



Road to Recovery: Marianne's story



CAMH client Marianne (left) with her sister Jennifer.

Six days a week, Marianne Petrone rises at 4:30 a.m. to start cooking breakfast for hundreds of people at St. Stephen's Community House in Kensington Market. Bacon, sausage, eggs, fruit, toast, coffee and other goodies are on the menu. "It's a big responsibility. It's the most important meal of the day, as everyone says. I love it."

Marianne says her volunteer work is a big part of her recovery process. Originally from Thunder Bay, she studied at Lakehead University before struggling with cocaine addiction and mental health challenges. Marianne has been a client at CAMH's Downtown West Outpatient Clinic (Archway) for several years.

"I get a lot of support from both staff and clients here – we support each other." Group sessions every week such as spirituality and harm reduction are focused on client needs, she says. "I want to change my life. I want a more secure and healthier life."

Marianne was one of seven clients recognized by the clinic for success in their recovery journeys at an event hosted by the clinic on March 27th. They received Archie Awards for special accomplishments in areas such as education, creativity, peer support and spiritual wellness.

"The accomplishments of our clients are a sign of hope," said event host Kate McGee, a Peer Support Worker at the clinic. "The Archie Awards are a chance for clients, their families, friends, and staff to come together and be proud of the community we've built at Archway."

In addition to her dedication as a volunteer, "Marianne has worked hard this year to maintain wellness and make strides in many areas of her life," says Matt Tsuda, CAMH Occupational Therapist.

"She is always very encouraging of her peers, and consistently brings a positive energy." Marianne also improved her budgeting skills, notes Matt. "This has enabled her to take pride in treating her family members to special dinners and gifts."



