

# Volunteering for Charities is Natural for Ryan Lynn Fisher

For Ryan Lynn Fisher, giving back is important and means many things. For the past four years, she has supported the People Inc. Foundation Drive Fore Disabilities Golf Tournament and Auction by serving as the auction chairperson. In between her full time job as a senior account executive for Independent Health, being a wife and mother of two sons, age 7 and 9, along with volunteering for other charities, she balances her time because she believes in our agency's mission and wants to help support our Foundation. A resident of the southtowns, she is proud to be a graduate of the 2015 Leadership Buffalo class. To learn more about Ryan, here is a candid Q&A:

## **Do you have any personal connections to the disability cause?**

For the longest time, I have always thought that it is important to help others in need. My mother-in-law, Mary Jo Fisher, worked in a group home for People Inc. She exposed our family regularly to people with special needs as often times, she invited individuals she assisted to family dinners, including Thanksgiving when one of the individuals did not have an immediate family member close by.

## **Why do you have an interest in the People Inc. Drive Fore Disabilities Golf Tournament and Auction?**

I think it's a great opportunity for us to sell and share People Inc. stories with businesses. As the auction chairperson, I like to ask friends and business representatives if they were attending a golf tournament, what would they want to bid on.

## **What type of auction support is still needed?**

I love to secure unique items for the auction – last year, a paddle board was donated, along with some beautiful jewelry. We can use items that people of all ages may find intriguing and would like to bid on, like trips and weekend getaways; a group wine tour; spa packages; sports items and tickets for theater shows, concerts and special events.

## **What are your hobbies and special interests?**

I love to spend time with my family. I get some extra time with my sons as I coach baseball. There is a lot of great things going on in Buffalo and I like to take in the attractions with my family. Plus, I have a big interest in Buffalo Renaissance development.



## **What other volunteer activities are important to you?**

One of my passions is being a mentor coach. Whether it is with Independent Health staff or people I've met through various activities, I enjoy guiding people who can be up and coming in their professional field or community.

Being part of Leadership Buffalo has helped open my eyes to the needs of our community. In addition to supporting People Inc., I volunteer for Gateway Longview once a month and provide mentor and support to young girls in the Residential Treatment Program. I also newly support the Food Bank of WNY by sitting on the committee for its upcoming Walk off Hunger fundraiser.

## **Your leadership skills are shown in your actions.**

### **How has your family reacted to your volunteerism?**

My husband is proud and very supportive of the work I do and my sons are great as they realize that my volunteering is important. They know on certain days I'm helping Gateway as they say, 'mom is helping the girls.' One fond memory is a popsicle stand that my sons did at the end of my in-laws' driveway. Instead of keeping the money, my oldest son said, 'We're giving the money back to charity like mom does.'