

Client: Woodstock and District Developmental Services

Project: Flowers of Hope

Objective: Raise awareness to stimulate donations to this non-profit

Trevor finds independence and community with WDDS support

On the day that Trevor was born, Vicki Canon knew that her son was different from his twin sister—something wasn't quite right. During the next five years, the differences intensified and his mother searched for answers. She went from pediatrician to pediatrician always hearing, "Trevor is fine. You're just a paranoid mother."

Your son can't start kindergarten

When Trevor was five, the nearby school pretested him. When Vicki got the results from the principal, his comments tore at her heart, "We're sorry your son can't come here. He's too far behind. There's no way he can start kindergarten."

Vicki was devastated. What does he mean? Where could she turn? Where could she put him? She knew she couldn't survive this alone and another twin depended on her. Who could help her?

What about WDDS?

And then, someone at the school said there was a place called Developmental Services (WDDS) and maybe they could help her. Vicki immediately contacted WDDS and a family support worker met with her.

Vicki states, "... honest to God I would not have survived without her. She was able to point me in the right direction saying, 'Well then, if you can't go to that school, we need to find a place with some Special Ed classes if that's where they think he belongs.' And the rest is history."

The family support worker advocated for Trevor's enrolment in Princess Day Nursery preschool. She and the preschool teacher obtained diagnostic testing for Trevor in London; remarkably, the first test result was negative. During the next two years, the family support worker encouraged Vicki to continue pushing for the testing, which finally revealed Fragile X syndrome, an inherited cause of intellectual disability. The diagnosis qualified him for extra assistance in a special education class at Northdale school: Trevor thrived there.
