

# The SOCIETY Scoop

## SEASONS' GREETINGS FROM ADMINISTRATOR, ROXANNE ADAMS



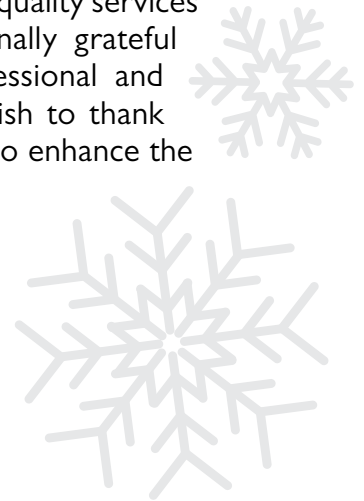
As the year comes to a close and we celebrate the Christmas holidays, we invite families and friends to visit loved ones and to participate in the many special programs that are offered to our residents this season. Our resident choir, the Villa Voices, have been

practicing for months and are ready to showcase their talent during the holidays.

Our Union Villa Holiday Open House, Christmas Musical, Travelogue to Holy-Land and Palestine, and festive cultural presentations are some of the programs that make the season a joyous time of year for both the residents and their families.

None of the above celebrations would be possible without our dedicated staff and volunteers who go above and beyond to ensure that our residents age well and live better each and every day. The residents are truly blessed to be in the care of staff and volunteers who provide quality services and programs. I am personally grateful to work with such a professional and compassionate team and wish to thank them for the work they do to enhance the lives of our residents.

*On behalf of the Management and staff, I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*



## CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS SPREAD HOLIDAY HAPPINESS



We are so pleased that our volunteer program has attracted both small and large groups of corporate volunteers wanting

to give back to their community. Their interest in hands-on opportunities has given participants a better understanding of the needs of those living in long term care.

In December, staff from AVIVA Insurance and RBC each hosted events celebrating the holiday season at

Union Villa. Residents enjoyed holiday card making, crafting ornaments, enjoying a festive tea social and making new friends. At the Unionville Community Centre for Seniors, a group from State Street Corporation organized a Christmas Luncheon for over 60 seniors with full table service, raffle prizes, and a caroling finale.



## UPDATES FROM ACTING CEO, JULIE HORNE

The fundamental principle which drives the Long-Term Care Homes Act inspires us to provide a home where residents live with dignity and in security, safety and in comfort. Every day we have a choice to treat others as we ourselves would like to be treated. This, the golden rule, is so simple yet often brushed aside in the hustle and bustle of a busy day. We are proud that our staff are guided by our organization's Values and commit themselves to caring genuinely and passionately, respecting one another, and serving with integrity and commitment.

In October, the Senior Team and members of the Board hosted the "Giving Thanks" staff appreciation event. There were three meal seatings to allow all staff to participate and enjoy a meal with their colleagues during their shift. It was lovely to see the respect that our staff have for one another. I too am grateful for every member of our UHS team and the role they each play to uphold the quality care and services we provide.

Next was the Fall Leadership Square discussions which focused on teamwork and the importance of safeguarding the health and safety of our seniors and our staff. We pursue ways to be more efficient with our daily tasks and to work cohesively across all departments.

Our newest initiative to further the quality care we provide and elevate the standard of care is the



launch of the M.O.V. (Model Our Values) Squad. The Senior Leadership Team recognized twelve staff members who consistently model our organizational values and have earned the respect and trust of their colleagues. This dynamic group, together with the Leadership Team, will share ideas, encourage dialogue, gather input and feedback, and inspire change to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone on our campus.

The M.O.V. Squad's first activity was to participate in customer service and teamwork training to help identify better ways for our staff to connect with residents and families and improve how we work together. The next step is to share this learning with their coworkers. I am excited about the future and the continued investment in our staff and ensuring the best for our residents.

*From Our Home to Yours, Season's Greetings and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2019, on behalf of the Board of Directors and Senior Leadership Team.*



On behalf of our  
residents and staff,  
Happy Holidays!





## 2018 CORE VALUES AWARD CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECIPIENTS

Recently announced at the Unionville Home Society Staff Holiday Dinner, the team proudly recognized one employee and one team for their dedication and commitment to incorporating the Core Values in their work and relationships at UHS.



**Individual Recipient:** Gavin Tamaya is an individual that everyone knows and appreciates. He is often the first person that visitors see when they enter through our main doors and the first person that staff go to when they have a need. Gavin engages across all departments, and is always caring and respectful and willing to help. Gavin may be soft spoken but he always takes the time needed to help each resident without rushing or causing fuss. He goes above and beyond his daily role, volunteering in the Villa after his shift and at helping out at community events. He is a long-time dedicated employee with over 20 years of service.



**Team Recipient:** The Union Villa Recreation team is responsible for providing a variety of recreational services that maximize our residents' physical, cognitive, social, emotional and spiritual well-being. The Recreation staff are true multi-taskers and a creative bunch, taking great lengths to engage and connect with each and every resident of the home. Each member of this team is equally passionate about their role and recognize the diversity and uniqueness of our residents, all while unifying our home.

## FEEL GOOD PROGRAMS



Union Villa residents enjoy activities filled with social engagement and therapeutic benefits. New initiatives are in store for 2019 that will focus on increasing emotional wellness, improving social interaction and the overall experience of aging.

**Comic Relief** – It is no secret that laughter can be the best medicine which is why the Villa is bringing in elder clowns to interact with our residents as part of a comprehensive care plan. Research in long term care settings have shown that residents who have interacted with the clowns on a regular basis had a significant reduction in depression and aggression levels.



During a recent pilot at Union Villa, two therapy clowns spent an afternoon going room to room, interacting with residents. The interactions varied from a few minutes to longer, based on how the resident was reacting. Staff saw non-verbal residents engage with the clowns in small but significant ways. Residents were more relaxed and energized after their visit. The elder-clowns wore vintage outfits, evoking memories of the past.

**Let the Music Play** – Music is profoundly linked to personal memories and can tap deep emotional recall. Music can lift our spirits, calm us, and enable us to connect with others. Research has shown that music boosts brain activity and can shift mood, manage stress and stimulate positive interactions. The enhanced Music Program will be launched in early 2019 thanks to funding from the Foundation and will include one on one sessions with certified Music Therapists, and increased group events with musical theater and performances.

# 2018 UNION VILLA DINNER PARTY

## FUNDRAISING FOR A "SWEET HOME"

On November 2nd, the Unionville Home Society Foundation hosted its signature fundraiser, the 2018 Union Villa Dinner Party & After Lounge. Co-Chairs, Audrey Jamieson and Samantha van Velzen emceed a wonderful evening at the Angus Glen Golf Club. This year's theme, "Sweet Home Union Villa", highlighted the importance of providing a home like environment that promotes quality of care and quality of life.



The event engaged more than 350 supporters who helped raise over \$113,000. These funds will directly benefit Project "Comfort Excellence", an initiative that focuses on enhancing the Villa's home-like surroundings. Past Dinner Party events have supported the replacement of all beds and mattresses, funded art and music programs and safety and security enhancements.



Guests enjoyed a great dinner, dancing to live music, silent and live auctions, retro arcade games and photobooth, and a heartfelt video featuring our Villa staff and residents created by Senova Canada. This year's After Lounge party had a record number of young philanthropists thanks to social media connections.



**SAVE THE DATE AND DON'T MISS THE 2019 DINNER PARTY:  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2019 • ANGUS GLEN**