

The SOCIETY Scoop

HOLIDAY GREETING FROM INTERIM CEO JULIE HORNE



Julie joins Aviva volunteers and residents for a holiday social.

Already mid-December and the end of the calendar year is fast approaching. It's a busy time of year and we have many activities planned on campus with our residents and clients to celebrate and enjoy the beauty of the season. Decorations are up and holiday music is playing almost everywhere you go.

There is much to do at home and out and about: shopping, baking, visiting, travelling, eating and enjoying the company of others.

I hope that you will be able to find time amongst the hustle and bustle to enjoy all the wonders of this joyful season.

From our NUHS home to yours, Season's Greetings and best wishes to you and yours for a prosperous 2020.



2019 CORE VALUES WINNERS



On November 29th, the New Unionville Home Society proudly honoured two employees for exemplifying our core values through their daily actions, attitude and performance. They were nominated by their peers, residents and families for going the extra mile to enhance the lives of the seniors they support.

Congratulations to our Recipients:

Joanna Hogan, Personal Support Worker,
Adult Day Program - 19 Years of Service

Allen Chen, Registered Practical Nurse,
Union Villa – 1 Year of Service

Resident Profile – Meet Sin Yee (Cindy) Ho

Cindy moved into Union Villa in April 2019 and is one of our youngest residents.

Cindy was born in Hong Kong but immigrated to Canada with her family about twenty years ago. Her first job was as a tailor at a local clothing factory for several years and because of her impeccable sewing skills she was chosen by the company to make the sample clothes that were presented to potential retailers. They were flawless pieces.

Cindy met a wonderful man who was running a small restaurant and they soon got married. Shortly after Cindy decided to quit her job as a tailor to help her husband run the family restaurant. Together, the restaurant business expanded and eventually they became owners of a seafood restaurant with over ten thousand square feet. The restaurant became a local favorite among customers with well-known chefs providing customized menu options which is popular in South East Asia. Customers would come in and order from the regular menu, or they could bring their own live fish from the local market and ask the chefs to create a unique meal. Seafood is a favorite in Hong Kong and a big part of the culture.

While Cindy and her husband were growing their business, they welcomed 3 children, a girl and 2 boys, into their family and each one two years apart. Cindy considered herself a traditional Asian woman and as such she needed to take care of their young children mostly by herself, in addition to helping in the restaurant. Cindy considers this the busiest time in her life but also her happiest years. As a result of their successes, her children were able to attend one of the best private schools.

Unfortunately the happy years didn't last too long as Cindy's husband was diagnosed with cancer and passed away soon after. The timing of his passing coincided with the transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong from Great Britain to the People's Republic of China in 1997. Because of the uncertainty of their future and afraid of the social system changes that



were to come, Cindy decided to sell the restaurant and bring her teenage children to Canada.

Like many immigrants in Canada, the family experienced culture shock and language barriers. Cindy found herself unable to establish her career in Canada. Looking back at the decision to leave Hong Kong, Cindy realizes the sacrifices her children had to make leaving behind their friends and their school. Years later, two of her children decided to move back to Hong Kong after finishing University in Canada.

Cindy has made Union Villa her new home and enjoys the company of her fellow residents. She participates in most of the Chinese activities and especially enjoys playing Mahjong with her friends. Cindy takes pleasure in the hymn sing program where she enjoys sitting quietly and listening to the beautiful music.



Volunteer Spotlight – Elaine Ashton

BIG OR SMALL, THIS VOLUNTEER DOES IT ALL

Volunteering on our campus takes many forms. Sometimes it looks like organizing a special event. Sometimes, it's visiting with residents, or helping run programs. However, there is a special type of volunteer; the one who seems to do all those forgotten, neglected tasks in the background. The volunteer who makes sure there is fresh coffee at every event and who quietly cleans up when everyone else has gone. The volunteer that is unquestionably reliable and always present.



At the Unionville Community Centre for Seniors (UCCS), Elaine Ashton *is* that volunteer. Elaine was born in Goodwood, Ontario; she moved to Unionville in 1972. Elaine is an amateur historian of the community and enjoys the Unionville area so much that she says, she “would never live anywhere else.”

