



TCDSB'S UNSUNG HEROES



March 2023

Margaret Lee, Child and Youth Worker/Special Education, Francis Libermann Catholic High School



As a brilliant role model to the entire Francis Libermann Catholic High School community, Ms. Lee's commitment to fostering academic excellence and spiritual growth is truly invaluable and admirable. Known for her dedication and professionalism, Ms. Lee always goes above and beyond for her entire school community and rises to any challenge with humility, patience and grace. She is a vibrant and dedicated Child and Youth Worker who supports staff and students with sincere enthusiasm, often without even being asked and always gets things done! Ms. Lee is a wonderful role model to her students and colleagues and displays our shared Gospel values and virtues through her everyday interactions with her community. Her

passion for her work truly shows in her remarkable ability to overcome and shine through some of the most difficult situations. The entire Francis Libermann Catholic High School community is blessed to have her!

Michelle DeFazio, Child and Youth Worker, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Academy



Ms. DeFazio has a deep and sincere passion for teaching and a genuine concern for her student's well-being. She is always willing to help those in the St. Joan of Arc Catholic Academy community and goes above and beyond in all situations, especially for her students in the Developmentally Delayed/Multiple Exceptionalities (DDME) programs. Ms. DeFazio also proudly organizes and runs her school's Breakfast Program and ensures that students have access to daily nutritious snacks and volunteers her time and prepares snacks for students writing the EQAO and OSSLT tests. Her kindness and generosity have not gone unnoticed, and they have truly made a significant difference in the lives of her students. As a true symbol and someone who embodies our Gospel Values,

Ms. DeFazio truly sees the beautiful gifts and talents of all students she works with, establishes and fosters meaningful connections with them as well as their families, and emphasizes their worth in our Toronto Catholic learning community and the world. Ms. DeFazio is a valuable asset to the entire St. Joan of Arc Catholic Academy community and an amazing example for us all to follow.

Jean-Marc Kawayia Mitonga, Elementary Teacher, St. John Bosco Catholic School



It takes a special kind of person to not only teach school subjects but also instill values of kindness, love and faith in their students – and Mr. Kawayia is just that! Described as a caring, patient, kind, and forgiving person, teacher and role model, Mr. Kawayia truly exemplifies Year 2 of our Pastoral Plan, *Walking with Christ with hearts of kindness and love*. He has the magnificent ability to understand and empathize with his students, and he is always genuinely invested in their interests and passions. As a true servant of Christ, he is known for guiding his students and taking them under his wing when they are having a challenging day and always manages to bring out the positive in them. Every single member of the St. John Bosco Catholic School Community appreciates Mr. Kawayia and admires his quick wit, attention to detail and unwavering loyalty. We thank you for your tireless efforts in making a difference in the lives of your students, colleagues and community, and for

being a shining example of what it means to live a life of service and love.

Merly Gicain, Education Assistant, Francis Libermann Catholic High School



Ms. Gicain is a brilliant Educational Assistant who radiates optimism and generosity, which is complemented by a genuine compassionate demeanour, especially those within the Intensive Support Program (ISP). As an exceptional role model in Catholic education, Ms. Gicain is a supportive colleague who is always ready and willing to help those around her and work collaboratively to lift those around her. Her kind-hearted, patient and professional nature is beyond appreciated by those within the Francis Libermann community, and she consistently ensures that all students receive the very best level of care, love and support. Ms. Gicain creates a safe and nurturing environment where students can grow both academically and spiritually, and Ms. Gicain believes in her students and strives to ensure that they reach their full potential. As a bright and shining

example of what it means to be a leader in Special Education, Ms. Gicain is a precious member of the Francis Libermann community.

[Please click here to nominate an Unsung Hero in your community!](#)