

KUDOS!



HEALTH STARTS AT HOME

VON Assisted Living Services covering the CELHIN (Scarborough, North Durham, Cobourg, Campbellford, Havelock, Peterborough, Lakefield, Curve Lake First Nations, Apsley)



2016 | 2017 AWARD RECIPIENT GPA LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE IN PERSON-CENTRED CARE

GPA is mandatory for all PSWs working for the VON Assisted Living Services in this area of Ontario.

[Learn more](#) about the VON.



Gentle Persuasive Approaches

Learn more about Advanced Gerontological Education (AGE) Inc., developer and distributor of GPA®.

www.ageinc.ca



Staff learning a GPA physical self-protection technique

When asked which education they would most like to have, all PSWs wanted more information on dementia care, including how to engage clients.

The GPA program is still relatively new to the VON Assisted Living Services covering the CELHIN (see above left), a vast catchment area. It began with the arrival of Dianne Arsenault, Supervisor, Assisted Living Services. Realizing that most PSWs did not have dementia education and training, she approached Melanie Therrien, Care and Service Manager. Melanie encouraged Dianne to become a GPA Certified Coach so she could facilitate GPA education sessions on site for staff. Soon after the sessions started, Dianne was approached by a Care and Service Manager from another LHIN interested in teaching GPA to their Respite and Assisted Living Services PSWs.

Dianne says “it can be challenging at times to get coverage for those that need to be away from work for a day,

or a few hours, but we manage because of the wonderfully supportive team of RPN Coordinators and PSWs.” Dianne keeps track of GPA sessions so that she can remind staff when they are due for a GPA Recharged (GPA-R) session.

“I have had conversations with PSWs who had no prior GPA knowledge, who openly admitted to not validating a client. After their GPA session, they assured me they would change the way they worked with clients going forward. It’s been a wonderful experience teaching GPA. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity.”

– Dianne Arsenault