

Do YOU have any stories or art work you would like to share in the newsletter? We would love to hear from you.

Contact us at:
membersnewsletter@vitacls.org

VITA

Members Times

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FREEDOM



The Huronia Regional Centre (**HRC**) is **a place** that is **old**.

It was built in the 1800's. It was like a **hospital** for people who needed help. People with intellectual disabilities. It was open for **133 years**. That is a long time!!!

I went to the HRC to have a tour of the building .

Barry and Maria who are **survivors** who lived at the HRC and know what it was showed us around.

They told stories about when they were living there. They talked about being hurt by staff.

They also talked about the **grave yard**. We saw the place where they buried little children. This is a picture of it.

Around **70 people** came to Orillia to the HRC to **look and learn** about what happened in the past.



It is **different now**. Back the people were **locked up** at the HRC.

Now people can go for walks, go to the mall, go out to eat.

It's called **Freedom**.

Andrew Lewis

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Inside This

Freedom 1

Interview 2

With Dave
Hingsburger

Adam's
Update 3

Rights Group
Update 4

Holding
Hands for
each other

Cool
Happenings 5

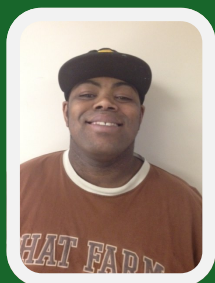
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Questions and Answers with

Andrew

Lewis



and



Dave
Hingsburger

Interview With Dave Hingsburger

The newsletter committee had a chance to talk to Dave at head office about the organizational chart at Vita. Some of us did not know what an organizational chart was, or why the Right's Group was now part of it. We decided to interview Dave so he could explain it to us.

What is an organizational chart? An organizational chart is a chart that shows the different staff jobs at VITA and who is responsible for what. (Example: Adam Smith= Executive Director)

Why is the Right's Group part of the organizational chart? The Right's Group came forward about not liking certain rules that the agency follows such as the one on confidentiality. They wanted something to be done about it so that their voices would be heard. Because they brought it up new policy was developed with our help. This means we've made a big change at VITA. We want VITA and other agencies to recognize that people with developmental disabilities have access to the top management of our organization; that their choices and opinions matter.

What kind of decisions will the Right's group make now that they are part of the organizational chart? We want them to continue doing what they are doing by advocating for things that work and things that don't. To encourage other organizations to start groups similar to our Right's Group.

What changes do you think this will make in the future? Don't know for certain, but the Rights Group is the first group I've seen on an organizational chart. That means that the Right's Group is fully recognized within VITA and maybe that will change other organizations like VITA.