Her volunteer journey began six years ago when she and her husband Art moved into Heritage Village -the cottages that surround the community centre.

Aside from helping run large-scale events, Elaine takes it upon herself to stock the pantry with treats, wind the grandfather clock, put on a pot of coffee before bingo, and decorate the centre around holidays. She is always ready to welcome a new member to the centre and help them feel at home. She enjoys participating in crafts, trivia and bingo, and is always up for a chat over a cup of coffee.

She is a jack-of-all-trades and a true fixture at the community centre, ensuring that the little things get done, so that programs and events go off without a hitch. She is self-effacing at the best of times, humble, and generous to a fault. She never looks for recognition of her volunteer work. She volunteers because she “likes to help out.” Her work at the centre clearly brings her purpose and fulfillment, but really, she volunteers because she loves her community, and because it doesn't occur to her *not* to.

Elaine, thank you for doing the little things.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

AND MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN THE LIVES OF OUR SENIORS

Since 1968, volunteers have provided thoughtful and meaningful support to the seniors on our campus.

From 14 to over 99 years of age, our volunteers come from near and far, are individuals and corporate citizens, and play a prominent role in delivering programs, running events, fundraising and sharing their expertise on our boards.

Volunteering at the New Unionville Home Society is rewarding, introduces you to new skills, and connects you to community. Volunteers support our mission of enhancing the experience of aging, one person at a time.

Join us and help improve the quality of life for the seniors on our campus.

For more information on our Volunteer Program, please contact Volunteer Services at volunteer@uhs.on.ca or 905.477.2839 ext 4236.

Staff Spotlight – Joanna Hogan

It was 1999 when a friend introduced Joanna to Union Villa. Joanna submitted a resume and was quickly hired but encouraged to get the Personal Support Worker Certificate. Within a year, Joanna was hired full time after graduating. Her career began in the original Villa on the Alzheimer's unit, and then running the Anna Russell Spa providing baths in addition to doing resident's hair and nails. In 2001, Joanna joined the Adult Day Program (ADP) and since then has impacted hundreds of lives with her calming demeanor and genuine interest in their wellbeing.

Joanna's efforts have received high praise not only by her clients and colleagues but by the Alzheimer's Society of York Region who honoured her with the Family Choice Award for Excellence in Caregiving from 2002 to 2004.

Joanna has always been passionate about seniors and committed to supporting her clients and their families. No matter what the task, Joanna embraces her clients with an open heart and genuine warmth.

Joanna has many talents but her most visible efforts are displayed in the ADP outdoor space where she transformed a grassed area into a seasonally inspired thera-

peutic garden. The courtyard connects her Day Program clients, and everyone else at the Villa, to the beauty of nature and the local wildlife.

The favorite part of her day is at the beginning of the program when clients come in and give Joanna a big hug. She is humbled by the affection and kindness that her clients give to her and all the staff at ADP.

Joanna is always happy to give advice when asked by family members on how to manage their loved one's behaviour. Her advice is to have lots of patience and empathy. "Love the person for who they were and still are" says Joanna.



LONG TIME VOLUNTEER TURNS 100



Ladies Auxiliary member since 1968, **Branch Duncan** recently celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by family, friends and fellow volunteers. For over five decades, Branch has been giving of her time, talent and treasures to Unionville Home Society. Working in the gift shop, crafting and helping with the annual bazaars, and working the reception desk at the community centre have been just a few of the volunteer roles that she has embraced.

To commemorate Branch's birthday and long standing commitment to our organization alongside the Ladies Auxiliary, a plaque naming the gift shop after her and the Auxiliary was presented.

Branch, surrounded by Ladies Auxiliary members Loreen Henderson and June Healey, Board Chair Glenn Crosby and Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

LIVE, LAUGH, UNION VILLA – 2019 DINNER PARTY RAISES OVER \$110,000

We are grateful to the over 400 supporters who demonstrated their commitment to quality seniors care by attending the evening, sponsoring the event, donating to the silent auction, and volunteering to make it a success.

Drawing from research and proven models of care to support the growing number of residents living with Alzheimers and other forms of dementia, funds raised will be invested in programs that support a dementia friendly environment, one that benefits the health, independence and safety of all who live at Union Villa.



