

The SOCIETY Scoop



Message from our CEO, Debra Cooper Burger

This will be my last contribution to the Scoop Newsletter. At the beginning of 2017, I informed the Board that I planned to leave by the end of 2017. Over the several months leading up to that decision, I thoughtfully

considered my most important personal goals and the relationships I cherish most and have concluded with mixed emotions that it's time for me to spend my time and energy on other priorities.

It has been my great honor and privilege to be part of the Unionville Home Society team for the last eight plus years. Together, we have improved, enhanced, strengthened and modernized our services, our programs and our properties – all for the residents and clients we serve.

I can honestly say that I appreciate all the joys and challenges that came with being CEO.

The position is a complex role to fill - a lot of different skills, experience and capabilities are needed and our Board of Directors is committed to making sure that the next CEO is the right person for the right time for the campus.

No leader accomplishes anything alone and so many people have been involved in the truly transformative achievements over these past years and I leave an organization well-positioned to meet the opportunities and challenges ahead.

While my departure date is not yet established I can tell you that I will miss the close working relationships I have enjoyed with residents, families, staff, volunteers and wonderful community partners and supporters. You will remain in my thoughts and I thank you for your encouragement, support and dedication during my tenure as CEO.

Joining the Recreation and Social Activities Team



Welcome Pauline Phillips to the Union Villa team as Supervisor of Recreation and Social Activities. Pauline brings 7+ years of experience in a long term setting at the managerial level and over 18 years in the banking sector. Pauline's thirst for learning has earned her Honours Diplomas in Gerontology and Community Worker, Certificates in Business Management and in Human Resources Management. She is currently completing an Honours BA with a specialization in Gerontology.

Pauline jumped right in with passion and energy, getting to know the residents and their families, "I am so excited to be working with a dynamic recreation team, in such a progressive home that is person-centered and focused on quality programs."

You can reach Pauline at 905.477.2839 ext 4236.

Fond Farewell from the Adult Day Program

It is with mixed emotions that the Adult Day Program says “farewell” to one of their dear clients, Ms. Rama Chauhan. A client since 2004. Rama embraced every new friendship and rekindled her passion for many of her past hobbies like art and music. Rama has said that her participation has kept her fit with the yoga program and tending to the ADP gardens.

“I will miss the word search over tea and toast. I will miss bingo, Hymn Sing and all the jokes and hugs. I think I will miss everything but will cherish the beautiful people I spent it with.”

We will miss Rama and wish her all the best in her community and the start of a new Adult Day Program. Rama is eager to meet new people and to offer suggestions to her new program about how it’s done at Union Villa.

Rama kept it simple with her final goodbye: “The staff, volunteers and friends - they were always so good to me. God bless them until we meet again.”



Rama (Center) & ADP Team

Sharing my Co-op Experience

BY ELIZABETH AGOSTA

I joined the Unionville Home Society (UHS) team as a high school co-op student in February 2017. My placement experience allowed me to contribute to the Unionville Home Society Foundation by writing pieces for the The Society Scoop Newsletter and assist with special events like the Volunteer Appreciation event. For The Scoop, I interviewed residents and composed two resident profile articles that are featured in this newsletter edition.

In addition, I helped with recreation programs and was able to talk with Union Villa residents on a regular basis. I’ve had such a great time, and developed a special bond with many at the Villa. The residents have enriched my co-op experience, because they remind me of my grandmother, who took care of me and my brother when we were young.

Twice a week I had the privilege of helping out in the Gift Shop alongside members of the Auxiliary, selling treats to the residents, visitors and staff. While my placement ended in June, I still volunteer for special events, including resident outings. I would highly recommend UHS to students who are interested in co-op placements and volunteering, as Union Villa is a special place filled with special people.



Elizabeth (Center) with Volunteer Coordinator Nicole

MY LIFE: A Resident Profile

MEET MARIA



I grew up in Toronto, Ontario, with my four siblings and we all got along well with each other. My youngest sister is an amazing dancer and we danced tap together over the years, as children.

I didn't travel much, but have visited family in the United States. If I could choose one destination for travel, it would be Greece. My father, a Bulgarian, taught me how to speak, read and write in the language. He also helped me become familiar

with the Greek alphabet and the language. You would be surprised to learn how similar the Bulgarian alphabet is to the English alphabet.

I have a love of learning and exploring which is why I am very active in the programs offered at Union Villa. I participate in the church services and even in the art classes. I think everyone should learn as much as they can; find the one field that interests you, and pursue it.

