

Amanda Wagorn, Junior Achievement Volunteer



As a mother of two tiny people (soon to be three!), Amanda Wagorn, Co-Founder and CEO of Luxart Homes knows the importance of balancing a family and a rewarding career as an entrepreneur. Luxart Homes is Beckwith / Carleton Place based, offering single family homes in both City-style and Estate-style subdivisions in Ottawa, Beckwith and Carleton Place areas.

Amanda is a Junior Achievement volunteer. She works with elementary/middle school students for one day at a time, facilitating discussion and activities about financial management and a career preparation. For Amanda, this is an opportunity for her to share with the students the path she has taken to achieve her goals. “I explain the importance of staying in school and

planning/goal setting. We discuss each individual's skills/knowledge/values, possible career/lifestyle goals, and most importantly - how to set themselves on a path to achieve those career/lifestyle goals.”

Amanda is no stranger to hard work and perseverance. “Some people wonder how I was able to set my life on a path to achieve goals at a young age. Their question actually states the answer - I set my life on a path. The planning of a goal has to start at the beginning, because every step should move an individual toward achievement.”

Amanda truly believes that Junior Achievement offers an opportunity for students to learn about themselves and their goals in a setting and from a perspective that might not be available in everyday school. “I'm able to help the students realize that they can start now, they can start helping themselves by choosing courses and volunteer opportunities which provide the right experience and knowledge to help them achieve their goals later.”

When asked to describe the funniest thing a child has said or done while volunteering, Amanda recounted the story from a grade 8 class while delivering the lesson about budgets Economics for Success. In this lesson, volunteers randomly assign students a job that may or may not meet their estimated budget requirements. “There was one Grade 8 boy, who, upon finding that his assigned career may not pay his large house/fast car/far away travel budget, explained that it was OK, that career was just his side job, he was actually a Quantum

Physicist. He then pulled out his University-Level Quantum Physics text books complete with his notes and research to prove it.”

As a woman in the construction world, Amanda particularly enjoys one of the lessons when the statement "construction jobs are dirty, pay little, and are exclusively available to men" is presented. “It’s always fun when the students realize that I’m living proof that this statement is incorrect, and then they start to remember other commonly held beliefs that someone in their life proves wrong, or other funny myths that they’ve heard in the past.”

But can you tell you are making a difference? Amanda says “Yes!”. She described being able to hear student’s answers changing shape throughout the day. “I hear them talking amongst themselves about their future plans and how they can now see what they need to do in Grade 9 to start on the correct path to achievement. I can see their excitement at the end of the day after the program delivery.”



Junior Achievement programs inspire youth to make better financial decisions, start up a business and create a career plan. For more information about volunteering with Junior Achievement, please visit our website www.jaottawa.ca

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