



Feature Volunteer – Louise Kells

By Emily Tye

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“I have seen the benefits of the AboutFace programs. I want this organization to continue working for members of all ages, and while I have the chance and opportunity, I am going to continue to volunteer in some way.” - Louise



At Camp Trailblazers AB in 2011

Louise Kells has been a dedicated AboutFace volunteer ever since she attended Camp Trailblazers as a volunteer in 2011. She describes her first experience as a camp volunteer as “holding a special place in her heart” as it was the first time that she got to witness the young members of AboutFace stepping out of their comfort zones and pushing their limits.

Louise first came across the idea of volunteering with AboutFace from reading about Camp Trailblazers in the newsletter a few years ago. It really struck a cord with her because she knew it was something that she would have really enjoyed had she been given the opportunity as a child. In 2011, AboutFace launched it’s first ever Adult Retreat, and announced it in the newsletter. After reading about it, Louise decided it was something she definitely wanted to sign up for.

She thought the idea of spending a weekend at a lodge up north, communing with nature as well as other like minded individuals with facial differences sounded like a great time. Louise described the weekend as being “more than a good time, it was a special time, and a memory I will always be grateful for.” She enjoyed the Adult Retreat so much that she returned in 2012, and will be attending again this year! It was driving home after the retreat that Louise really knew that she wanted to volunteer for Camp Trailblazers. She wanted to give children the same amazing experience she had just had at the Adult Retreat, and knew if she volunteered, she would help make that possible. Louise really believes in the Camp Trailblazers experience – “it benefits children to push themselves beyond their comfort zones and to face new challenges.” She also thinks that it is important for these children to see an adult with a facial difference who is living life to its fullest, to show them that life exists beyond the school yard.



With a camper at the 2011 ON Trailblazers.



At Disneyworld in Dreams Take Flight 2012

Since her first experiences as a volunteer with AboutFace, Louise has continued to dedicate her time to a cause she so strongly believes in. She has spent many a day helping out in the AboutFace office with administrative work, as well as helping out at many events. Last year, Louise was chosen to escort four Camp Trailblazers children to Disneyworld for the day through the Dreams Take Flight program. She described the trip as “unbelievable” and said it fed her joy of volunteering even more. This May, Louise will be making the same trip with Dreams Take Flight and she can’t wait.

For more information on volunteering with AboutFace, please [CLICK HERE!](#)