

MICHAEL'S JOURNEY: A STORY OF LOVE, RESILIENCE, AND BELONGING

Michael's life began with challenges

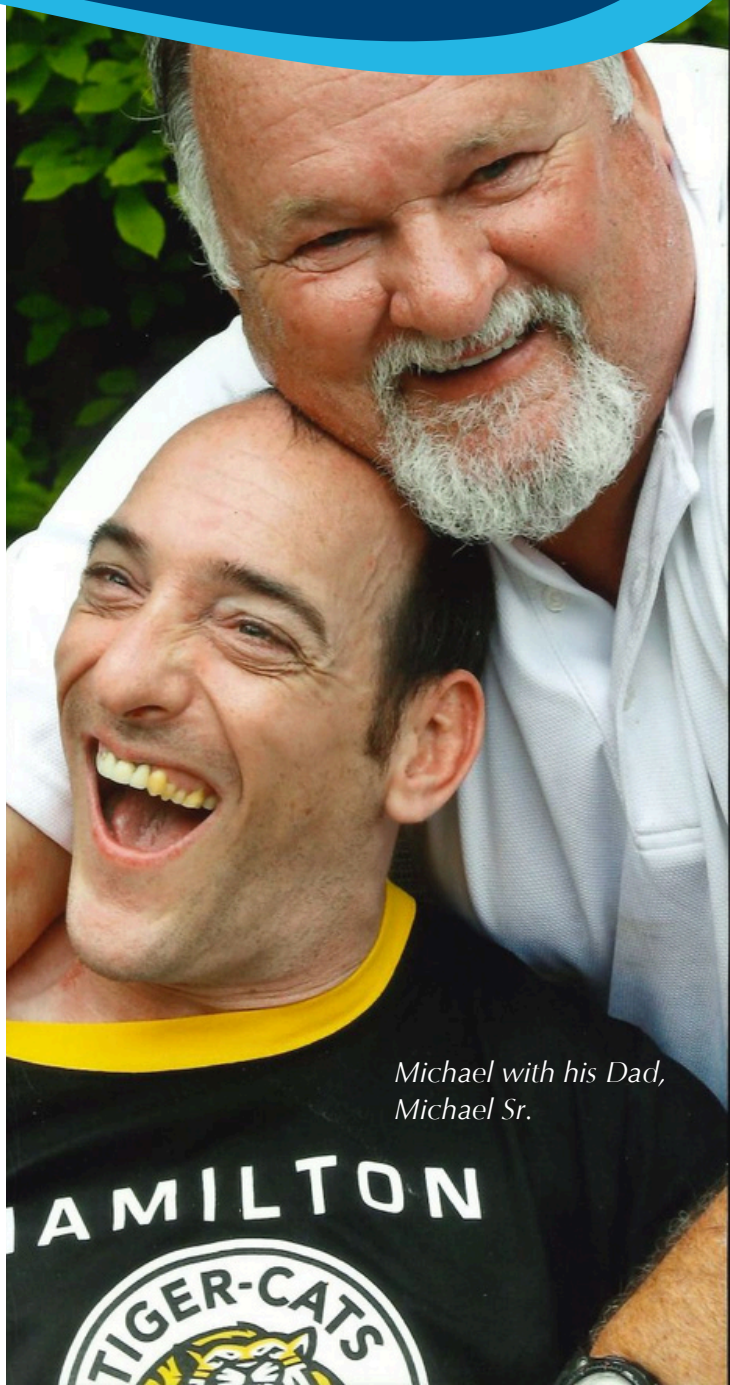
Despite being born prematurely, Michael's arrival in the summer of 1978 was met with anticipation and excitement by his parents Michael Sr. and Ann. There were complications at birth - he wasn't breathing properly and it took months to realize something was wrong. His parents, especially his father, persisted in searching for answers until a doctor finally diagnosed Michael with cerebral palsy. From that moment on, life revolved around doing everything possible for Michael.

Early Years

His early years were filled with uncertainty, medical visits, and learning how to navigate a world that wasn't built for him. His muscles didn't grow with his bones, and walking was never going to be an option. But Michael didn't let that stop him. With the unwavering support of his family, he embraced life fully. His dad worked long construction seasons so they could afford to take family vacations; whether to the Caribbean or Europe, Michael was always included. He was curious, social, and endlessly cheerful. All his parents wanted was for Michael to be happy.



Michael with his Mom, Ann



*Michael with his Dad,
Michael Sr.*

COMPASSIONATE CARE SINCE 1879

Belonging

As Michael grew older, care became more complex. His mother Ann passed away suddenly in 2011, and his father, now the sole caregiver, was faced with a difficult challenge: Who will care for Michael when we no longer can? Michael's dad married Cherri several years later and together they began planning for Michael's future and finding somewhere that could care for him after they were gone. The search was long and painful. Many group homes and facilities weren't the right fit. Others didn't feel like home; but then they found St. Joseph's Villa.

"Who will care for Michael when we no longer can?"



Michael in his new home at St. Joseph's Villa with staff member Dana.

