

Reviewing how Stories Inspire

Two examples guide two people on new paths in life

A story has the ability to do many things: it can record a successful moment in a person's life; it can celebrate the achievements of a team within an organization; it can be a catalyst for change and progress.

In the process of revisiting the Stakeholder News stories shared by Axiom News throughout 2011, countless examples of how a story can inspire emerge.

A part-time personal support worker at a long-term care and retirement home in Kitchener jumped on the path to a new career when she read a story published in the *Village Voice*, the Stakeholder News vehicle used by Schlegel Villages.

While researching educational opportunities with the idea of upgrading to a new role as a nurse, Theresa Deslauriers came across an [article](#) about a new PSW to practical nurse bridging program in the *Village Voice*.

She contacted *Axiom News* immediately seeking information on the program and was put in touch with Conestoga's school of health and life sciences.

In less than two weeks, Theresa was in the program's final wave of accepted students.

Another story in a separate news publication inspired a self-advocate named Emily Beauchamp, who sits on the board of directors with Community Living St. Catharines and is an active advocate for a more inclusive society.

One of Emily's many passions is independent living for individuals who have disabilities — people with the skills and determination to live on their own, but who may require a bit of support in order to realize that vision.

In June, she spoke to *Axiom News* about her vision for an independent living situation for herself, and how a story she read inspired her to keep working towards realizing that vision.

On April 29, *Community Living Leaders* published a [story](#) that described one individual's experience living on his own in a large basement apartment.

Emily has the article posted prominently on her fridge, and she cites it as an example of what she hopes for in alternative residential options in her area, and a goal she can strive for.

Like Theresa, Emily was helped through a story to envision a new path in life.

If you have questions or comments, please contact 800-294-0051, ext. 24, or e-mail [kristian\(at\)axiomnews.ca](mailto:kristian(at)axiomnews.ca).