

AGELESS: No Boundaries

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Villa Charities

*For more than 30 years, Villa Charities has been delivering culturally sensitive programmes to seniors, to individuals with developmental disabilities, and to the general community via recreation and cultural arts programmes offered by their family of organizations, which include:
Villa Colombo Services for Seniors,
Columbus Centre, VITA Community Living Services and Villa Colombo Vaughan Di Poce Centre*

History of Vita

VITA is an organization originally developed by the Italian-Canadian Benevolent Corporation, now called Villa Charities, to promote quality services and living conditions for persons with developmental challenges and their families.

History of Vita

- VITA is part of a family of service organizations; these include:
- Villa Colombo Toronto and Villa Colombo Vaughan Di Poce Centre , Columbus Centre, Caboto Terrace, Casa Abruzzo and Casa Del Zotto, Apartments for Seniors, Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery and the Villa Charities Foundation

History of Vita

The people we support are referred to as “members”. They are not our clients, but active members in all aspects of the support we offer

What we believe

- People with disabilities are realizing their dreams of community living in ways that we could never have imagined only a few short years ago
- Vita is committed to ensuring that every member feels safe and respected in a trusting environment

Our Mission Statement

“Vita Community Living Services and Mens Sana Families for Mental Health (VITA) provide safety, respect and community through services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or mental health needs”

Providing Safety, Practicing Respect, Promoting Community

Villa Colombo Vaughan

Villa Colombo Vaughan to Accept First Resident on
Monday, October 30, 2006

After seven years of planning, Villa Charities second long-term care facility, Villa Colombo Vaughan, will open and accept its first resident on Monday, October 30, 2006. Construction on the 125,000 sq ft. facility began almost five years ago with a donation of 16 acres of land by philanthropist John Di Poce. With the construction of this new long-term care facility, Villa Charities is bringing north their trademark of services and programmes that provide culturally-sensitive care to seniors in our community.

Aging and Developmental Disability

Adults with developmental disabilities are living longer, living in the community, and participating more in society. (Grant, 1986; Jones, 1992).

Aging & Developmental Disability

Throughout most of the twentieth century, families were advised to place their children who were born with developmental disabilities in institutions.

There was no expectation that they would survive into adulthood, let alone leave the institution or grow old (Grant, 1986; Jones, 1992). Today, however, it is clear that more individuals with developmental disabilities are living

longer, living in the community, and participating more actively in all aspects of society. In the last thirty years, the move away from institutional care to community living, along with improved nutrition and health care, has led to an increased life expectancy and thus a growing number of older adults with developmental disabilities (Delorme, 1999; Groeneweg, 1992; Wolf & Wright, 1987).

Aging & Developmental Disability

Living longer means that these individuals will face the same age-related health concerns as people in the general population which, in turn, will result in additional demands on family members, service providers, and society in general (Connolly, 1998; Delorme, 1999; Nochajski, 2000).

Aging & Developmental Disabilities

Physical Health

Mental Health

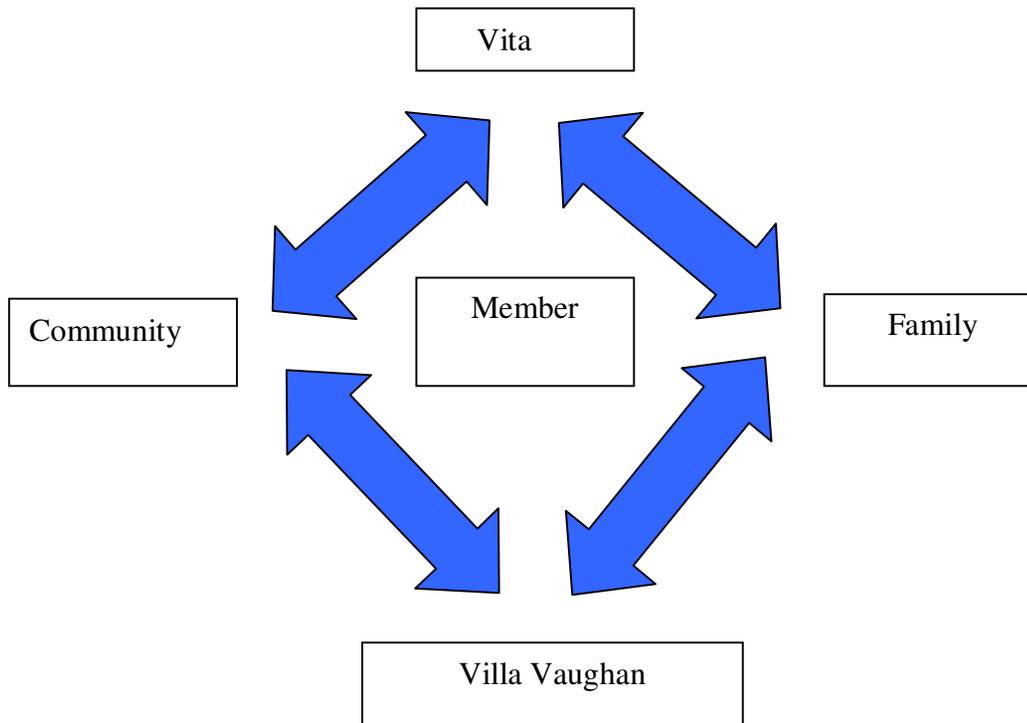
Medical needs

Where do we go from here?

How do we continue to support our members when their needs have changed and staff do not have the skills to support the changing needs of the member?

Where do we go from here?

Transitional Planning



Promises were made...

HOW COULD YOU?

Why Villa Vaughan?

Because...

- Villa Charities
- Familiarity
- Proximity

Continuum of care

Vita continues to provide care in the following areas:

Medical

Financial

Social/Recreational

Challenges

We don't do it like that?

How many staff on shift?

When do they get a bath?

You don't support them if they go to the hospital?

Step Forward or Step Back

Is long term care not just another institution?

Successes —

Today there are five Vita members that reside at Villa Colombo Vaughan.

If you've been at Villa Colombo Vaughan, you've been greeted by the warm smile of Margaret. Working as a volunteer, Margaret is one of the official greeters and she loves "spreading the joy"—a skill that comes naturally to her.

In keeping with her role as greeter, Margaret takes great care with her appearance and loves having her hair and nails done. She chooses her clothing carefully and likes to set off her outfit with personally chosen jewelery.

Margaret has decided that she does not want to attend VITA's day programmes and likes playing BINGO and helping out in the kitchen. Margaret vacations well and has traveled to Florida and Cuba. Being in a wheelchair has not limited her ability to travel, to greet others and it certainly hasn't diminished her smile.

One gets the feeling that there is much more to come for Margaret. Like the song by her favourite singer, Elvis, "Your time hasn't come yet baby!" VITA is enriched by the gifts of women like Margaret. While we work to assist her with day to day goals. Margaret enriches us with a spirit that just won't quit.