



## **For Immediate Release**

### **Team Villa Gives Venice a Run for its Money!**

#### **Toronto's Team Villa participates in the 25<sup>th</sup> Venice Marathon to raise funds for Villa Foundation**

**November 10, 2010, Toronto** – On October 24, the group of 22 runners who make up Team Villa ran the 25<sup>th</sup> Venice Marathon to raise funds for Villa Foundation.

Despite the cold and at times rainy weather, each of the runners finished the 42.195 kilometre race. Two standout performances: team member Frank DiRienzo set the record for the fastest Canadian at the race, with a running time of 03:32:28; and Joe Sauret, thanks to his time of 03:32:52, qualified for the Boston Marathon!

The race path started in Stra, a small town about 25 kilometres west of Venice, and wove through the countryside to the finish line at Riva Sette Martiri, an embankment in the centre of Venice. During the race, marathoners ran across the Grand Canal on a pontoon bridge, built especially for the event. And although 7000 people registered for this year's marathon, only 6,253 actually managed to finish the strenuous course.

Co-Chairs for Team Villa this year are Frank Ciccolini Jr. and Tony Gentilucci, both avid runners and long-time supporters of Villa Charities. The members of Team Villa 2010 are: Bill Arvanitis, John Arvanitis, Tina Barbieri, Frank Ciccolini Jr., Kathy McGuire Ciccolini, Patrick Ciccolini, Frank DeCesare, Marco DeSimone, Frank DiRienzo, Lina Fernandez, Dr. Victor Fiorillo, Paolo Fiorino, Tony Gentilucci, Richard Higgins, Nick Ierfino, Angela Martella, Brian Naraine, Mark Odorico, Lorenzo Paravani, Debra Ruscio, Joe Sauret and Daniela Zuccarelli. To date, Dr. Victor Fiorillo is the top fundraiser for Team Villa 2010, with over \$20,000 raised. Right behind him are Marco DeSimone and Debra Ruscio, with \$16,150 and \$11,110, respectively.

During the celebration dinner for Team Villa after the race, Dr. Victor Fiorillo was named Team Captain and Lina Fernandez was awarded the title of the team's MVP.

Other important members of Team Villa are: Team Coach Michael Brennan; Running Coach Paolo Fiorini; and Bill Arvanitis, of Lead Sponsor Athlete's Care Sports Medicine Centres.

**The sponsors for Team Villa 2010 are:**

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**About Team Villa**

Team Villa came to be in 2008 when two very proud Italo-Canadians, Pino Correale and Frank Ciccolini Jr.–both seasoned marathoners–walked into Villa Foundation's office and said they would like to do something different to help raise funds for Villa Foundation. Today, Team Villa has become an annual destination sporting event where athletes participate in a different marathon across Italy each year. Team Villa is a unique experience because it encompasses so many different components: a personal journey to conquer your own limitations; the experience of joining a new group of people; the ability to do so much good by raising funds for people who rely on the generosity of others to lead a life of quality and dignity; and finally, to celebrate one's culture and heritage with pride.

## **About Villa Charities**

Since its formation in 1971 to provide culturally sensitive care for an elderly Italian-Canadian population, Villa Charities has extended its mandate to include support for individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental illness. Building on its rich Italian-Canadian heritage, and by living life with Italian passion, the Villa Charities family of organizations has grown to include Villa Colombo Services for Seniors, Columbus Centre, VITA Community Living Services, Mens Sana and Villa Colombo Vaughan Di Poce Centre. Recognizing its relevance across generations, Villa Charities is launching new initiatives to promote quality of life, health and wellness, youth engagement, the creation of new knowledge and investment in new technologies. For more information, visit [www.villacharities.com](http://www.villacharities.com).

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