

DREAMS DO COME TRUE

Maura Williamson

WE ALL HAVE dreams, maybe about how we could make even a small difference in the world, or achieve an ambition to be of help to others. Those same types of dreams are a reality also for a person with Down Syndrome.

The key to making that dream come true is moulded by the people you encounter on your journey through life, especially by those who have a positive outlook. Sometimes services, even with the best will in the world, might use a “one way suits all” approach, which may not be the most suitable for each individual.

Real understanding comes from parents, close family and friends, who take time to get to know the individual; to really listen to the person, without any pressure to tick the social inclusion boxes.

Lauren Greene, following major heart surgery when aged eight, took a great interest in health and particularly healthy eating. She loved to cook and sourced home produce at the Carrick on Shannon, Boyle, Sligo and Ballyconnell markets, where she was well known as a regular and select customer.

Her on-going dream was to have her own business, in some way linked to food. Her avid interest in cars and vans and all types of vehicles came from her father, Frankie, and it was when searching Done Deal that she spotted a mobile food stall for sale. After a chat with her Dad, the purchase was made and Frankie, who has a gift for design and construction, fitted the van for the purpose of making and selling crepes. And so, a new business, “Lauren’s Crepes” was born. Father and daughter visited all the local shows and festivals and business boomed.



Lauren is very kind-hearted, as her donations to the Margaret of New Orleans Project, Carrigallen; The Pop-Up Homeless Street Café, Dublin and Down Syndrome Ireland proves. Her success is marked by a stern determination never to give up on her dreams. She has led her parents in the direction she herself wanted to go, with a quiet, no-fuss approach. She has certainly shown that a person with Down Syndrome

Lauren’s Crepes

PHOTO: JOHN GREENE



Camino Cheque Presentation: Frankie Greene, Lauren Greene, Maura Williamson & Mark O’Doherty, Down Syndrome Ireland

can achieve their goal if given the opportunity to do so.

One of the many people who were of particular help to Lauren was Brian Dolan from the Leitrim Enterprise Board, who became her mentor. They clicked on a business level immediately and he guided her on the road to being even more positive about herself and how to lead a successful venture. Brian saw the ability and not the disability.

Frankie and I, as her parents, are a voice for Lauren. She wants to thank all the wonderful people she met at various events, who gave her business great support. When I did the Camino Walk in September 2019 to raise funds for Down Syndrome Ireland, Lauren rallied to help, just as she wants to continue to support that and her other favourite charities.

For Lauren Greene, her dreams do come true and she does make a difference to the world.