

Lynn Ziraldo Receives OACRS Advocacy Award

Each year, the Ontario Association of Children's Rehabilitation Services (OACRS) recognize outstanding contributions that impact quality of life for children and youth with disabilities and their families. The Network was proud to nominate Lynn Ziraldo, this year's Advocacy Award recipient.

For over 35 years, Lynn has been a trailblazer for kids with special needs. As a parent of two sons with special needs, Lynn takes her knowledge and passion about services needed by kids and families to leaders and policy makers.



(Left to right) There were smiles all around when George Zegarac, Deputy Minister of Children and Youth Services and Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, joined OACRS Youth Ambassador Shannon Stone (centre) and Caroline Stone, Chair of OACRS Board of Directors (right) to honour Lynn Ziraldo (second from the right).

Lynn's vision and strong voice has helped change the education system in Ontario to make it more responsive to the needs and abilities of students with special needs. For 10 years, she chaired the Ontario Minister of Education's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE). Her involvement with the Ontario Safe Schools Action Team made sure that **all** students can learn to the best of their ability in a school environment that is safe, accepting and respectful.

In fact, Lynn's leadership and work with many important provincial, regional and local associations, councils and special advisory committees is making a major difference to the lives of thousands of kids and families. She has been a champion of Children's Treatment Network since its beginning and continues to work with us on helping to expand and deepen parent involvement in the Network approach.

On behalf of everyone across the Network, we'd like to say congratulations and thank you, Lynn. We're proud and honoured to have you as a partner in helping to build brighter futures for kids with multiple special needs.