

SPLASH



Campers and counsellors at Camp Easter Seal soak in the summer rays on the Camp's wheelchair accessible pontoon boat on Little Manitou Lake this summer.



Camp Easter Seal

Promoting inclusion at Camp Easter Seal

For the first time, Camp Easter Seal welcomed five Saskatoon Public School students to Camp this summer, immersing them in the community and enabling them to interact with children their age living with disabilities. Students spent the week with the Camp Easter Seal Trailblazers group aged 6 to 12, bunking with the campers, participating in all activities and having fun with their peers.

These students were part of the iGen program, an intergenerational learning initiative designed to provide close and continuing contact with school-aged children and residents in the Sherbrooke Community Centre to enhance their understanding of inclusion. The Sherbrooke Community Centre is a long-term care community home to more than 250 residents of all ages. This partnership with Saskatoon Public Schools is aimed at increasing knowledge and understanding of disabilities to encourage students to see beyond visual disabilities

and focus instead on the abilities of their peers.

Kya Georget was one of the iGen students who loved being part of Camp this summer. Her highlights included making new friends, learning about various disabilities, singing camp songs and staying in the cabins with her new friends.

Initiatives like this are key in helping foster an inclusive society. With this year being such a success, Camp Easter Seal is excited to offer the program again next summer. ▲



Quality of Life Centre participants Diane Sloan and Glenda McMillan love giving back to their community by volunteering at the Southwest Newcomer Welcome Centre in Swift Current.

Quality of Life participants help immigrants and refugees feel welcome in the community

Diane Sloan and Glenda McMillan, participants at the Quality of Life Centre in Swift Current, wanted to give back to their community in a meaningful way. They connected with the Southwest Newcomer Welcome Centre and began a partnership volunteering in the spring of 2016.

The Southwest Newcomer Welcome Centre provides programming, resources and supports to assist newcomers in the Swift Current area adjust to life in Canada. At the Centre, Diane and Glenda greet newcomers, help keep the space clean by dusting and washing toys in the kids' room, and assist the Executive Director Icasiana de Gala with administrative tasks such as shredding.

Since starting volunteering, Diane and Glenda have formed new friendships, shared a lot of laughter, and have been invited to many volunteer appreciation nights. ▲



Supporting participants to become leaders through Summer Fun in Regina

From program participant to volunteer, Emily Wesdyk is giving back to the Summer Fun program to help younger kids share in the joy and personal development she experienced through the program. Emily has been a participant of the Summer Fun program for the past five years, but this year she decided to give back to the program and become a volunteer.

When Emily first joined Summer Fun, she was shy and anxious around new people and unfamiliar situations. Through her time at the program, Emily soon grew into a confident, independent young woman. She is now open to trying new things, takes public transportation independently, and generally feels more confident with

herself and making new friends—qualities that reassure her mother Andrea Rowley as Emily transitions into adulthood.

Emily's favourite aspect of volunteering was spending quality time supporting children. She's a natural with kids.

"She has this innate ability with kids—it's amazing! They just love her and are drawn to her," says Andrea.

As a recent high school graduate, Emily is looking forward to the next chapter in her life, whether it's employment, post-secondary education or recreation. We are excited to see what's in store for her next! ▲



After graduating high school in the spring of 2016, Emily Wesdyk was ready to give back to her community in a meaningful way. She has been a participant of the Summer Fun program in Regina for a number of years and decided to team up with the program again this summer, this time as a volunteer.

CAMP EASTER SEAL FAMILY GIFTED ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME RIDER EXPERIENCE

Marcus Marcella and his mom Meagan were excited to be invited as guests to the Easter Seals™ Charity Golf Tournament dinner on May 26, 2016— they hardly expected to take home a generous donation and memories to last a lifetime!

Marcus is a regular attendee of Camp Easter Seal, a week in the summer he looks forward to every year. He and his mom were invited to the annual golf tournament to share his experiences at Camp during the dinner ceremony—giving golfers a chance to see first-hand where their fundraising dollars go. During the evening, one of the live auction items—the ultimate VIP Roughrider game experience package—sparked a bidding war. The bids kept climbing, but that didn't deter the winner who dished

out \$2,450 to claim the prize. Upon collecting his new loot, the winner walked directly to Marcus and gifted him the whole Rider package he just won!

"I feel so very blessed," said Meagan. "He could have used that with his own family." Instead, the winner selflessly chose to give Marcus and his family an experience that would be the highlight of their summer.

