

Curriculum Vitae: Norma Gamble

Business:

Norma is a successful businesswoman; professional speaker; and corporate trainer. She has always shown a real passion for real estate, and besides buying, renovating, & selling at least a dozen of her own homes in Oakville over the past 35 years, she

Purchased and managed construction on **Investment Properties** in Hamilton. 24 Multiplex units - Bought, managed renovation/construction, decorated, property managed, & sold investment units in Hamilton in the late '80s – all profitable ventures. Herkimer (3), MacNab, Markland, Victoria, & Emerald

Managed the Mississauga Home & Design Centre's "Idea Place", along with a showcase "Idea Home", featuring products provided by suppliers of building & home decorating. She launched the Pickering Home & Design Centre's 'Idea Place' and Idea Home; as well as an "Idea Place" as part of the London Home & Design Centre. She was also involved in the Home & Design Centre in Philadelphia, USA.

Added business credentials:

- In the early '80s – increased membership of the Oakville Chamber of Commerce from 325 members, to a thriving membership of 700+
- Started the very successful Business Women's Network at the Oakville Chamber of Commerce in about 1982, way before 'networking' was part of our vernacular. Possibly the very first formal network in Canada
- Helped launch the Enterprise Centre in Oakville – an incubator to help get people employed by creating and managing their own businesses
- Created, produced, and hosted a series of T.V. shows for Cogeco in Halton including one which spawned and featured the Final Stage Housing Project – creating safe beautiful nurturing housing for women and children who were victims of domestic violence

Social Innovation:

She is also a successful social entrepreneur. She has created a not for profit called suiteLiving 360 after decades of volunteer participation in social housing projects. suiteLiving360 is an innovative initiative, supporting seniors, mainly women, with affordable housing & 360 wrap around 'quality lifestyle' opportunities.

Web site: www.suiteliving360.org

As a social innovator, Norma's 'social housing' credentials include:

Final Stage Housing – Halton & Peel – 18 Units (accessed & rented through social assistance programs) for Final Stage Housing. Created and coordinated this program over THREE years for abused women, both single and mothers with children leaving Halton Women's Place (a shelter). Initiated & coordinated multiple community partners such as Rotary, Sheridan College Interior Design students, Cogeco, Halton Women's Place, fabric manufacturers, & Maplehurst Correctional centre in Milton. Decorated 18 safe, beautiful, nurturing homes for recipients caught in the cycle of domestic violence. Alarmingly positive outcomes! Effectively "interrupted the cycle of domestic violence" with the result that not one of the recipients returned to an abusive home, (which almost guarantee return trips to the shelter!) Project was

featured in the Globe & Mail, MacLeans magazine, CityLine with Marilyn Denis, CBC noon, & local media. The remnants of this project spawned the following::

Home Suite Hope – Halton

Helped start Home Suite Hope, an assisted housing program for the homeless in Halton. Norma's innovation; her previous housing experience; and her obvious compassion for those in dire straits, contributed to the formation of what has become a highly acclaimed not for profit in Halton.

Caledon Home for Women recovering from Addictions – coordinated 24 students of Interior Design program and 24 Rotary volunteers, and thousands of hands' on hours, to modify and decorate this beautiful 25 acre home for women.

Norma initiated both local & international philanthropic projects & programs to do with housing, education, & health:

- Innovative projects to help combat AIDS in S. Africa including an innovative Community Centre program for AIDS orphans & grandmothers – 11 centres built & functioning to date
- Memory Box Project for AIDS orphans in South Africa
- School libraries for thousands of disadvantaged schoolchildren in South Africa
- Support and salaries for school teachers of girls in Afghanistan
- Supported and facilitated multiple youth initiatives in Canada including **Free the Children, Taking IT Global; Top 20 under 20; & Prime Mentors of Canada**

Norma Gamble is

+ a Rotarian, 4 time Paul Harris Fellow. She is the President of the Passport South Rotary Club and is the District 7080 Chair for Community Service. – She is past District Chair, International Service, as well as Group Study Exchange. - As a Group Study Exchange team leader, Norma led a non Rotarian team to Austria and the Czech Republic on a diplomatic, business, & humanitarian initiative in the mid '90s.

+ an ATHENA Award recipient for Oakville (2003) – awarded for business excellence, social entrepreneurship, and mentoring.

+ a Halton Woman of the Year nominee (2004). Also nominated for RBC's Business Women of the Year

+ recipient in 2017 "Honouring 150 Years of Exemplary Women" to coincide with Canada's 150th anniversary. Honoured by The Women's Centre of Halton.