A place to call home

Michael's age may not reflect your typical long term care resident but from the very first tour at the Villa, something clicked. Michael lit up at the simple joy of snacks between meals, something he hadn't had for 25 years in his group home. The staff greeted him warmly. They didn't just see a wheelchair - they saw Michael. With the persistent support of his family and Villa staff, Michael was warmly welcomed into the Villa, a place he now calls home.



WAYS TO SUPPORT

Compassionate Care is at the heart of what we do. Your gift to St. Joseph's Villa Foundation will support the most urgent needs of St. Joseph's Villa and Margaret's Place Hospice, directly impacting the quality of life for our residents and their families today and in the future. Tax receipts are provided for all gifts.

GENERAL DONATIONS:

Your generous contribution will directly enhance the quality of care and services we provide on our Campus of Care and offer dignity, respect and compassion to every individual who comes through our doors.



Michael, Michael Sr., and
Stepmother Cheri



His father said it best:

“St. Joseph’s Villa is good for Michael, and Michael is good for St. Joseph’s Villa.”

Since moving in, Michael has flourished. He attends church, jokes with staff, visits the café, joins recreation programming, and continues to make everyone around him laugh. He’s a warm, engaging soul who makes friends everywhere he goes. On weekends, he watches sports at his family home with his dad and stepmom, who have embraced him fully into a new blended family.

Michael’s journey hasn’t been easy, but it’s been full of purpose and love. From his marathon fundraiser in high school to his international travels, Michael has left an impact on every place he’s been and every person he’s met.

Now he has a home at St. Joseph’s Villa. A place where his family feels peace knowing he’s not just safe – but happy. Because at the heart of it all, that’s what his family wanted most for him: to be happy.

Unstoppable Compassion



In the heart of Dundas, there is a place where compassion knows no bounds and every life is honoured with dignity, respect, and unwavering support.

St. Joseph’s Villa is one of Ontario’s largest and most innovative long-term care homes – home to 425 residents and serving thousands more through community programs.

Margaret’s Place Hospice, nestled on our Dundas Campus, provides comfort, dignity, and peace to individuals and families living with a life-limiting illness.

Every day at St. Joseph’s Villa and Margaret’s Place Hospice, we witness the profound impact of compassionate care – like Michael’s story, and countless others whose lives are touched in our community.

This care is only possible because of you. Each year, I’m humbled by the generosity of our community. Your support ensures that every resident is surrounded by dignity, kindness, and love in a beautiful home-like environment. We thank you!

Your gifts bring safety through new equipment, joy through life-enriching programs, and peace through comforting spaces. This is Unstoppable Compassion.

Please give your gift today.

Don Davidson
President & CEO, St. Joseph’s Villa Foundation

MONTHLY GIVING:

Join our monthly giving program and become a pillar of ongoing support. Your monthly contributions ensure we can provide compassionate care and essential services throughout the year.

IN HONOUR/MEMORY:

Donate to honour someone special who is celebrating an occasion, achievement, birthday, anniversary or retirement. A memorial tribute gift is a meaningful way to honour the memory of a loved one’s life.

ESTATE PLANNING:

Including St. Joseph’s Villa Foundation in your Will or Estate Plans is a beautiful way to carry your compassion forward. You maintain complete control of your assets now, while helping to create a brighter future for generations to come.

Why Your Support Matters

Since 1879
Living the Legacy



Your Impact

At St. Joseph's Villa, every meal is prepared with care in our modern kitchen by a dedicated dietary team that serves more than 1,400 fresh, home-cooked meals each day. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Foundation has invested more than \$500,000 in essential kitchen upgrades and equipment in the past 3 years, ensuring our residents continue to enjoy nutritious, high-quality meals made with love right here at the Villa.

Throughout 2024/2025, our Foundation remained deeply committed to the well-being and future of our Campus of Care. More than \$700,000 was invested in critical capital projects on our Campus, to enhance safety and improve facilities, alongside \$1 million in support for Margaret's Place Hospice day to day operations. To safeguard future priorities, another \$1 million was dedicated to long-term investment reserves - ensuring our shared mission continues to thrive.

Your gifts also supported:

- New hygiene chairs and bathtubs to improve care and comfort (\$86,000)
- New entryway doors for the North and South Towers, privacy curtains, and housekeeping carts (\$150,000)
- Phase 1 of the new nurse call bell system to enhance resident safety and communication (\$250,000)
- And programs like Music Therapy that bring connection and joy to residents (\$10,000)

Join Us

St. Joseph's Villa and Margaret's Place Hospice are built on 146 years of love, service, and community support. With your help, we will continue to lead with compassion and care - one resident, one family, one moment at a time.



**Donate today. Support tomorrow.
Make a difference - every day.**

Contact Us Today!

St. Joseph's Villa Foundation
56 Governors Road, Dundas, ON
905-627-9011

www.sjvfoundation.ca foundation@sjv.on.ca

Stay connected with us on Social Media!



MAKE YOUR DONATION ONLINE!

www.sjvfoundation.ca

Charitable Registration # 119184430RR0001