

# VITA MEMBERS TIMES

Welcome to all Vita Members

December 6th 2012

Volume I, Issue I

Here it is! This is what you have been waiting for. The member's newsletter is finally here.

So what is a newsletter anyways? A newsletter is to inform the members of exciting things happening at Vita . The newsletter committee has been working hard on the newsletter to put all important idea's together.

As a committee we are here to support members and their ideas of things they would like to put in the newsletter. We will be issuing a different newsletter every couple of months. Be sure to check out what's inside this months issue. There is even an update from Kim Lenahan, our Executive Director!!

## THANK YOU!

A big thank you to everyone who helped us choose a name for the newsletter.

It was a close race!

45 votes for Vita Member Times and  
41 votes for Vita Voice.

From your newsletter committee,

Sayyeda Jaffer, Bunmi Asaolu, Nancy Lalli, Ashley Kay  
and Ann LeBlanc



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### We need YOUR help!!

We have tried to make the newsletter as accessible as we can but if there is something YOU think would be more helpful, let us know.

Contact us at:

membersnewsletter@vitacls.org

## Update from Kim Lenahan, Executive Director



The most important update is that we have a new Members' Newsletter. I want to congratulate the committee who has worked to make this happen.

You know that Donna Escott has left VITA. We are working to make sure we get someone new to join the VITA family who will be able to do a great job for us. It's important for you to remember that staff may come and go but the values we have at VITA continue: Safety, Respect and Community will always be what we are about.

The members Christmas/Holiday Party is coming up on December 13th and I have heard that it's a really good time. I hope you are all getting your tickets and preparing to celebrate the season.



### COME ENJOY VITA MEMBERS HOLIDAY PARTY

Thursday December 13

Doors open 6:00pm

Dinner 7:00pm

Party End 11:00pm

40 Playfair Avenue, Toronto, M6B 2P9



## Going to Chicago For Disability Pride

I felt fantastic to go to Chicago! I was honored to represent Vita in the parade.

The people that went from Vita were Maria Tracitti, Paulo Zago, David Hingsburger, Joe Jobes, Angela Bakker, Domenic Pisante, Ann Leblanc and me.

The trip there was long, we talked about stuff, we played Jin Rummy, stopped at the duty free shop and then used our Passports to go to the United States of America.

We went to the rooms to have a good night's sleep so we were ready for the march the next morning.

We went to the parade to set up our banner. We started marching down Disability Pride Parade Way. They named the street for the parade. They are going to keep it as the march route. We were impressed the city named the street after disability pride. The city of Chicago believes in disability pride. They would not name a street if they did not believe in it.

People that went believe in being proud of who you are and we were happy to march from Vita.

At the parade we met people from England and from the United States too. We met people who were in wheelchairs, who were not able to see or hear, people with intellectual disabilities and supporters. They all marched proudly together!



We are hoping to set up a disability pride parade here in Toronto. To support us in Canada. So we don't have to travel to Chicago every year! So we can show other people we are proud of who we are.

If we get a disability pride parade started I would be happy to help. Maybe you would too?

Written By: David White

## Employment Training Program at Vita

All the staff and members in Vita Community Living Services have grown so large and they offer great support to members in the community with things like independence.

I am part of the Employment Training program at Vita. In the Employment training program there is a café to buy things at. Some of us work hard to sell brownies, cookies, Ritz sandwich crackers, chocolate bars, flakes, cupcakes, chips, pop, coffee, tea and water .

Some of us work at the York Gate Mall in the Jane and Steeles area and some of us also work at Oahnes. Here we stuff paper in an envelope and we put all the name tags on the envelopes and we also stuff papers in the bags .



All the Vita members who are working at places like Zellers, Value Village, Canadian tire, global shoes and Busy Bee Tools are working so hard so we can earn Employee of the Month with staff from the Employment Training Program.

I worked at the Kids Come First daycare and I helped the teachers. I played with the children on the carpet and I cleaned all the tables and floors. I would also tidy up all the books on the shelf and I would help the children put on their jackets.

The staff at the Employment Training program supports all of us to find jobs and help us make our resumes. They also help us learn how to use the buses so we have independence on our own. I have learned so much from the Employment Training program and the staff are so great.

Written By: Sayyeda Jaffer

## An Update from The Right's Group

1. We wrote a letter to all staff saying that we did not like gossip and this letter helped to change the rules at Vita.
2. We changed how the rights group does banking. Now 2 group members sign to take money out and we made our own deposit and withdrawal slips. We sign for our money not staff. We decided as a group to keep banking with Vita instead of going to an outside bank. We gave our plan to Vita and it is now happening.
3. We had 2 car washes this past summer and raised money for our group. They were a success!!
4. We will have a raffle at the Christmas party to get money for fundraising.
5. We had Elections and now have a new board. Here are the results:  
**President Sean Simone, Vice-President Amelia Sarra**  
**Treasurer Caroline Chiu, Office Manager Carol Gismondi**  
**Learning You Committee Representative Andrew Lewis**  
**Member on Vita's Board of Directors Maria Katsiampas**
6. We gave our opinions about the new Vita website. We would like more rights group information on the website. We are working with Kim and Ann to update the website.
7. 2 members did a presentation of the Bill of Rights at the Speaking Out conference in October. It went smooth and excellent!!
8. We have rehired Kris to be one of our meeting Helpers.

Written By: The Right's Group



## Word Search

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

## Holiday Words

Christmas

Hanukkah

Eid

Ramadan

Decorations

Lights

Church

Synagogue

Mosque

Fasting

Gifts

Menorah

Family