



Saint Louis
Adult Learning & Continuing
Education Centres

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

Saint Louis is part of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board. Its PSW program began more than 10 years ago. Today, 150 PSWs graduate from the program every year.

The current team of RNs and a physiotherapist strive to nurture a passion in PSWs for improving the quality of life for those they serve. Coaches tell us that GPA is a favourite class for students.

Learn more about St. Louis [here](#).



**Gentle
Persuasive
Approaches**

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

www.ageinc.ca



(Above photos) Students learning a GPA gentle redirection technique



Students feel equipped, prepared and empowered to use the GPA tools and make a difference in care.

Jill Corkery, Rozina Bhatia, Patricia Ridell and Colleen Bisson are in-house GPA Certified Coaches at St. Louis Adult Learning & Continuing Education Centres.

GPA became part of the curriculum at the Centres in 2011. Once instructors observed first-hand how students were interacting in placements, the team was convinced of the benefit to enhancing students' dementia care knowledge through GPA. This gives students the tools to begin their careers with success. The Centres also thread GPA learning throughout labs and case studies.

Staff revisit the GPA curriculum prior to a student's first placement and watch the skills the student uses in improving the quality of life for the older adults with dementia in their care. With the success of the GPA program and lots of eager learners, there are plans to expand. Coaches would like to offer annual GPA Recharged sessions to graduates and other interested PSWs.

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM JILL ...

“Getting knowledge to PSWs early sets them up for success. I believe that’s part of the secret to caring for those with dementia in the future ... give students these skills early, so they don’t have to ‘unlearn’ some of the unsuccessful, non-person-centred techniques we sometimes witness. I have had students contact me after they’ve graduated to tell me, with great pride, how their GPA training made a difference for someone in their care.”

*The GPA tools that students use most often include **STOP and GO** and **communication techniques**. Staff often comment that our students are relaxed and prepared and families remark on how students treat their loved ones with such dignity.”*