



*Caring
for Life*

The VON Mission

VON, a charity guided by the principles of primary health care, works in partnership with Canadians for a healthier society through:

- Leadership in community-based care;
- Delivery of innovative, comprehensive health and social services;
- Influence in the development of health and social policy.



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Core Values

- Respect
- Participation
- Responsiveness
- Courage



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Children's Respite

- Respite is an essential resource for primary caregivers and their family members who require rest, relief and renewal.
- Parents are reluctant to leave their child with others unless they can be assured of the competence/training of the personnel.



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Children's Respite

Target Group

Families of chronically ill children or children with a physical or intellectual disability; from birth to 6 years of age.



Caring for Life

Children's Respite

VON Home Health Aide, Anne-Marie, with 1- year-old
Audrey-Anne, December 2004





Children's Respite *Caring for Life*

These families cope with:

- Constant emotional strain – “on duty” 24 hours a day
- Isolation; lack of extended family support
- Worry over the future
- Exhaustion from lack of sleep
- Physically demanding care-giving tasks
- Loss of income due to reduction of employment
- Increased costs due to need for noninsured service.



Children's Respite *Caring for Life*

Objectives

- Support the child's family in the home
- Combat the isolation and depression associated with the care-giving role
- Reinforce the self-reliance and self-determination of caregivers
- Assist in maintaining the quality of life of families
- Avoid the stress and cost of hospitalization.



Children's Respite *Caring for Life*

Goals

- Regularly scheduled visits
- An average of 6 hours per week of in home respite
- Provided by the same Home Health Aide



Children's Respite *Caring for Life*

Home Health Aides are trained by nurses from the Montreal Children's Hospital and from VON Montreal in:

- Infant-Child CPR
- Tube feeding procedure
- Oral-nasal suctioning
- Postural drainage technique and other therapies/exercises
- Administration of pre-prepared medications
- Recognition of changes in status of child (seizures)
- Other techniques/care as the client's normal activities of daily living dictate.

Charles-Élie, 18 mos., with Home Health Aide,
Marielle, September 2005





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- Referrals are received from the Montreal Children's Hospital and CLSCs
- After the initial evaluation by the VON Montreal Program Manager, a Home Health Aide (HHA) is assigned
- The VON Program Manager, a Registered Nurse, supervises and supports the HHA and family caregiver alike.

Home Health Aide, Hyacinth, with Noella, 2½yrs. old, August 2





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Benefits to clients and their families:

- Need for respite is acknowledged and at least partially met
- Prompt response to requests for service
- **NO FEE** for service
- A relationship of trust between Home Health Aide and family

Audrey-Anne, 14
mos. old, with
Home Health Aide,
Anne-Marie,
January 2005





Children's Respite *Caring for Life*

Statistics January 2000 to August 2005

Number of children served	107
Number of home visits	7,964
Number of service hours	30,081

Audrey-Anne, 21mos
August 2005





Children's Respite *Caring for Life*



Simin and friend