



I Am a Machine!

Congratulations to the members of Team Villa for their success at the Maratona d'Italia Memorial Enzo Ferrari on October 9, 2011. Team members, along with loved ones, travelled to Italy to participate in the half (21 km) or full (42 km) marathon.

As their families and friends were at home in Canada celebrating Thanksgiving, all of the runners were gathered at the marathon start line focused on the task at hand after months of training and fundraising. It was truly inspiring to see first time marathon runners compete in the half marathon ending in Modena, while seasoned competitors crossed the finish line in Carpi.

As a member of Team Villa, individuals make a huge commitment with their time to train and fundraise over a span of months; at times, the preparation is a challenging experience. It was all worth it, though, as the sense of accomplishment felt by the runners as they crossed the finish line – with huge smiles on their faces and proudly waving the Canadian flag – was palpable!

It was not all hard work and training, though. While in Italy, the team enjoyed delicious local cuisine, as well as trips to Florence, a Parmigiano Reggiano factory, an *acetaia*



where balsamic vinegar is produced, and a tour of the Ferrari museum.

Every team member brought something special to the group – experience, motivation, coaching, mentoring, inspiration and friendship. It was a truly amazing team! At the Celebration Dinner following the marathon, Bill Arvanitis was named Team Captain for his leadership, dedication and commitment to Team Villa year after year. Paolo Fiorino was named Team Villa MVP for his time spent training and

mentoring Team Villa members throughout the year. Congratulations to them both! Also, special thanks to the wives, husbands and boyfriends who accompanied the team and provided support!

The Team Villa participants who ran the race on October 9 did so to raise funds for Villa Charities Foundation. The marathon is a grueling event which takes months of preparation; we are extremely grateful to the Team Villa members for all of their hard work, commitment and passion for the cause. Special thanks also go out to the team's co-chairs Tony Gentilucci and Tom Clark and to our sponsors Athlete's Care Sports Medicine Centres, Masters Financial, Alice Fazooli's Vaughan, TLN, G&L Group, Capo Sgro LLP, Rosanna Caldarone - Dominion Lending Centres, M.A.M. Group Inc, Roy Foss and all those who made pledges to our runners!

Planning is underway for 2012. For more information on Team Villa and to become a participant or sponsor, please contact Cinzia Del Zotto at cdelzotto@villacharities.com or 416-789-7011 ext 306.

For a complete listing of sponsors please see next page.

More Venetian Ball coverage

Thanks to the generosity of all the sponsors, the 18th annual Venetian Ball raised \$1.25 million (net) for Villa Charities – ensuring that the organization can continue to provide its superior level of care to seniors and individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental health issues and can increase its cultural programming that enriches the lives of thousands annually. “The Venetian Ball is one of the city's foremost social events and the success of this year's ball is an example of that,” says Gagliano. “Rudy and I are thrilled with the unprecedented support from the community for Villa Charities.”

Heartfelt thanks are extended to all of our corporate sponsors and guests; Villa Charities could not continue to provide its special brand



Elisabeth and Sandy Bartzis at the pre-performance reception.

of culturally sensitive care without this commitment. Special mention must be made for the Honorary Chairs and Leading Sponsors for the 2011 Venetian Ball: Rudolph P. Bratty & Family; Mario Cortellucci, Nick Cortellucci & Family; Alfredo De Gasperis, Angelo De Gasperis and Antonio De Gasperis; Senator Linda Frum, Howard Sokolowski & Metropia; Greenpark Group of Companies; IBEW 353; Alex & Marc Muzzo; Orlando Corporation; OZZ Electric Inc.; St. Joseph Communications; and The Sorbara Family, as well as CIBC, the Entertainment Sponsor. On behalf of Co-Chairs Rudolph P. Bratty and Tony Gagliano, **thank you! Grazie!**

For a complete list of sponsors please see pg. 13

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They say it's a small world, and this point was proven last year when the 2010 Team Villa crew travelled to Italy to take part in the 25th Venice Marathon. After the race, a gentleman by the name of Antonio Villa approached the team simply to point out that Villa Charities Foundation shared his surname. Villa, who is 56 years old and a marathon runner himself, lives just south of Rome in a quaint town called Isola del Liri. He began running at the age of 18 and participated in the Prague Marathon in 2011 and the Venice Marathon in 2010. Upon the team's return to Canada, and after numerous conversations between Villa and Tracie Napoli in the Villa Charities Foundation office, it came to be known that both the team and Villa share more than just a name and a passion for



running. Villa has relatives in Canada and the United States; his cousin Walter, aunt Giulia and uncle Livio all reside in Toronto – and are very familiar with Villa Colombo and the services provided by Villa Charities.

Giulia has been a weekly volunteer at the long term care centre for over 10 years, participating in the yearly trips to Cuba and Punta Cana. At the same time, Livio has been an active member of the Villa Colombo day programs. Both Giulia and Livio enjoy the freedom and sense of accomplishment

they get from volunteering at Villa Colombo. Earlier this summer, Villa travelled to Canada and visited Villa Colombo with his relatives. Seeing the great services provided by Villa Charities made Villa even prouder to share his name!

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