



villa charities

A Year-End Message From President and CEO Anthony DiCaia

As 2018 draws to a close, it's a good time to reflect on the events of the past year and look forward to a new and exciting future.

Villa Charities/Columbus Centre Redevelopment Project

In February 2018, the plans to redevelop the Columbus Centre into a joint-use facility with the Toronto Catholic District School Board ended, and the project is no longer moving forward. The Columbus Centre remains fully operational on all levels. The TCDSB is proceeding with their stand-alone plans and our partnership has been dissolved.

Investments in our Future

During 2018, we engaged an organization to complete an assessment of all of our buildings. Their report indicated that over the next 10 years \$20 million will be needed to address much-needed building repairs and maintenance. By the end of 2021 we will have spent approximately \$12 million. The first wave of repairs is addressing our parking facilities, replacement of multiple heating, ventilation and air conditioning units, information technology upgrades, roof repairs and our hydro facilities.

Over \$180,000 in new equipment and facility improvements were also made to the Athletic Club.

Along with the many capital investments underway, Villa Charities embarked on a series of multiple stakeholder sessions focused on the future and how Villa Charities could best develop and provide services throughout the campus.

Initiated in April, 12 visioning sessions, which included the local and Italian communities, young adults, seniors, cultural industry leaders, the long-term care community and other health care providers, and the Board and staff, provided valuable feedback to draw upon as we move forward. A comprehensive final report summarizing the findings from the visioning sessions will be shared with our stakeholders and made available to the public early next year.

Cultural Activities & Events

During the past year, we continued to invest in a wide variety of cultural programming and special events, which include:

Cultural Tuesdays - A series of free, illustrated talks on culture, history, cuisine, art and Italian heritage.

Movies - The launch of our first theme series, a trilogy of **Spaghetti and Western Movie Nights** at Caffè Cinquecento, was very well received.

Italian Cuisine - Ristorante Boccaccio's popular regional theme nights continued to draw large groups as we indulged in the wonderful offerings of Calabria, Sicily, Liguria, Abruzzo and more.

Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery - We presented "**MAMMA, In the Meantime,**" a photographic exhibition of an artist and his mother, reflecting on life with dementia.

Italian Heritage Month - Highlights included a gala concert featuring the Ermanno Mauro Masterclass, a performance of Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy and an afternoon of Italian opera.

Events - In September, over 500 people attended our inaugural "Porte Aperte" (Open House) event, where we opened our doors and welcomed the entire community to enjoy a fun-filled day of free activities and special events on the Villa Charities campus. In addition, our 12th Annual Giro cycling event and the 42nd Annual Villa Charities Golf Classic were important to our senior residents in long-term care who benefited from the generosity of all those who supported these events. The Giro event topped the \$1 million fundraising mark.

Art Programs - This fall, we expanded our art program to include Impressionist painting classes for adults and for children, as well as introductory painting and drawing classes designed to foster creative confidence.

Culinary Arts - A new series of unique workshops focused on rustic Italian recipes and proved very popular as additional sessions were scheduled to meet the high demand.

Theatre Arts - "**If on a Christmas Night...**", our World Premiere theatrical production for the holiday season was presented by members of the internationally acclaimed DopoLavoro Teatrale (DLT) company. Audiences and critics shared their praise for this immersive experience that presents a series of adventurous and comical situations around the celebration of Christmas, through the lens of Italian culture. Due to the success of this limited engagement, we are planning to present the production again next year.

Looking Ahead to 2019

We are all very excited as we look ahead. Our long-term care home, Villa Colombo Homes for the Aged Inc. (Villa Colombo Toronto), will be our primary focus for the next several years. As our society continues to age, the Ontario Ministry of Health has identified as one of their key priorities upgrading older existing long-term care homes to current standards. Villa Colombo, which opened in 1976, is one of 300 long-term care facilities throughout the province that needs to be upgraded.

Villa Colombo currently has 391 beds, 266 of which are in facilities built and designed to the standards of the 1970s. These facilities must be upgraded before the 2025 deadline imposed by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

We are in the very early stages of "information gathering" and will be sharing what we have learned and is important to all stakeholders in different ways starting early in 2019. This project will be the largest and most expensive project ever undertaken by Villa Charities and our most important as we reaffirm ourselves as leaders in providing the best long-term care our residents deserve!

We are committed to investing and growing our cultural programming and developing new community-wide events such as our "**Porte Aperte Inverno**" Open House in February.

We are encouraged by the strong interest of other Italian and cultural organizations that have expressed an interest in participating more on our campus, and as new information becomes available, we will continue to share it with you.

As President and CEO, I am committed to raising the level of excellence we deliver in all our programs, and as a team we will strive to make your experience with our organization better every day. To all of you in our community and the surrounding areas, I would encourage you to explore and discover all the services we have to offer. Villa Charities was created to celebrate and promote the Italian Heritage, Culture, Language, Arts, Food, and Family Values, and we would be honoured to share it with our wonderfully diverse and supportive community.

Finally, I would like to say THANK YOU to our staff, management, Board, residents and every one of you who continue to participate and support this great organization.

I wish you all a happy holiday season and a prosperous and successful new year!

Sincerely,



Anthony DiCaita
President and CEO
Villa Charities Inc.