## Sask**Abilities**

## Beginning Again with Adaptive Technology

I've been extremely lucky along this journey to have been connected with just really wonderful people who have helped me."

When Julia first accessed Adaptive Technology Services at SaskAbilities, she was looking for support and guidance in helping her find software and equipment that would allow her to work again after an accident left her without both hands. The professional consultant and writer often found herself traveling for work with much of her downtime dedicated to her six children. A self professed 'independent woman', Julia rarely needed or asked for help from anyone and now found herself in a very different position than she had ever been before.

Adaptive Technology Services is a program that helps bridge the technology gap for people experiencing disability and the life changing devices and software that can improve their quality of life. Whether it is talk-to-text software for a client's professional world or gaming equipment for recreation and fun, Adaptive Technology works directly with clients to increase their independence and self-reliance.

"I think we all – or at least I did, go through life taking for granted the simple things, everyday things like jumping in your vehicle to get groceries, picking up your cell phone to call a friend or typing on your laptop to finish a project for work. I never thought about what would happen if I couldn't do those things or if I didn't have hands. No one does, until something happens, and you are in my position," reflects Julia.

After the accident, Julia wasted no time researching the best talk-to-text technology and software, even eliciting the help

of tech savvy family members including a cousin that works at Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology. "I remember laying in my hospital bed and just thinking of the things I would need in order to go back to work and support my family. I knew I wanted the best programs, but I wasn't sure what I was looking for and what equipment I would need. Then my amazing Occupational Therapist, Lynn, referred me to SaskAbilities and I was connected with Andrew," explains Julia, noting, "That's when things started to come together, I was able to test some equipment out and see what worked and what didn't."

"When Julia first came to see me, I think she wanted to be hopeful but was still adjusting and coping with what she had just been through. The transformation from then to now has been huge. I see her excited about the equipment, what it can do and what that means for her to go back to work and support her family and community. The process was maybe longer than she had hoped, and we had some glitches along the way but it has been an honour to work with Julia and see her inspired about the future," explains Andrew.

Your donations create opportunities for individuals experiencing disability to access life changing technology tools, devices, and support. For many people like Julia, technology isn't just a convenience, it is essential to their livelihood, supporting their family and making everyday tasks a little easier.

Your donations make the difference and support individuals experiencing disability in Saskatchewan with Adaptive Technology Services.

YES! I would like to help enrich lives today! For more information on the Monthly Giving Program, see other side. Enclosed is my gift of:

## Payment Information:

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□ I prefer to charge my donation to: □ <u>VISA</u> □ <u>Correct</u> □ <u>(TISA</u>)

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SaskAbilities

We do NOT sell or trade our names. Your information is kept confidential. Charitable Registration #10795 5221 RR0001. Tax receipts issued for donations of \$10 or more

Now that she has the equipment and the resources she needs – I don't think there's much that can stop her!"

"I've been extremely lucky along this journey to have been connected with just really wonderful people who have helped me, including the staff at Rehabilitation Services at SaskAbilities, Andrew, and my Occupational Therapist, Lynn. I'm not one of those people who can sit still and just let what happened take over my life. I have a hard time seeing or even labeling myself as disabled. The road up to this point hasn't been easy but I knew if I survived, I was going to make the most of it and that is what I'm trying to do everyday," expresses Julia of her life post accident and surgeries.

Outfitted with her new equipment and software, Julia has already finished her first major work project since her accident in 2020. Leaning on Andrew for a few minor tweaks, she is building her confidence to get back to doing the work she loves to do – helping others. "When you meet Julia, it is very clear she is a person with a lot of ideas, she is vibrant, you can tell she cares a lot and is invested in the work she does and people around her – and I think that's very refreshing. To see the difference in how she feels about herself, her future, her kids and ultimately the impact she will have is a big deal. Julia is a presence, when she walks into a room you notice her. Now that she has the equipment and the resources she needs – I don't think there's much that can stop her," expresses Andrew of the transformation he has seen in Julia since she walked into his office last year. As for Julia's future – she has big plans for her and her family, including becoming a Kookum for the first time as her daughter welcomes a new baby. "It is important for me to be there for my kids and community and I'm excited to continue to move forward."

Adaptive Technology Services is dedicated to working with clients of all ages and abilities to find the right electronic devices, technology tools, and software that will work for their individual needs and lifestyles. Money should never be a barrier for individuals in accessing the resources and support they need to interact and access the world in dynamic and meaningful ways. Your donations stay within the province and support individuals in your community to access life enhancing technology that changes lives. You can make that difference for someone today.

Sincerely,

lan Wilkinson Executive Director

The Monthly Giving Program is a simple way to make pre-authorized contributions in support of SaskAbilities' work to improve the quality of life, enhance independence and community participation of children, youth and adults experiencing disability.

As a monthly donor, you can give as little as \$10 a month and make a positive impact on our ability to plan ahead and invest further in programs and services that serve thousands of individuals experiencing disability in Saskatchewan every year.

SaskAbilities 2310 Louise Avenue Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7 www.saskabilities.ca Charitable Registration #107955221 RR0001

## **YES!** I want to be a part of positive change in many lives by GIVING MONTHLY TO SASKABILITIES PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

I would like to make a monthly gift of:

- □ \$10 □ \$15 □ \$20 □ \$25 or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month (minimum \$10)
- I will donate from my bank account. Henceforth, SaskAbilities and its agent bank may automatically debit my account on the first day of each month for the amount above. I authorize my bank to pay this amount from my chequing account. I have enclosed a voided cheque for this purpose.
  - This donation is made on behalf of: 🛛 an individual 🏾 a business
- I authorize SaskAbilities to automatically deduct the amount indicated above each month until I state otherwise. I understand that I can cancel at any time.

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I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD Agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse right, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca