

A PLACE FOR MICHAEL TO **BE, BELONG, AND BECOME!**

Each year our Membership Campaign highlights some of the amazing clients and participants SaskAbilities has the honour of supporting and this year is certainly no different! Did you know, many individuals access a variety of programs and services at SaskAbilities throughout their lifetime depending on their needs? Many people are pleasantly surprised when they or their loved ones find themselves enrolled and participating in more than a few programs and services after inquiring about just one. "I didn't know that was available at SaskAbilities!" is a statement often heard by staff members and program coordinators at branches in Saskatoon, Regina, Swift Current, and Yorkton.

That was certainly how things unfolded for 28-year-old Michael Rudolph. Interested in retaining a job and looking for training, Michael accessed the Partners in Employment New Opportunities for Work (NOW) program in Regina. Little did he know, that was just the beginning of his involvement with SaskAbilities, spring boarding him into day programming and adventures at Camp Easter Seal. "I didn't know much about SaskAbilities until after Partners in Employment. After the NOW program was over, I came to SaskAbilities and worked in the custodial and cafeteria areas. After those went away because of COVID-19 I learned about the HUB and went into that full time," explains Michael of how he came to be in the day program *Helping You Be, Belong and Become* (HUB) at the Regina Branch.




"Michael is a very unique guy – he's independent and also very thoughtful and considerate of others. He has a very calming demeanor and is a constant presence at the HUB. He fits into all groups of people here and gets along with everyone. He definitely has an easy-going personality and is open to trying new things, new activities, and having new experiences," explains Service Coordinator, Mikaylee Dreger who has supported and encouraged Michael in returning to some community-based volunteer initiatives. "It was something I did previously, and I really liked it. Once a week, every Thursday morning I volunteer at Aids Programs South Saskatchewan," explains Michael who describes himself as being a hard worker who tries his best to do what is expected of him.



Each year SaskAbilities provides support to over 60,000 individuals experiencing disability in Saskatchewan. Among many, the 'Helping You Be, Belong and Become' aka the HUB – is a client-centred day program designed to enhance the quality of life of individuals through community connection, personal development, recreational activities, and social engagement. Its aim is to celebrate each participant's unique abilities while fostering new interests, skills, and learnings.

Yes! I want to help enrich lives by becoming a 2023 member or renewing today!

Name: _____
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Here is my gift of:
 Or I prefer to give \$ _____ (See reverse for monthly giving options)
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 Card #: _____
 Expiry Date: _____
 Name on Card: _____
 Signature: _____

Prefer to make your donation online? Go to saskabilities.ca
Thank you for your Membership! Your support will enrich lives!

Your contribution through your new or renewed 2023 membership creates opportunities for individuals like Michael to access life enhancing programs and services. You are helping individuals actualize their dreams and achieve their goals such as contributing to the community through volunteer placements and other opportunities otherwise not available to them.

Being of service, contributing and helping others – while of course having a good time and being social is a priority for Michael. With a goal of revisiting programs at Partners in Employment to increase his employability, Michael is very motivated to find a job. “A driver for Michael is his independence. He lives independently in a group setting, he likes to coordinate going on outings with his friends, so I think at the base of it – he just wants to take that next step in life, in adulthood like many of us do,” says Mikaylee adding Michael has many strengths and skill sets that would make him a great employee and team member.

From his very first day, Michael has fit right in at SaskAbilities, embracing opportunities to try new things and challenging himself to find new ways to exercise his independence. So, it was not a shock to staff that Michael would want to attend Camp Easter Seal. “He [Michael] managed that all on his own,” begins Mikaylee, “when the application process first opened up, we did a blanket sharing of information about Camp and let everyone know that if they wanted to apply, they could let their supports or caregivers know about doing so. It didn’t surprise me at all that Michael would do that independently and register himself up for Camp.” That he did! Experiencing his first ever weeklong adventure at Camp Easter Seal at Little Manitou Lake, Michael attended the July 11th to 15th camp themed Passport to the World.

Aside from taking full advantage of the diverse programs and services available to him and so many others at SaskAbilities, Michael is also a lighthearted sports fan who not only follows his favourite teams (go Roughriders go!) but also doesn’t let his experience of being blind prevent him from partaking in the fun. “I didn’t do it this year but in the past, I’ve done the Dragon Boats races; in the fall I’ll be bowling with a bunch of blind people like me through the Saskatchewan Blind Sports Association,” mentions Michael who has also tried a variety of recreational activities

including yoga during his time at the HUB.

Michael is one of many clients who has found a place of belonging at SaskAbilities. A place where individuals can be themselves, try new things, expand their abilities, and launch forward into becoming the best version of themselves. This is all made possible by generous donors like you!



Sincerely,



Ian Wilkinson,
Executive Director

Join or renew your 2023 membership with a monthly or annual donation and help us continue creating opportunities for children, youth, and adults experiencing disability in Saskatchewan. Your Membership includes voting privileges at our Annual General Meeting, our quarterly newsletter, and the comfort of knowing you are improving the lives of amazing individuals like Michael, experiencing disability.

With a monthly or annual gift of \$25, \$50, \$75, or a leadership gift of \$150, you will make a meaningful difference TODAY! In recognition of your generosity, Member Leaders, those who give \$150 or more, will be featured in our Annual Report, a provincial publication highlighting our progress and achievements. Join our Monthly Giving Program with easy and convenient monthly donations. It doesn’t take a lot to change lives; for as little as \$12.50 a month or \$.42 cents a day you can support individuals experiencing disability in your community. Together we can enhance lives and create inclusive communities!

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE: saskabilities.ca**

The Monthly Giving Program is a simple way to make pre-authorized contributions to help SaskAbilities fulfill its mission of supporting people experiencing disability with programs and services to enhance their lives.

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
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Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7
www.saskabilities.ca
Charitable Registration #107955221 RR0001

YES! I’d like to join the Monthly Giving Program.

I would like to make a monthly gift of:

☐ \$30 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$10 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.

Card # _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Email Address _____ Phone # _____

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.