



For Life Update

August 2022

Dear Trails Family,

They say time flies when you're having fun. A sentiment I am sure our alumni can relate to when they think back to their years as Trails participants. I can confirm it's true as I find myself realizing it has been a year and a half since I was fortunate enough to become part of the Trails family. Time has definitely flown by. Without a doubt it has been fun and exciting, but also at times, intense and challenging. Important work often is.

I've spent the last 18 months asking questions, observing and wherever possible, listening to our alumni and other stakeholders (which likely resulted in more questions)! I'm so thankful for the conversations I have shared and connections I have made to this point, and look forward to the many I know are still to come.

Having the opportunity to join the Trails family and support the ongoing development of the For Life program was something I knew I needed to be a part of from the moment I saw the job posting. In fact, after conversations with our President, Mel and Board Chair, Greig, I started thinking about For Life at Trails well before I was even offered the job. I haven't stopped thinking about it since then, and it has been my true pleasure to contribute towards quality programs for our alumni.

While there are elements of For Life growth that have already been impactful for many of our alumni, including updates to the AIM Program, increased access to the Trails Bursary, the development of FORward Resources, and most recently the Alumni Reunion, there has also been an immense amount of important work behind the scenes. The work I'm referring to has been an on-going project, full of important discussions, challenging questions, and big decisions and it has been supported by numerous people that make up the Trails family, including the staff, Board of Directors and those who hold Trails close to their hearts. While the For Life program will continue to grow and adapt in the coming years, we have established some new foundational elements that I am excited to share with you today!

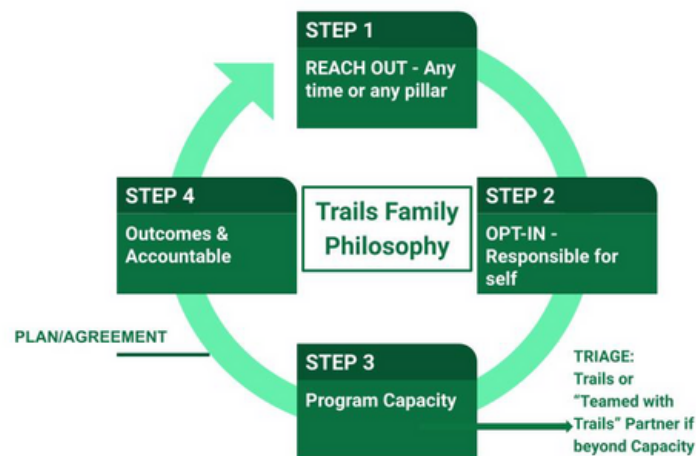
The first of which is the FOR LIFE VISION:

As part of the Trails Family, all alumni are aware of the resources and opportunities within the FOR LIFE Program. When an alumni opts-in, within program capacity, Trails' supports their efforts to overcome their challenges, reach their goals and live the Mission of Trails.

The second is our Trails Family Philosophy. Deeply rooted in Trails common practice, but now articulated in a way that everyone can come to know and recognize.

TRAILS FAMILY PHILOSOPHY:

Like any good family, we will help ALL those who help themselves and take responsibility for their own part of a challenge and the potential solutions. We will only do so to the limit of our resources and capabilities without inordinately impairing our ability to help other members of the family



These two pieces are fundamental to the ongoing growth of the For Life program and are elements that we are proud to share with you. As always, we welcome conversation, questions and ideas in relation to how the For Life Vision will continue to come to life, and how the Trails Family Philosophy will be applied to the pillars and program within it.

Here's to Trails' next 30 years! Four Seasons, Four Years, For Life.

Best,

Erin

Erin McLean

Director of Alumni & Volunteer Engagement