

## HAPPY VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK!



This year's theme, 'volunteering is empathy in action,' has been particularly prevalent of the Christie Lake Kids community. It is what keeps us connected at a time when we feel most isolated. It brings us immeasurable joy and strengthens our communities to provide all of us with greater support, especially for those who are significantly affected.

listen to others' to expand our views, our sense of belonging, and our understanding of the world. None of this would be possible without the wealth of empathy our volunteers have been dedicating to our cause for a 100 years now! This Volunteer Appreciation Week, we want to give special thanks to all of you for making this community stronger and more capable than ever to support our families at a time when we all need each other most. **THANK YOU!** 

All of you have shown what empathy can achieve when put into action by offering your time, energy, and skills throughout the years. This has especially been evident this program year. In the fall, you helped us successfully launch the most in-person programs we have ever had! Your work ethic and dedication toward making the Ottawa community more joyful and equitable aided us in our efforts to create a safer and more inclusive space for our families. As the pandemic hit special highs, you stepped up to take on some of the emotional work of being there for our kids and helping them experience some normalcy, positivity, and healthy relationships in safe and inclusive environments. In the winter, you granted us your patience and compassion while we adjusted to find alternative ways to support our families. Afterwards, you helped us launch our part-virtual programs with the same warmth and enthusiasm despite all the stressors and anxieties brought on by the rise of COVID-19 cases.



All of you, no matter when or for how long, have contributed to the beautiful community we have been dutifully creating for the past 100 years! It is your empathy in action that has made us strong enough to take on this year's obstacles, resilient enough to push through them, and creative enough to overcome them. YOU are responsible for the extra smiles, joy, and laughter we brought to this year!

On behalf of the Christie Lake Kids family, especially the children and youth we serve, THANK YOU!

Please let us know how you would like to continue to engage with us by completing the following survey <a href="https://clk.typeform.com/to/wKQDFQhW">https://clk.typeform.com/to/wKQDFQhW</a>. You could win a \$30 Tim Horton's Gift Card!

Sincerely; Geisel Portales Volunteer Coordinator

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