

A Big Thank You to All Volunteers!

We want to convey our sincere appreciation to our volunteers who help Vita Centre serve young mothers in the community. Over the past year, our volunteers have supported Vita Centre in many ways, as mentioned below:

- Last fall saw the start of the Parenting & Catholic Education (PACE) Teen parent program, an exciting partnership with Dufferin Peel District Catholic School Board and Peel Health. Thanks to our volunteers and placement students, we are able to provide child minding services to the young mothers while they are in school. This enables them to attend class while their babies are being taken care of.
- Our Dinner Dance, Bowl-A-Thon, Bingo, Trivia and Golf Tournament fundraisers would not be a success without the help of volunteers who give so much of their time and efforts.
- Our Doula volunteers provide exemplary support during birth and in the pre and post natal period to many of our clients who have no support whatsoever!
- Our Speaker's Bureau volunteers have been promoting ShareLife campaigns at various churches.
- Our Growing as Parents volunteers continue to support our youth parents by guest facilitating and child minding.
- Our Board of Directors volunteers who dutifully dedicate many hours to keep us doing what we do.

And the list goes on....We look forward to partnering with you in our many activities in the coming year! Please join us on June 2nd for our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Night at St. John of the Cross Church.

Celebrating Volunteer Service to Vita Centre



5 Year Ontario Volunteer Service Awards were presented to Claudeth Evans, Joan Newington and Janet Narayan on April 5th. Joining them at the presentation ceremony is Chandra Nathan, Vita Centre's Volunteer Coordinator



Why I Volunteer

A desire to help teen moms is what drew Claudeth Evans to Vita Centre 6 years ago. Whether it's supporting the young mothers, helping out at a fundraiser or client Christmas party, Claudeth has given the agency many valuable hours.

"I picked Vita Centre by chance when I went to the volunteering centre over six years ago and everything else is now history. As much as I gave, I received back in different ways from the youth being helped. Volunteering with Vita Centre helped me to focus on what I really wanted to do so I returned to school. I am now a Social Service Worker.

While supporting the brave young women and the partners supporting them I never thought that my younger daughter would be a teenage mom. I used the same mind set to support my daughter as I did for the young women of Vita Centre; actually I learned a lot of skills and information from the different groups that helped me with my education.

I love helping these young women and their partners and will continue to do so for as long as I can. My granddaughter is a constant reminder why the Vita Centre family (clients, volunteers & staff) is so important to me."

Thank you Vita Centre!

Vita Centre Child Minding Volunteers Making a Difference!

Susan Anthony volunteers for the PACE Program. Despite her busy study schedule, Susan can be seen on Fridays playing with the babies. This is Susan's first year with the agency.



"I can't quite say enough about how much I enjoy volunteering at Vita Centre. Currently, I volunteer there as a Child Minder every Friday.

Being able to help the children, even in a small way (i.e. keeping them busy, playing with them, etc) means a lot to me. In my perspective, spending time with the children for at least four hours a week, not only helps them but somehow it helps me as well. In the midst of a million assignments, tests and quizzes, I look forward to coming every Friday to spend time with the babies at Vita Centre.

I love playing with them and helping them gives me a break from my hectic schedule as a fourth year student. I am currently completing my last year at the University of Toronto, and I will be graduating with an Honours Bachelor of Science Double Major in Psychology and Crime, Law and Deviance. I have also done volunteering and fundraising for other organizations such as the SickKids Foundation.

I look forward to helping Vita Centre in any way that I can in the future because I feel good knowing that my time is being put to good use and that I am able to help anyone in any way possible."



Maddalen Bumbaca has been volunteering with Vita Centre for over two years. She is a busy mother of three daughters and manages a renovation and construction company with her husband.

"The Vita Centre doesn't always get top billing as a charity but I see firsthand how much hard work and dedication is put in by the wonderful staff, directors and volunteers.

There is a great need for such an organization in our community for pregnant and parenting youth and the services it provides to the young moms.

I look forward to my time with the babies in the Child Minding Centre and get great satisfaction in seeing a fundraising event bring in the necessary funds needed to allow the programs to continue.

I have been blessed with many great things in my life and to dedicate some time to Vita Centre's worthwhile cause is the least I could do and shows my own children how important it is to volunteer and help others in any way that you can."



Janet Narayan has been volunteering with the Growing as Parents (GAP) program in Brampton for over 5 years. She is a valuable member of our child minding team. Janet also volunteers with the Brampton Civic Hospital and the Flowertown Senior's Centre.

"It is my greatest pleasure volunteering at Vita Centre. As a mother and grandmother, I know how important it is for young mothers to have all the tools needed for positive parenting.



So it is my greatest joy that I get an opportunity to child mind while the mothers are attending the GAP program.

Volunteering for me is very rewarding and fulfilling. It touches my heart. I firmly believe in Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy that, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others'."

**Vita Centre's
Volunteer Development
Program is funded by**



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