

Family and Community Support Services

Braiden Valdarchi

Braiden is an enthusiastic volunteer and young resident-leader who is growing his leadership and community development skills in the Strong Neighbourhood of Highland Park.

Braiden is a thirteen year-old, Spanish bilingual junior high student at Senator Patrick Burns School who has been involved in strengthening his neighbourhood for the past three years. In the past years, Braiden has worked with his community in many events and has made many new relationships. This year Braiden is taking a leadership role in being the primary organiser of the Music in the Park summer series. He has also recently initiated a cultural event in his community that he is organising with a group of people from the community and other people he has met through the city. Braiden regularly participates in a weekly neighbourhood walking program organised by another resident of the area. This group of residents walk together throughout Highland Park to gain a better knowledge of its history, to get to know each other as neighbours and to discuss the strengths and challenges facing their neighbourhood while seeking out solutions. The group includes many seniors whom Braiden is learning a great deal from about his community while making lasting friendships. Braiden's goal is to try to build more community within his neighbourhood and continues to learn about community development through his volunteer activities.

Based on his experiences in Highland Park, Braiden hopes to become a better leader in his community and possibly become a social worker just like the one from Community Neighbourhood Services that supports his neighbourhood. Unless he becomes a pilot...

As written by Braiden Valdarchi

