

Please help us celebrate Parkview's first, Volunteer of the Month - Tami Lackey!

Thank you Tami for allowing us to showcase your volunteerism in Parkview. Your commitment and service to our community is truly inspiring. One can only hope that they will be able to leave half of the legacy that you have, in their neighbourhood.

We asked Tami a few questions regarding her volunteerism in Parkview. Read her answers to our questions, below, to see why she was nominated!

Q: In what program(s), or in what capacity have you volunteered your time to the Parkview community?

A: Oh gosh, this is hard to remember, but fun to stroll down memory lane! My first taste of volunteering in Parkview Community was helping host Tot-Time, that would have been in 1998. I started attending in 1997 when we had a 2 year old and 4 month old. I was unconfident on how much I would be able to contribute due to the ages of our children and my personal ability but I did a "1, 2, 3 JUMP".

I loved and deeply appreciated the opportunity for parents, caregivers and children to connect. I would be purely guessing how long I did that for, I would guess until about 2010 with breaks for a year or 2 depending on children's ages. The ages of our children now are 23, 21, 18, 16, 14, & 12.

The friendships that developed over this time are still the deepest and most meaningful I have to this day. When you are in the trenches of parenthood, it is an invaluable resource to connect with other parents in the same life cycle and find your "wingmen" or in my case MANY "wing women". That was not my motivation of volunteering, but a beautiful reality of the impact of volunteering.

I sat on the Parkview Playschool Board through the time our children attended. Over 12 years, I held roles as treasurer, secretary, vice-president and president. For a number of years, I was

involved with the Parkview Development Committee. The committee was successful in redeveloping the playground and grounds South of the hall. This included a steep learning curve putting on 2 large silent auction events. I have helped over the years with volunteer appreciation events, community clean ups, various casino roles, managing soccer teams & the famous Val Bright creation of the Christmas Craft & Bake Sale.

For the last 6 years, I have partnered with Michelle Pollock and Carrie Candy, hosting the Adult Halloween Party. As our children have aged, I missed the connection with our community on a more consistent basis. My current role, is hosting the Parkview Yarn Night & Tea. This started in the fall of 2017, and is held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, in the boardroom of the hall. We hope for more people to join us for evenings of conversation, friendship and yarn fellowship. With my husband Keven, I'm organizing the upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Night on March 16!

As I reflect back, I appreciated and still do appreciate, the opportunity of connecting with the wonderful people of Parkview and our sister communities Crestwood and Laurier, while contributing to some really cool events and programs for our families. Our children feel deeply connected to Parkview, having participated in and helping with events and activities over many years. They were and are the beneficiaries of volunteerism in the community. We've had the opportunity and good fortune of knowing how much more we get out of our volunteering than we could ever put in.

Q: What Parkview event or project are you looking forward to, the most?

A: I am really excited for the upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Night, on March 16. We have not had a celebration since 2013 and it will be great to bring our current and past volunteers together and show our love! We are getting the youth involved with this event as they have been major benefactors of volunteerism. They have been very enthusiastic to support this event. If a current or past volunteer did not get a invite to the event, please send me your email address to tamilackey@gmail.com, so we can include you! There are so many people that contribute to the community it's important everyone is invited and welcomed to attend.

Q: What is your favourite thing about living in Parkview?

A: The small town feeling which includes the helpfulness of our people, and the "get'er done" attitude. Our beautiful location helps too, but it's our neighbours that make living here so special and unique. This community culture and small town feeling continues, through the efforts and commitment of volunteers. When you ask people what they enjoy most about Parkview, I believe the response has to do with the people and connection. The connection with sport teams, events or programs... it all starts with the volunteers. I am one of hundreds that contribute what I can to this great space of support. Thank you for asking to share my experience, it was fun to reflect back!

