

## **WHY I VOLUNTEER...**

I volunteer because I feel that it is important to give back to the community.

In this day and age it seems that people do not have as much free time to volunteer and that volunteering has become something to do once you have retired (which is a good thing).

There was a time when spare time was spent helping others or helping organizations, but now so many people need that extra income that spare time is filled up with jobs.

I want my children to see that there is always time to help others and that this is a great way to also help yourself.

I feel very fortunate that my family can live comfortably on one income but that has come with a price. My husband travels with his job so we have found it important to have a full time parent at home. This way we are always able to support our kids in after school activities, homework, rides to part-time jobs et cetera.

Why I volunteer at Pathways is really easy. When my kids were in elementary school, I helped out at their schools and really enjoyed it. I really love to be around little ones. I am a very active person and the fact that I can incorporate volunteering with pool time and the fact that I can walk to Pathways from my house proved that Pathways could be a good fit.

Lastly I have a niece in London who has cerebral palsy and I have seen what a wonderful impact volunteers have had on her life and that of her parents. When I read in the Sacred Heart Church bulletin that Pathways was looking for swim volunteers it seemed a perfect fit for me.

Being in the water with the children is wonderful. They really enjoy their swim time and that is what it is all about. By being one on one with a child, we get to see not only how much they love the pool but we get the reward of seeing real change and improvement in the children. The children will smile and that just makes you feel so good and so happy yourself.

I must say that I really am thankful to Pathways for welcoming me and allowing me to have this time. It is not only great for the children but it has been wonderful for me. I look forward to volunteering in the pool for years to come.