

# Member of the Month: July

The stories behind some of the faces that form our Y community



## Meet Willie Bayne

Where to begin. Sitting down with Willie Bayne was both humbling and inspirational. Willie has been a member at our Y for 40 years, a common face many of you probably recognize and adore.

Willie's Y story starts with her love of helping others and her passion for swimming. In 1977, the same year she became a member, there was a picture in the Sun Times highlighting a swim program. The picture caught Willie's eye and initiated her interest in working with individuals with mental and physical disabilities. That fall she became involved in taking courses, swimming lessons, received her Bronze Medallion and more to become an instructor and volunteer. Following her passion of watching kids grow, Willie led a Special Olympic swimming class for many years. Time passed and Willie was no longer able to lead the program, so she passed it off to our very own Dianne Speed! Of course, Dianne only had one condition, Willie still had to come! Although she is unable to help in the pool, she still uses her voice and helps with many administrative aspects behind the scenes.

When Willie isn't busy helping others she continues to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle. She can be found at our facility 4-5 times a week, walking the upstairs track and swimming in the pool. When asked "what does the Y mean to you", Willie responded with ***"It means life and love, support, courage and strength. It's a place with so many friends that brightens your day. Every day I come, no matter how awful I'm feeling, I am just lifted"***.

Heartwarming words, that leave us so honoured to have Willie as a member of our community. We'd like to thank Willie for taking the time to share her passionate story with us, and know it will inspire others to give back to the community and help those in need!

Building healthy communities