

# Achieving Potential

Reminiscing about a particular moment from her days at the K-W Rotary Children’s Centre makes Karen Morris smile. That moment in particular: a child working with his physiotherapy aide in the halls of the Rotary Centre, singing at the top of his lungs, “I’ve been working on the highway.”

“I myself have a disability and some medical issues that cause me pain, and just when I thought I couldn’t work any further, I would hear this sweet voice, and it cheered me up and gave me the strength and courage to continue,” Karen says.

In 1988, Karen decided to apply for a social worker position because she believed she could relate to the families and children because of her physical disability. The examples shown by both her parents — her mother, Eva Morris, who drove the Centre’s school bus, and her father, Paul Morris, a volunteer who made quite an impact with the children there — confirmed her decision. “There are many psychosocial issues growing up with a disability, and social work helps families and children address these needs through individual counselling, group work and teamwork with the rest of the staff,” she explains. Karen worked at the K-W Rotary Children’s Centre until 1998, not too long after the big move to the new Waterloo site.

If you were to ask Karen what KidsAbility is all about, she would say: “KidsAbility is a family-focused centre where a multidisciplinary team, involving family, physio, occupational and speech therapies, along with social work and psychology, works together to help children with disabilities meet their full potential.”

Learning that the children she worked with are successfully employed in the community makes Karen beam with pride in knowing that she had a small part in making this happen. For her, it makes the words “achieving potential” all the more relevant.

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*Karen Morris*

Social Worker - KidsAbility  
1988–1998