

The Power of Team

By Lucy Ernst



Lorraine has been volunteering for so many years now that it is simply a part of her life. Camrose Family Resource Centre, Kinettes, Rural Outreach Program, Camrose Pre-school Board, Camrose Spray Park Project, Relay for Life, Classroom Agriculture Program and 4-H. Why does she volunteer? **“I enjoy working with a team. Volunteer committees consist of people with diverse backgrounds coming together for a common cause. Imagine the friendships and experiences that come from a group of enthusiastic people who care.”**

“Our community isn’t just where we live, it’s a place where we belong. The best way to develop a sense of belonging is to participate; in essence you become an important piece of the puzzle called community.” Lorraine feels she has learned a great deal from her vast and various volunteering roles. **“I have learned about my community, a bit about politics, a great deal about team dynamics and I’ve come to understand how each team member’s personality contributes to the outcome.”**

Lorraine’s most memorable volunteer experience? **“Volunteering makes a difference and it shows children that they too can make a difference. At the age of three-and-a-half, my daughter was determined to give her piggy bank money to the Camrose Spray Park project which was in its fundraising stages. What came next was an amazing lesson in volunteering, earning money and hard work.”**

“Together we came up with a way for a three-year-old to fundraise, since giving away piggy bank money seemed too simple and we knew she hadn’t yet grasped the concept of earning that money. For the next year and a half, she collected cans/bottles until she was able to present \$250 to the Spray Park Committee. To this day, she knows in her heart that she was an important part of a community project. My husband and I are very proud of the values that both of our children are learning. We have learned that as parents, we have a huge impact on our children simply by role modeling.”

“Many people feel that in order to do volunteer work, they need to have a specific skill. “You don’t need a skill to volunteer. What you need is drive, passion and willingness to learn. Surprisingly, your skills will emerge when you become part of a team - skills you didn’t even know you had.”

If you are looking to volunteer in Camrose and district, you're in the right place. Return to our home page to search for opportunities to get involved.