The graciously donated Rider gift package included VIP box seats, hotel stay in Regina, a box filled with t-shirts and swag, lunch at the Rider Lounge, and a meet and greet with the Chair of the Roughrider Board of Directors, Wayne Morsky and his wife, Carol. To top it off, Marcus and his family got to stand field-side, in the heart of the action, as the Riders stormed the



Camp Easter Seal family Meagan, Marcus and Thomas Marcella stand field-side at Mosaic Stadium as the Riders rush the field. The family was overwhelmed with gratitude when they were gifted the VIP Roughrider game experience of a lifetime at the Easter Seals™ Charity Golf Tournament in the summer of 2016.

stadium. Considering that it was the family's first-ever Rider game, it was an unforgettable experience to say the least.

"There's no way possible I would have been able to do that for Marcus," Meagan said.

Due to Marcus' limited mobility, the only way he can experience a game is from box seating, which for many of us is not always a financially-viable option. The timing of the gift could not have been more perfect either—it had been the longest streak Marcus had remained healthy and out of the hospital, ever.

The Easter Seals™ Charity Golf Tournament is an annual fundraiser coordinated by a group of community volunteers dedicated to helping children with disabilities experience the joy of camp at Camp Easter Seal. On behalf of Marcus and hundreds of kids who were able to attend Camp this summer, thank you for all your support! ▲

QUALITY OF LIFE

Easter Seals™ Donation Form

Saskatchewan

Yes, I would like to support Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan with a gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 I prefer to give \$ _____

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Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7

We do not sell or trade our names. Your information is kept confidential.
Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10 or more.

Charitable Registration
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Additional Gift Giving Options

Online – Please visit www.abilitiescouncil.sk.ca and click on Make a Donation

Telephone – Please call us at 306-374-4448

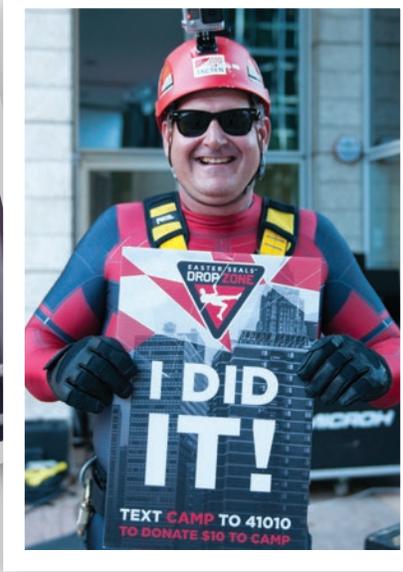
SUMMER AROUND THE COUNCIL



Easter Seals™ Drop Zone

With over 10 years of adrenaline-pumping success in Saskatoon and Regina, Easter Seals™ Drop Zone held its first-ever Drop Zone in Prince Albert this September! Participants, or Superheroes as we call them, donned their capes, conquered their fears and rappelled knee-quivering heights all in support of children and youth with disabilities. This year Drop Zone events in Saskatchewan raised over \$170,000! Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers and participants for helping change lives. ▲

Shaina Lynden, with Ryde YXE Cycle Studio, (top left) smiles as she begins her descend down the Carlton Tower at Drop Zone Saskatoon. While rappelling 230 feet off Hill Tower II in Regina can be intimidating, Riley Brennan (bottom left) and Loren Viczko (bottom right) looked like professionals at Drop Zone Regina on Aug. 20, 2016.



Next Up! **40th ANNUAL EASTER SEALS SNOWARAMA**

Snowarama is turning 40! Mark your calendars for February 11, 2017 as we gear up for our favourite snowmobiling fundraiser. Yorkton Easter Seals™ Snowarama is a family-oriented event combining winter fun and community spirit all in support of Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan! With a minimum of \$200 in pledges, riders receive a free breakfast and lunch, free fuel at the midway point and a complimentary invitation to the evening awards banquet. This year we're excited to host a new trail and a cabaret following the banquet. To find out how you can participate this year, please call 306-782-2463. ▲

Are you ready to rock? Rock n' Bowl that is! This year's Ability Bowl is scheduled for April 22, 2017. Grab a team, dress as your favourite rockstar and get ready to Rock n' Bowl. Last year the event raised almost \$58,000 in support of Saskatchewan Abilities Council Swift Current Branch. For more information, please call 306-773-2076. ▲



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