

THE JOY OF GIVING

Nicky Calvert was introduced to Take a Hike in a unique way. As a believer in changing the trajectory of the lives of youth, Nicky became a supporter for not only the youth in the program now but for those who will benefit from the program in the future.



I was introduced to **Take a Hike** quite a few years ago. At the time, I had decided to switch my career path into non-profit work and in preparing for this switch I took a course on marketing for non-profits. There, I met **Jaydeen Williams**, the former **Executive Director** of **Take a Hike** and we thought that **Take a Hike** would make a great case study for our group project. The impact that the life-changing work carried out by **Take a Hike** stayed with me and I thought about the program often after the course was over.

As an avid hiker and backpacker, I understand how much joy spending time in the outdoors can bring and have experienced how much being in nature can be a very real need. I have also seen what can happen to youth when they don't receive the support, they need in order to overcome life's challenges such as addiction, mental health struggles, and all the other things life can throw at us. That's why when I learned that **Take a Hike's** early intervention approach integrates important time outdoors, I knew that it would be worthwhile to support the program. I believe we need to give youth the best possible start in life and the opportunity to gain the skills they need to navigate the hard parts. It's so amazing to see **Take a Hike** empower youth to change the trajectory of their lives!

Although I hopefully have many years ahead of me, I still felt like legacy giving was something I wanted to pursue with **Take a Hike**. As an immigrant living far from my family and as a single person, I wanted to make a will so that if anything was to happen to me, my wishes would be clear and easier to carry out. I'm not someone who is able to make a major gift, but I am fortunate enough to own my home and can make the most of that equity through an estate gift. I truly believe in the life philosophy of leaving the world in a better place and so the

decision to give back through philanthropy in this way was a natural one.

One of the reasons I chose to leave a legacy gift for **Take a Hike** in my will is that not only is there a clear need for **Take a Hike** in changing the lives of youth but also that **Take a Hike** is a replicable, sustainable program that I can see growing and thriving for decades to come. I know my gift will support **Take a Hike** to make a powerful impact well into the future. I'm also a monthly donor which I know to be a great way to provide reliable revenue to an organization to enable programs to keep running. This helps me support **Take a Hike** now as well as after I'm gone. Ultimately, for me, giving truly brings me joy - I think it's because being able to have a positive impact on someone else's life gives me an immense sense of purpose.

I heard someone say recently that privilege isn't the presence of perks and benefits, but rather it is the absence of obstacles and barriers. I consider myself privileged, and so it is my hope that my small contribution will positively impact the youth in the **Take a Hike** program so that they can courageously navigate life's obstacles, thrive, and live life to its fullest.