*Thank you
sponsors and supporters for helping us fund innovative seniors care for our residents*

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**UNION VILLA
Ladies Auxiliary**

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A Union Villa fundraising tradition continues...

On November 30, the Ladies Auxiliary hosted their annual Holiday Bazaar.

Throughout the year the Auxiliary meets weekly to sew and knit items for sale. They take in donations of nearly new items and spend hours baking treats to sell. Their commitment and energy level is much to be admired. **This year's Bazaar raised \$4000 for resident initiatives.**

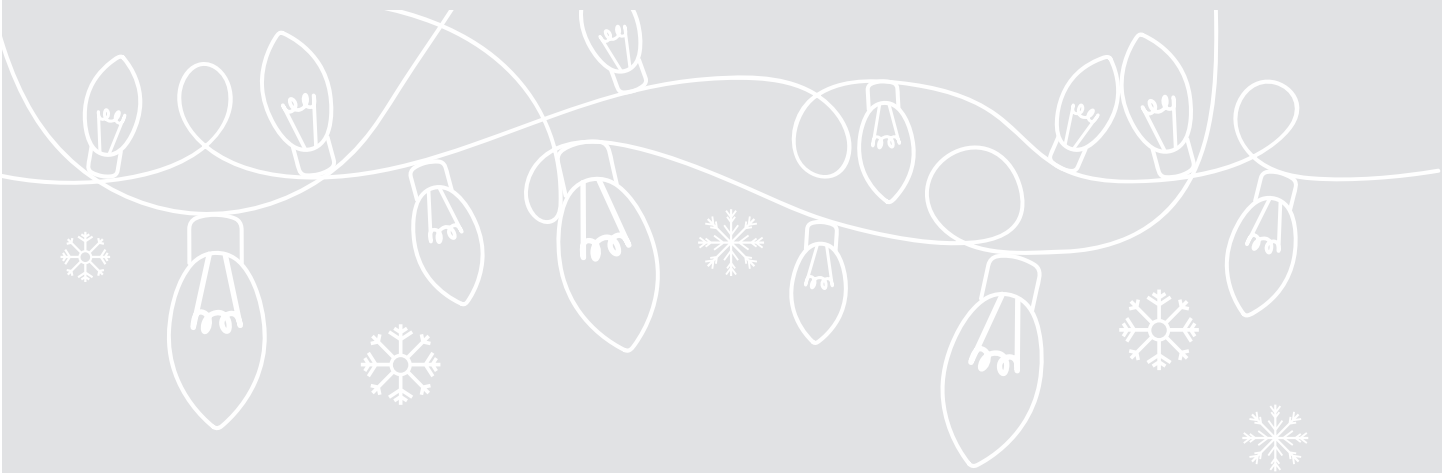
Their efforts continue on a weekly basis running the Union Villa gift shop. Don't forget to stop by as the revenue supports the residents.







GIVE THE GIFT OF COMFORT & CARE 2019 HOLIDAY GIVING CAMPAIGN



This is the time of year when we reflect on the kindness of our supporters who have enhanced the quality of care for our residents with their generous support.

Many of our resident priorities are not eligible for Ministry of Health and Long Term Care funding which is why we need your help.

All gifts regardless of amount, create meaningful impact and contribute to the compassionate care that our home provides to our seniors. Our holiday appeal is a humble request to families, friends and the community. No matter the amount, all gifts create opportunities to enhance resident programs, upgrade care equipment and provide a home like environment.

Funds raised from this year's Holiday Giving Campaign will go towards the purchase of hygiene/shower chairs that feature unique functions that enable staff to provide sensitive, high quality hygiene care that maintains the resident's dignity. This piece of care equipment costs approximately \$10,000 and our goal is to raise enough to purchase three, one for each floor.

Union Villa is truly a home thanks to our donors. **Join us this holiday season and give to our residents.** Please contact the Foundation office for more information on how you can make a gift to help our seniors age well and live better.

Unionville Home Society Foundation
905.477.2839 ext 4270

Charitable Registration #87172 1940 RR0001



On behalf of our
residents and staff,
Happy Holidays!

