

The story of Anna and her girls – the power of an intergenerational friendship

To celebrate Global Intergenerational Week for the first time Generations Working Together has been talking to Betty Good, Program and Training Lead from LINKAges in Canada. Betty told us a story about an intergenerational friendship between Anna, Micky and Alissa that the younger girls will remember for the rest of their lives.

“When they were both in grade 11, Micky and Alissa were matched up with Anna at a care centre where they visited her every Friday after school. They bonded immediately and it was evident that they cared about each other very much. At the end of each visit, Anna wanted them to push her wheelchair to the front window so she could watch them leave. As the girls walked away, they turned around and waved to Anna. Anna always had a smile for her girls.

Alissa and Micky continued their visits with Anna the next year when they were in grade 12. In March of that year, Anna’s family moved her to another care centre, not that far away. Usually when a senior participant left the program, the students were matched with another senior. In this case, the girls and Anna were so attached to each other that the girls decided to continue visiting Anna in her new home. They were faithful in their visits and helped Anna to adjust to her home as best she could. Three months after her move Anna passed away, which was extremely sad. After her passing, the girls put together a video of all the photos taken while they spent time with her. I’m sure that Micky and Alissa will never, ever forget the special relationship they had with Anna.”

Stories like this make us realise that even when intergenerational friendships are in our lives for a short time there is a lot that we can gain from each other.

