

VISION STATEMENTS FROM INCLUSION ALBERTA FAMILIES

Vision statements are, by their nature, deeply personal. Here are three examples of detailed vision statements, which have evolved over time, from families connected to Inclusion Alberta. These individuals range in age from early teens to late twenties. Names have been changed to protect privacy.

SUSAN

As an important part of the Learning Support Program for Susan, it is important to understand the vision statement that has been prepared by Susan's family members. It is a vital part of creating a supportive, collaborative and conducive environment for Susan to thrive at school.

Our vision for Susan is that she will enjoy a full, meaningful life in all areas of her world: home, school, recreation, work, worship, and community. At school, as elsewhere, we expect her to be allowed equal opportunities to develop her interests, to experience new things, and to feel the sense of belonging to which everyone is entitled. We expect that she will develop friendships, experience failures and successes, and find expression for her love of learning alongside her same-age peers in a regular classroom. We know Susan can contribute meaningfully to the class, and we expect her to be a valued fully participating member of her school community, sharing in its rights and responsibilities.

EDDIE

Eddie lives an ordinary life. He loves to go fast and take chances, always including others in his fun. He has a great group of friends who truly bring out the best in each other. They hike, downhill ski, go camping, bowling, swimming, and play video games together.

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Eddie is a trusted secret keeper and provides his friends, without judgement, a kind and listening ear. Through him, his friends learn to be thoughtful, creative, helpful, open minded, and confident young advocates for him, themselves, and others. They visit, play, talk, read, watch videos, provide comfort, offer their assistance, and most importantly, they provide joy, safety and feeling of belonging and security that only loving relationships can provide.

Through shared experiences, adventures, triumphs, and tragedies, Eddie continues to learn and grow along side of his peers in our community. We all reap the benefits of the relationships that we carefully cultivate, seed, nurture, and grow across our lifetime. Eddie's father and I, along with Eddie's siblings, are committed to ensuring that he continues to thrive as a member of our family and our community throughout high school and beyond. Eddie's courage and strength to keep showing up, provides a diverse perspective that is critical to society and our evolution, he is recognized and appreciated for his invaluable contributions.

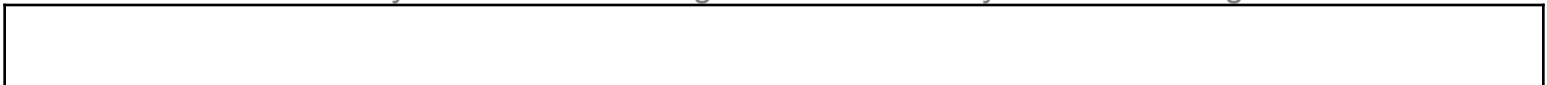
Eddie lives a full and meaningful life, one worth fighting for.

JOEY

Joey will have a life comparable to his brother. We expect his life to unfold in the same pathways and experience of life common to us all. He will continue to grow and contribute every step of the way and be included in the fullness of life amidst his family, friends and coworkers. He will be loved and wanted by his immediate family, extended family and friends. He will be supported by friends and family to follow his dreams. He will pursue a career, find jobs and volunteer in the areas of his interests. He will be involved in a wide range of community activities, continuing education, sports, recreation and have opportunities to enjoy travel, art and music. He will have genuine friendships, fall in love and marry his soulmate. He will have a home of his own where he will have a pet and entertain his friends and family.

Joey is a friendly, loving, caring young man. He has a wicked sense of humor. He is a loyal, trusting friend and a great listener. He is organized, responsible, loves to help people and is a good team player. He is an avid sports fan, especially hockey and baseball. He loves music - especially country music.

Growing up he attended regular childcare and school (K to Grade 12) at his local community school. He completed 4 years of studies in the Communications Faculty at MacEwan University. He started working when he was 14 years old starting at the local



Boston Pizza (as many of the teenagers did in our town). After high school graduation, he worked full time at another restaurant for a year until leaving home for University. He lived in University residence for 1 ½ years with a supportive roommate. During his University studies, he volunteered in the Communications Department at Ronald McDonald House and then landed his dream job in radio at Corus Entertainment in the Promotions Department where he worked part time for 4 years.

In May 2018, he expanded his career areas of interest and started another part time job at Leading Edge Physiotherapy as an Assistant where he worked for 2 years. In June 2019, he expanded his career area of interest once again and started working as a Warehouse Coordinator for Sagiper North America, a small building construction supplier where he works full time. He absolutely LOVES his job and adores his coworkers. He would wake for work every morning at 6:30 am without an alarm clock because he was so excited to go to work. While off work due to COVID, he stays connected to his colleagues virtually and with distanced visits. He is looking forward to getting back to work and getting the sample wall/kits back to his standards. When he is out in community, he spots homes with Sagiper products used on the exterior and can name the products. He has the color/product picked out for his own home.

When he was younger, he was an avid swimmer and was part of the local swim team. In University he joined Masters Swim Club and most recently he joined the Edmonton Underwater Hockey Club. Over the years he has tried various sports like taekwondo, basketball, badminton and pickleball. As an adult he enjoys swimming and working out at the gym. He enjoys art, especially watercolor and soft pastels. He enjoys taking guitar and drum lessons. He has his own blog where he continues to share things that are important to him. He has a few friends he connects to regularly (from high school, from university and from work) and they go out to restaurants, concerts, hockey games and movies. He met a lovely young woman from Calgary, with shared interests, and they have been dating for 4 years. He has plans to propose when the time is right and hopes to marry her.

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