



# June 10, 2010 – Chianti's – Adaptabilities 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Walk 4 Abilities Kick-Off Dinner

Hi, my name is Megan and I'm Victor's younger sister. My family has been asked by Adaptabilities staff to say a few words for this special occasion. On behalf of my parents, I am sharing with you our thoughts and experiences with Adaptabilities' programs.

Victor started going to Adaptabilities at about the same time as I was starting junior high school more than six years ago. During that time, I started to get more involved in extra-curricular activities at school in addition to my heavy work load, which made it harder to come home after school to meet Victor getting off from his school bus everyday. My family decided that Victor needed some sort of support program after school, a program that would help develop his skills in a social setting. Victor, as many of you know, is a very energetic guy with so much potential, but he is also a special needs individual. To us, it was very important to find a suitable place for Victor so that he could develop his skills, make new friends, and have a community of belonging. There are so many organizations out there that preach about having this great cause of supporting persons with special needs and helping them reach their dreams. Adaptabilities has proven to be an organization that holds such a motto - "Creating Success for Life", and follows through with those words. My family and I are so happy to see Victor bringing home crafts that he has made, stories about how nice the Adaptabilities staff are and the activities he has participated in – a lot of them being about LRT and bus rides, and as usual, a big smile on his face. Now, even just from listening to how he talks about his day, Victor gives off this new vibe of confidence. He likes to talk about how he helps the staff with some office work, and even how he helps his friends at the centre like Deborah. Victor is showing so much growth with his leadership skills, teamwork skills, and even things like knowing how to listen and understand someone better. This is all thanks to Adaptabilities and the wonderful opportunities it has opened up for him.

A year ago, it was the first annual Adaptabilities Walk 4 Abilities Kick-Off Dinner – the same event where Victor made his first-ever speech. I remember when Victor came home to tell us all for the first time that he was going to make a speech. He came home with such a big smile on his face and confidently told us "Guess what. I am going to make a speech for Adaptabilities!" It was inevitably followed by his cute giggle. Upon attending the dinner last year, my parents and I were so proud of Victor that we couldn't help but tear up. I also remember the round of walking high fives Victor gave out to all the staff members sitting around the room. And look at him today, a year later. He is an assistant to the emcee for this event. We are just so thankful to have found an organization that has allowed Victor's independence and confidence bloom and grow. It is more than likely that other families have benefited from Adaptabilities in the same, and possibly even more ways.

A big thank you to Michelle and all the Adaptabilities staff for giving Victor and our family such a great experience. My family wishes you all luck in your continuing growth and success.