

Celebrating Extraordinary People

Volunteer Spotlight: Ally Hurst

"I gotten more involved with the organization, participating in conferences and eventually helped to found YPAHD, our youth chapter."

Ally Hurst

In grade six, while other kids were complaining about the breakfasts their moms had prepared, I was waking up early to feed and dress my mother. **That's just how it goes when your mom has HD.** With my dad working, a lot of the cooking, cleaning and general caregiving duties fell to my three older sisters and I.

Growing up in a family affected by HD, I got to know the Huntington Society at an early age. I remember all the encouragement and support my family received from the local HSC resource centre director, who would take me out for regular one-on-one chats.

The local chapter was also there for us, helping my family navigate the tricky waters of Huntington's. As time went on, **I have gotten more involved with the organization, participating in conferences and eventually helping to start YPAHD, our national youth chapter.**

Although my mother has passed away in 2008, **HD continues to play a major part in my family.** While one of my sisters has tested negative, my other two sisters have already started showing symptoms, which is really hard because we're all really close.

"The local chapter was also there for us, helping my family navigate the tricky waters of Huntington's"

Genetic testing? I'm not ready to find out just yet. **The road ahead may be uncertain, but that's not stopping me from living life to the fullest.** I will be graduating this year and starting my career as a pharmacist. Wedding bells are also in my immediate future as I plan to move out west with my fiancé Justin.

The Huntington Society of Canada is something that is really close to my heart, I would rather spend my time and money on that than on anything else.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK IS APRIL 6 -12

Help Celebrate our Extraordinary People!

"HSC's volunteers are the heart and soul of this organization. It is our volunteer core that makes real differences in the lives of individuals and families affected by Huntington disease. Actively raising awareness in their communities, advocating for the rights of those affected by HD, and raising funds that contribute to groundbreaking research triumphs, are just some of the inspiration that our volunteers provide us to continue our march toward a reliable treatment for HD."

Devin Bonner, National Chapter Development Manager

