

Impactful Lives Remembered

By Veronica Grossi

In the 1980s, Mary and Paul Florio eagerly got involved with the non-profit organization Volunteer Grandparents. Although they were an active senior couple, they felt that they did not have enough youngsters in their lives. They applied to be a part of the organization's Family Match Program and became instant volunteer grandparents when they were matched to a 7-year-old boy and 4-year-old twins. Paul and Mary were delighted to spend time with their new grandchildren, who became important parts of their expanding family over the next twenty years.

Years later, their generosity, creativity, and passion for intergenerational relationships led them both to serve on Volunteer Grandparents' Board of Directors and to create the Florio Bursary. This bursary was started to inspire a life-long passion for learning in the organization's youth by sponsoring new and exciting experiences like music, dance, ski classes, ice hockey programs, and special camps. For over 20 years, the Florios loved receiving kind letters and feedback from the youngsters in the Family Match Program who benefited from their sponsorship.

Sadly, Mary Florio passed away on March 20, 2014, and Paul Florio recently passed away April 1, 2022. They will always be lovingly remembered by our members for the incredible work they did and the legacy they have left. Their kindness and generosity will never be forgotten.

Volunteer Grandparents' mission is to *'bridge and enrich the generations.'* If you would like to volunteer with Volunteer Grandparents or contribute to the Florio Bursary to support youth in your community, please reach out to our charity: 604-736-8271. Tax receipts can be issued for your financial contribution.

www.volunteergrandparents.ca

'Bridging and enriching the generations since 1973'

