

2017 SPIRIT OF COCA-I NOMINEE

Marci Shea Perry Executive Director, Camp Trillium



Where to begin... someone who dedicates 28 years of their life to a cause shows an above average talent for commitment. It's not for financial or personal gain; she doesn't need recognition to make her work hard and she is someone who doesn't look for a thank you. Marci Shea-Perry is someone we all respect because she is selfless and the Spirit of Camp Trillium and COCA-I. **That is the Spirit of COCA-I.**

28 years ago Camp Trillium was a small camp with programs mostly on an island in Lake Ontario. Marci Shea-Perry and her two best friends were the life of the island. If you ask those who live in Picton near the camp, Camp Trillium was the three girls from the island who ran Camp Trillium. Happy Carefree Times making sure that children living with cancer and their families had a happy place to go and get away from the disease. Marci often tells the story of her camper looking for tape and everyone assumes it was for the campers wig but in actual fact it was a tape for her Walkman. Remember Walkman's? In those days so many of our campers did not make it but Marci always found a way to make everyone feel appreciated and happy to be at camp, whether it was as a camper, a volunteer or a staff. **That is the Spirit of COCA-I.**

In those 28 years Camp Trillium has grown into a large organization that runs year round with three sites and an office in Hamilton. Marci has moved from Counselor to Camp Director to Executive Director. She has volunteered for COCA-I, the OCA and helped to create CAPOC. Her energy is endless and her accomplishments amazing. She manages 3100 campers, 112 staff, and 350 volunteers as if they are her family. As you can imagine every family has its issues but Marci remains the clear thinking and compassionate lead. She makes sure she is part of everything that is Trillium and there is no job she won't do to ensure that Camp Trillium is successful and our camp programs are the best they can be. **That is the Spirit of COCA-I.**



I don't think Marci sleeps well at night with her mind worrying about fundraising and how we are going to pay for new docks, kitchen repairs, etc but it never slows her down. Once the Toronto Star wrote that Camp Trillium reuses nails and it does. Marci is a meticulous budgeter and does not believe in waste. Everything goes to our campers. Marci works seven days a week even when she is sick. **That is the Spirit of COCA-I.**

Is there anyone who is more the Spirit of COCA-I? I honestly don't believe so. No one works more tirelessly for children living with cancer. Marci volunteers for everything and will do anything to ensure that children globally have a better life because of camp. Camp Trillium and COCA-I are better organizations because of Marci Shea-Perry.



That is the Spirit of COCA-I