

Volunteer Profile

Kim Wolny, MBA

While in the MBA program at Wilfrid Laurier University, Kim Wolny began to recognize the benefit of volunteering when she took on the role of Chair with the Priority and Planning Committee of the Ontario Physiotherapy Association. As Kim's career developed, so did her connections with the Ontario Physiotherapy Association. She has taken advantage of the benefits of volunteering by taking on various positions and being involved with a number of committees. For Kim, her volunteer work contributes to the goal of building a legacy, both personally but also professionally. To understand the steps Kim has taken to further this process, we invite you to read more about her volunteer experiences.

Kim originally selected her volunteer experiences based on the idea that they would allow her to build networks by meeting other physiotherapists and develop skills in areas she had not yet honed through her education. What started as the position of secretary with the Ontario Physiotherapy Association, gradually moved to a board of director role, ultimately leading Kim to take on the presidency. In addition, Kim decided she also wanted to volunteer in a community-based organization where she contributes her talents to a children's reading program at her local library.

The positions within the Ontario Physiotherapy Association that Kim has taken on have contributed to her career and skill development. Kim recognized that her position as a staff physiotherapist would not necessarily afford her the opportunity to develop leadership skills to the extent that she would like. However, volunteering on the boards has allowed Kim to develop her leadership skills as well as network with others who are presently in leadership roles within their professions. Developing these skills and building these networks can only help Kim in her own goal to pursue a senior level role within a hospital setting. Kim has experienced great gains from her volunteer choices since they are well aligned with her career. However, she also acknowledges that her volunteer work within the reading program helps keep her "grounded to what is really important and that working with kids is always a good reminder to not take life too seriously."

Working with children has also helped Kim in her commitment to making a difference in her community. Kim views all of her volunteer experiences as ways to do this and the inevitable byproduct is personal development and satisfaction. Kim wants to use her own growth by having an impact on her profession through the introduction of new ideas and thinking and on children by creating a love of reading.

For the Wilfrid Laurier University students, Kim would advise to remember that all volunteering helps. Starting small is ok, take the opportunity to build your confidence and define your skills and you can work your way up to larger commitments. Kim promises, "You won't regret it!"