Questions by Andrew Lewis Answers by David Hingsburger

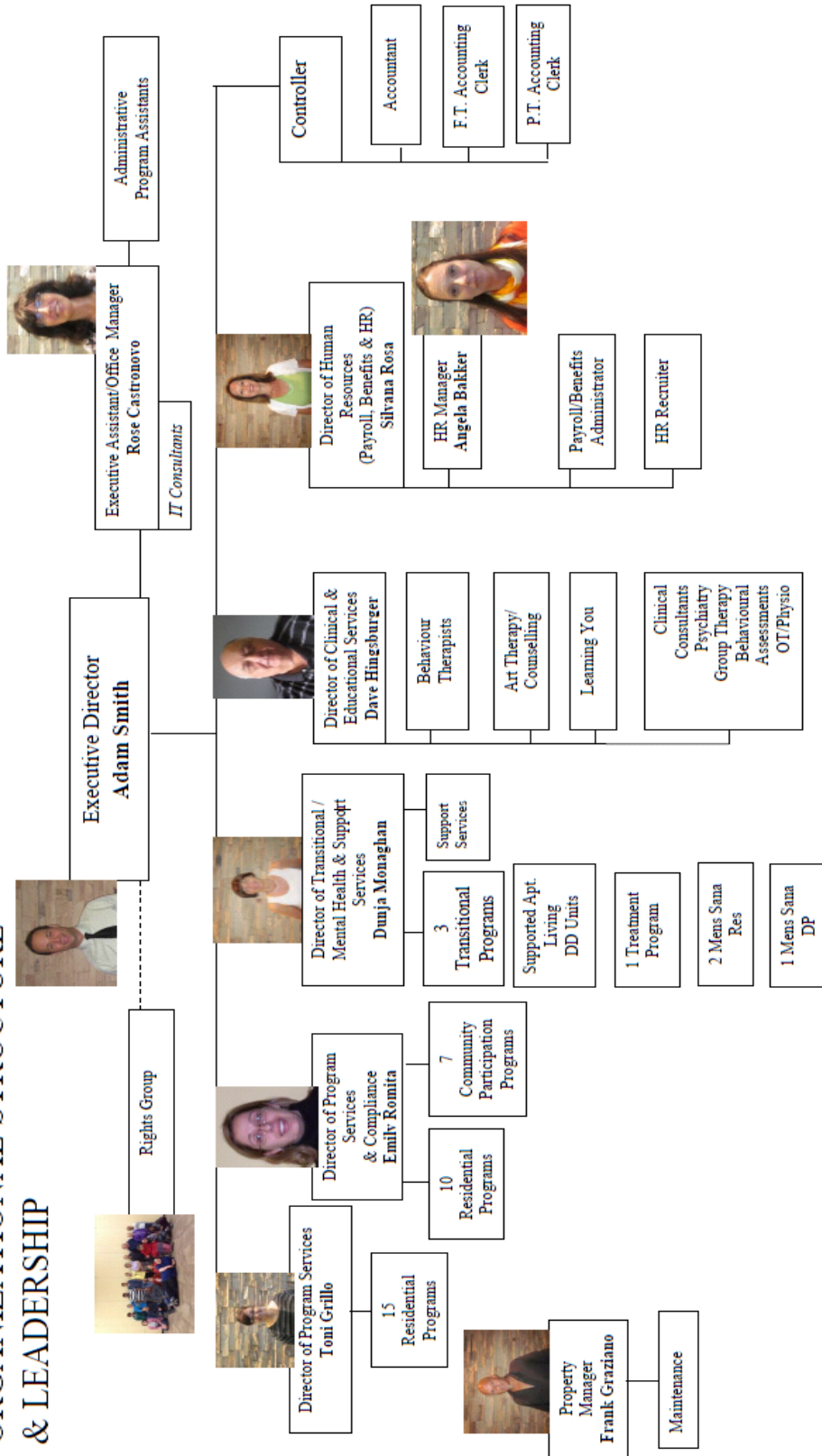


Adam's Update



As you may know, the Rights Group has been recognized for its work by being put on our organization chart. This is a picture of how our organization runs. We celebrate this wonderful achievement and thank the members for continuing VITA's growth.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & LEADERSHIP





Speak Up

Speak Out

Be Proud



Right's Group Update



1. Some of us attended two different mayoral debates to decide who to vote for, for our new mayor.
2. We were added to VITA's organizational chart. We are at the top level, beside the Board of Directors and the Executive Director.
3. We wrote a letter to Premier Wynne, asking that we be allowed to visit the Huronia Regional Centre and we were able to visit!
4. We held our elections.

Holding Hands for Each Other

If **YOU** think or feel like someone is hurting you, bullying you, abusing you, **YOU CAN**:

Tell somebody, like staff or a supervisor, someone at head office, a therapist or counselor, family, or the Police

Someone **CAN** get **YOU** help.

If you see someone else get hurt and is in danger **YOU CAN** do all this for them too!.

Sayyeda Jaffer and the Newsletter Committee



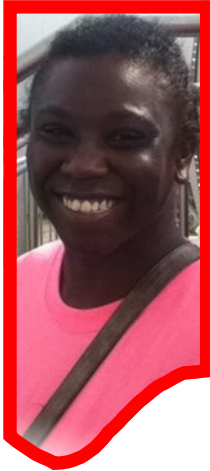
Cool

Happenings

At

VITA

Nicoles Summer Vacation



Hello Guys I am Nicole I work at Casa Abruzzo Day Program. For the first time in my life I went on vacation with my friends. On June 23rd we went to Niagara Falls for a three days visit.

It took me one year to save the money from my job at Casa. This was one of my goals. I worked hard in the "Hands On" gloves project along with my cleaning job.

We had fun and enjoyed the attractions, eating out and the hotel. The food was wonderful. We walked everywhere, went shopping for ourselves and others. We did a lot of socializing when going out as well as experiencing all the beauties nature has to offer.

Nicole Hamilton

Grief Support Group for Members

Some of us at VITA have had people we care about die.

Sometimes it can help to talk with others who have also had people in their lives die.

Vita has a Support Group for people who are feeling sad or bad about people they knew who died.

If you would like to get more information please contact: Cathy at: 416-749-6234) OR CCancilla@vitacls.org

Freedom

R T C T B T S H W U P B S S W
Q N H F K O H G S G P Z D D V
P Z A M B F J R N B M Q G N Z
Z Q N G D H V T X I L D N E O
B Y G O O Y E T X K L B V I Q
L O E S C C D I X L Q E L R B
L F G K N S L L I D O H E F A
I L S A P A Z T C F M H N F X
Z L M E M O H R D I H N L E V
X O A O G Q F N R Z I E X G A
R K B T N B Q U C F B Q I E G
L I S T E N Z U T Q W O G D Y
Q Z Z L D U V J O U M I I M L
L J L M P X S E L C R N Z K D
Q D B I W H G W E Y V E D W N

CHANGE
FUTURE
LISTEN

FEELINGS
HOME
ROMANCE

FRIENDS
JOB
SPEAK