

## Rookie of the Year

**Franca Elia**, *Activities Coordinator*

*Villa Italia Retirement Residence, Hamilton*

Franca started in her new role 2 ½ years ago. In that time, attendance in programs and activities has improved, and there is a newfound camaraderie amongst the residents, closely knitting them together as one big family.

Colleagues indicate that it is as if she has found her niche. She accepted her new position and its challenges head on. In the process, she has become a confident and capable program leader who is skilled in developing, implementing and

evaluating programs and activities. Her commitment to residents' well-being is paramount and she gives them her personal best.

Residents speak highly of her positive energy. One went as far as to say that she is the "personification of positivity"! Residents and families also appreciate her genuine compassion, personal touch and tireless efforts to ensure that each day is meaningful and productive.



## Rookie of the Year

**Susan Harper**, *Speech Language Pathologist*

*Adult Recreation Therapy Centre, Brantford & Senior Support Services Haldimand and Norfolk*

Upon graduation, Susan was the successful applicant for a newly-created position, responsible for implementing and delivering programming across two regions. This was an ambitious undertaking for someone new to the field.

Her enthusiasm and passion to tackle this task were key to the success of these new programs. The job involved forming a new partnership between organizations and included starting up three newly-funded programs.

A great big task for a new grad you may say, but Susan embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm and keenness to do the best job that she could.

It is evident that to all that she works with that she is not only knowledgeable in her field, but believes strongly in client-centred care and works hard to improve quality of life.



## Volunteer Achievement

**Nelly Van Patee**, *President, Friends of Linhaven*

*Linhaven Home for the Aged, St. Catharines*

Nelly has been volunteering for Linhaven for over 10 years. Her involvement began while visiting a friend. Now she is an integral and highly valued member of the team.

She is a leader and fundraiser extraordinaire! Her energy, enthusiasm and relentless determination to make everything she touches special, and just plain fun, is infectious and everyone wants to be a part of it.

Nelly and her team have had a tremendous impact on residents, their families, staff and the broader community.

The list of successful projects and improvements achieved by our Nelly and the Friends of Linhaven team is impressive, including the establishment of a new café, substantial site renovations, and numerous other projects to enhance the physical and social environment and create a place that feels like home.

Last February, the Friends of Linhaven celebrated the major accomplishment of raising over \$200,000 for their worthy cause.

