

***Expression of Condolence for
Michael (Muki) Baum by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Councillor Mike Colle

Seconded by: Councillor Rachel Chernos Lin

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are saddened to learn of the passing of Michael (Muki) Baum on December 6, 2024.

Throughout this life, Michael was dedicated to charitable work within Toronto. He could be spotted around the City collecting change from those passing by, with a sign on his scooter reading: "I was born with cerebral palsy and deafness but I want you to know that I am a person not a disability." Michael was inspired by the values instilled by his parents, Nehama and Moshe Baum, who were determined to show their son everything life had to offer, going as far as lifting him up mountaintops to experience the view on family trips.

Michael dedicated his time and energy and worked tirelessly to fundraise for the MukiBaum Accessibility Centre, a non-profit charitable organization founded by his mother offering inclusive, community-focused support to children and adults with autism and other complex disabilities and their families. Michael communicated using lip reading, sign language, and a type-and-talk keyboard, and in over 20 years of fundraising, he collected over \$750,000 dollars for the MukiBaum Accessibility Centre. He also supported Wheels in Motion and the March of Dimes. In 2009, his achievements were recognized by the Ontario government when he was awarded with the Good Citizenship Medal.

A prominent figure in the Jewish Toronto community, Michael is remembered for his warmth and constant smile. Throughout his life he believed in giving back, always with the goal of making the world a better place. Michael inspired many and his legacy of kindness and service continues to inspire others. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Michael's family.

December 17, 2024