

CENTRE DAILY TIMES

Letter to the Editor March 27, 2022

Grateful for support, community

When my son with Down syndrome was born 35 years ago, there was no Down Syndrome Society in this region. I called a couple of local mothers of young children with Down syndrome, whose numbers I had received from a local agency, and they were helpful. But that was a far cry from the organized work and programs currently offered by the Centre Region Down Syndrome Society. I am so grateful that there is now a structured group ready to provide families with information, emotional support, and many activities.

One CRDSS program that means a lot to me and my son is the *For Good Performance Troupe*. In this group, people with Down syndrome learn, practice, and perform songs from various musicals. It's directed by Krista Wilkinson, who does an amazing job. And the performers have a blast!

When they perform their signature song, *For Good*, from the Broadway musical 'Wicked,' I always cry - every single time. It reminds me of that 30-something young woman (me), sitting alone on her couch staring into space after having given birth to a child with Down Syndrome, and having no idea that he would ever have the opportunity to do something like this, that brings him so much joy.

The Troupe has two performances a year. In April the performance will be in-person for the first time in 2 years. My family will be in the audience and there will be tears of pride and joy in my eyes.

*Suzanne Weinstein
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