



Board Member Spotlight: Dawn Lagesten

LDANR's Board of Directors plays a pivotal role in ensuring that LDANR consistently delivers on its mission to provide resources and support to individuals who are affected by learning disabilities within the Niagara Region. Dawn Lagesten is Senior Manager of Enterprise for KPMG and is LDANR's current Board Chair. She joined the board as Treasurer in 2012 and assumed the role of Chair in 2014. Today she shares her experience working with board and staff of LDANR.

My name is Dawn Lagesten and I got involved with the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (LDANR) five years ago. I started on the Board of Directors as Treasurer and after two years transitioned to my current position as Board Chair. I got involved with the LDANR after having met with the staff. I was amazed that with only three full-time staff (and a modest budget) at the time, the organization was able to reach so many families and children in the Niagara Region. To be honest, when I first started, I could not identify a learning disability and I don't know that I could even have said what those two words meant. But the staff and the Board members who were involved at the time were so passionate. It was contagious! I got to visit some of our program sites early on as well and seeing the volunteers who were taking time out of their busy schedules to help the children and families was inspiring.

Once I was involved, it wasn't just about dipping my toe in the pool and doing a few treasurer reports at Board meetings. I wanted to get involved in a big way. As a Board, we were able to make some key decisions early on so that we could really focus on the long-term goals of the organization.

Since that first day five years ago, I can say I now have the same passion as those who inspired me in my first few days, weeks, months. I'm still not able to identify a learning disability but I can see the smiles on the children's faces when our volunteers hit a milestone with them and sound out that unimaginable word so I know the organization is having the impact that the Niagara Region needs. It is great seeing that infectious passion now reaching to our new volunteers and our new Board members every day as well.

I can't wait to see where the Organization can go from here. I know it truly wouldn't be the same without our staff and volunteers and their dedication to raising awareness for those children and families struggling with Learning Disabilities.

If you feel that your child would benefit from a learning intervention program like the ones that are offered through LDANR, please fill out an [application form](#). You can also call 905-641-1021 or email programsldan@cogeco.net if you have additional questions.

Each year LDANR helps 450 Niagara students cope with their learning disabilities each year, but we can't do it without the support of community donors, sponsors and volunteers. [Click here](#) to find out how you can help.

