

A Fighting Spirit

Josh was a healthy and active child, until the age of nine when doctors discovered that he had cancer. Doctors saved Josh's life by removing his brain tumour, but the surgery left this once active boy unable to accomplish even the most basic tasks such as sitting up.

"I came to KidsAbility because I had complications from brain tumour surgery; I couldn't walk or talk, so the hospital referred me to KidsAbility," Josh shares.

With the help of KidsAbility's therapists, Josh benefited from physio, occupational and speech therapies at the Cambridge location. He also accessed augmentative communication services to help him find his voice again. He made incredible strides in the five years he was a client. "In one word, I would describe KidsAbility as 'rehabilitation,'" Josh says. Josh knows and appreciates what KidsAbility did for him, and hopes they will continue to grow so more kids will be helped. "KidsAbility helped me overcome my challenges, which in turn allowed me to ride across Canada with my dad. I have really grown as a person because of them."

Being named the 2006–2007 Kids Can't Wait Cambridge Ambassador was a highlight for Josh, something he will always treasure. This opportunity gave him the chance to be a voice for KidsAbility and share his story over and over again, inspiring many people. In 2008, Josh received the Outstanding Supporter Butterfly Award.

In April 2016, Josh graduated from the Advertising and Marketing Program at Conestoga College. He volunteers each summer at Camp Trillium, and at events for the Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation. "I hope to continue volunteering while working in an advertising position....and, I would like to get married someday," Josh says with a grin.

“ KidsAbility helped me overcome my challenges... ”



Josh Nelson

Kids Can't Wait Cambridge Ambassador
2006–2007 and
2008 Outstanding Supporter Award Recipient