and make new connections!



Joshua arriving to begin his role as greeter.



Josh with Jay and VON Coordinators.



Josh participating in the exercise group.