

Proud to be Me

Celebrating what makes us unique

JOHN SPROTT IS “PROUD TO BE ME”

John Sprott has been volunteering at the Hamilton Family YMCA Child Care Centre for over 10 years. Recently he gave a tour of the facilities and explained what he does at the centre because his role there makes him very proud.

Everyday John arrives at the YMCA at 9am and leaves around 1pm. He is responsible for making sure the place is in tip-top shape. He is

constantly wiping down dirty tables and picking up after the kids, but always happy to do it. At lunch time he helps serve meals to the children, and puts down and picks up the bed's that the kids rest on. As well, every Tuesday and Thursday John goes swimming with the kids, his sister June says that the kids won't go swimming without him, they all love John.

John first became involved at the YMCA through Community Living Hamilton's Employment Access program. He was connected to the YMCA through his worker Kathy Matthews, who is quick to point out that John's success at the YMCA is all due to his great attitude and helpful personality.

Since John started helping at the YMCA he has shown much growth. The change that John has experienced clearly shines through to his family and friends at home. June describes John as a people person who loves to be around others, and since he started working at the YMCA she has seen a great change in his satisfaction with life and his confidence in himself. She notes that John can get bored very easily, but working at the Child Care Centre has given him a real purpose in life.

When I Asked John what makes him so proud of his work, he simply replied . . . “It's the kids”

test to how helpful John is, having an extra set of hands is always a good thing when taking care of up to 25 children at a time. They especially noticed the difference last year as John was off sick for a while.

John's illness was not only a concern to the kids and staff at the Child Care Centre, but also to community members who use the YMCA services. Since John has started working at YMCA he has become a valued member of the community there, and is greatly missed when he can't be there. As he walks through the halls to do his work many people stop to say hi to John, and he is always ready to respond with a smile and a joke. It seems like John's involvement at the YMCA has not only changed him, but it has changed the people he meets every day.

Keep up the great work John, we are all so proud of who you are!

