

For the Children

“It’s all about the children,” beams long-time classroom volunteer Judy Winterburn as she recalls making the decision in October 1979 to volunteer at the K-W Rotary Children’s Centre, a place she was first introduced to in 1965 with her nursing school class.

Over 50 years later after that chance encounter, every Wednesday morning, you will find Judy in one of KidsAbility School’s junior kindergarten classes in Waterloo. However, Judy often can be found throughout the week creating bulletin boards for the school or helping with field trips. Judy frequently takes her work with her, preparing classroom materials at home. She and her husband, Dennis, also support KidsAbility annually with a financial contribution.

“Family”: It is the first word that comes to Judy’s mind when she thinks about KidsAbility, remembering many lunch breaks where she had the chance to get to know therapists, staff, teachers and volunteers over some friendly conversation.

Judy carries with her decades of memories, but her favourite one occurred more than 30 years ago. She remembers watching the exchange of two children, a boy and a girl, around the age of 8 or 9 years old. The girl had paralysis and was able to tap on a keyboard with her mouth. The young boy, who also had paralysis, was able to use his left arm. She remembers both of them being so proud of their own unique abilities.

Judy’s wish for KidsAbility is that the organization continues to receive the support that is needed so that services can grow and expand to meet the needs of the children. Volunteering at KidsAbility is of utmost importance to Judy “because the children are important.”

Judy describes KidsAbility to others often by saying: “It’s a magical place, a happy place, filled with people who care and want potential realized for every child.”

“ It’s all about the children. ”



Judy Winterburn

Volunteer and Donor