

## AWARD WINNER SPOTLIGHT

### Dawn Mende, Self Advocate



*Dawn in her element at The Muffin Café!*



*Program Manager, Nathalie Callender and Dawn at last year's AGM*

Dawn Mende was awarded a Special Recognition Award in the Self Advocate Category at the 2016 Annual General Meeting. Dawn has been involved with North Shore Connexions Society in various capacities for many years and she represents the organization and other self advocates in the community.

Dawn first began work at The Muffin Café in 2005 and has made tremendous strides both professionally and personally. She is able to perform tasks independently and provide full coverage in the event that her coworkers need to step out. She has shown diligence in her work and is now deemed a leader at The Muffin Café. When asked what her favourite part of the job is she said, "My favourite part of the job is using the cash register and washing dishes. I'm getting better everyday!"

She is able to support other self advocates with their duties and is a team player who works respectfully with others and is always ready, willing and able to provide her assistance. She leads by example, is always punctual for work and puts in extra effort with every task. Dawn is able to order supplies on her own and has proven herself by being able to independently open The Muffin Café when needed.

In her spare time, Dawn enjoys collecting and admiring jewellery, shopping and travelling.

**“ I love talking to people and saying hi.  
I know everyone's orders too...! ”**