



Spotlight on Professionals:

Addie Greco-Sanchez

By Katherine Abraham, Hons. BA



Ever since she was a small girl growing up in Toronto, Addie Greco-Sanchez knew she would make a career in helping other people. Her parents, immigrants from Italy, instilled many values in Addie but the one that stuck out is “fa ‘na bona jobba.” Roughly translating to “do a good job,” Greco-Sanchez applied this motto to every facet of her life from helping her little sister learn the alphabet, to choosing a career in counselling and rehabilitation.

Greco-Sanchez started her VR career as a crisis counsellor at a shelter for abused women and, in 1989, she began working as a disability management consultant. “I was inspired by my early successes helping clients reach their potential and return to work,” Greco-Sanchez recalls of her early career days.

The 1990s brought a lot of growth and development for the vocational rehabilitation profession. During

this time, Greco-Sanchez advanced her career and assumed various management roles before embarking on her biggest endeavour to date. “With the love and encouragement of my family, I started up my own rehab business in a basement,” says Greco-Sanchez of her once small-time operation. A company that started as single employee business steadily grew; 22 years later the business, AGS Rehab Solutions Inc., now has seven full time employees, an office in Mississauga, Ontario and more than 25 consultants across Ontario.

AGS is comprised of certified professionals who provide rehabilitation solutions through assessment, treatment and coordination of medical and vocational services. “Our clients actually came up with our tagline,” says Greco-Sanchez of her company’s “Responsive, Innovative, Committed” motto. “We developed the tagline based on feedback we received from our customers based on the behaviours they observed from our team.” To say Greco-Sanchez is proud of her employees would be an understatement, “my team always strives to go that extra mile.” In 2010, AGS was honoured when the company was awarded a contract to provide assessment services to WSIB workers.

Greco-Sanchez sees similarities between her company and VRA. Having been a member of VRA since the early 1990s, she notes “I’ve seen extensive changes and growth in the association” mirroring the growth she’s experienced in her own

company. Greco-Sanchez also knows the benefits that a vocational rehab association can hold; she’s been a board member for the Ontario society and she currently sits as a co-chair of the Professional Development Committee of CAVEWAS. “I also sit as the CAVEWAS representative to the VRA national board and sit on the best practices committee for the College of Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals.”

“Our clients actually came up with AGS’s tagline of ‘Responsive, Innovative, Committed’ ”

As the leader of a rehabilitation company and active member of VRA, Greco-Sanchez feels strongly about the role of VRA in professional development. She cites Gandhi’s famous idiom about being the change you wish to see in the world as one of her favourite quotes. “I’ve pursued an active volunteer role with VRA because I want to be part of that change,” she notes. From the very beginning of her life, Greco-Sanchez has been working by her parents words to “do a good job.” Looking back at her career so far, it’s safe to say that she is not only doing a good job but also a job that is good, improving lives along the way. ☺