As a new resident here, I made friends easily and developed a close bond with one of my neighbours, Margaret, who has since passed, and I miss her dearly. When I moved here, back in August 2013, all of the nursing staff gave me a warm welcome and I have had positive experiences with the care they provide for me. Overall, I have adjusted quite well to life at Union Villa.

MEET GEORGE



If there was one place in the world I could travel to, it would be Ireland, to see where my father grew up before he came to Canada. I was born in Owen Sound, but my family later moved to Toronto. When I was young I had difficulty walking. My mother

massaged my limbs every day and although I was able to walk daily using two canes, my brother and sister would sometimes hold onto both of my arms, to help my balance.

In Grade 4, I landed a job at the local pharmacy earning \$1.00 to deliver medication to people who lived nearby. In high school, I joined the track and field team and trained under a coach who was a former Olympian. At age 16, I competed in the

Junior Olympics, and placed first in the one-mile race which led to a track-and-field scholarship to attend the University of Dubuque, in Iowa. I played a lot of sports and eventually became a physical education teacher. Sadly, I had to leave my teaching post after two years, due to being drafted to the U.S. Army.

A few years later after leaving the army, I felt like the Lord was calling me to serve him, so my father-in-law helped me to become a minister. For 25 years, I increased the church membership in New York City and New Jersey, welcoming all.

If you have a dream, strive to achieve it. Be prepared, don't just take a job for money, and never give up.

I enjoy life at Union Villa, as I really love the food, and enjoy spending time with my Villa neighbors. The nursing staff are really good at caring for us residents.

Happy 30th Anniversary Wyndham Gardens: 1987 - 2017



This past summer, the residents of Wyndham along with friends from Heritage Village celebrated this milestone at the Unionville Community Centre for Seniors. A dedicated group of volunteers from WG spent months planning the wonderful affair with catered food featuring a huge spread and a roast pig.

The Beez Band, sponsored by Stephen Tar, entertained with a fabulous playlist. From the first song, they had people dancing and singing along. The ambiance was enhanced with a Hawaiian Luau theme. Everyone was welcome with colourful leis and many looked like they were tourists visiting the island.

Special thanks to our local Councillor Don Hamilton, who dropped by to convey his best wishes.

The folks at Wyndham Gardens sure know how to throw a great party!

CARF is coming to UNION VILLA

Preparation for our upcoming CARF Survey this Fall is underway and we are confident for another successful Accreditation from CARF International. CARF is an independent non-profit organization with over fifty years experience accrediting fifty thousand programs in health and human services organizations. Being an accredited organization with CARF not only shows our commitment to continuous quality improvement of care and services to persons served; but it also demonstrates how we enhance the experience of aging one person at a time. The organization will be seeking to accredit Union Villa, our Adult Day Program, and our Dementia Speciality Unit.

The two CARF surveyors who have been selected to survey our home are our peers who currently work in other long-term care and Adult Day Program settings. The surveyors will measure us against 1400+ international CARF Standards over three days to see how we measure up. They will meet with residents, families, staff and key stakeholders to elicit their experiences with care and services from the organization during the onsite survey. They will also observe our programs, services and

practice; as well as, review our documentation to ensure the organization is in conformance to all areas of the CARF standards. Also, the surveyors will provide consultation and make suggestions to us on how we could improve our community where older adults thrive aging well and living better.

At the end of this extensive audit, the surveyors will provide us with a preliminary report of their findings and the organization will receive its final report within six to eight weeks of the surveyors completing our survey.

Stayed tuned for the results.



Family Ties Inspire Volunteering

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: RUTH BROWNING



Ruth (Center) and her Tea volunteers

My name is Ruth Browning and my mother, the late Lilian Stevens came to live at the original Union Villa in 2003 at the age of 98. I started out volunteering on shopping trips, outings, holiday bazaars, staff recognition events and initiatives such as the penny drive and raffle baskets. I also attended Family Council meetings as I wanted to be an advocate for my Mother and her fellow residents.

In 2008, Activation asked me if I would put on a Sunday afternoon tea for the residents. Although born in England, I have never tasted tea but I knew the process of making a good “cuppa” as both my parents loved their tea. For each Tea, we lay place settings of China cups and saucers that were kindly donated by Family Council members and resident families. We choose various themes to honour a holiday, special occasion or culture. When the home was the site for voting in the 2015 Election, this inspired the Suffragettes theme. And what Tea would be complete without celebrating the Queen’s Jubilee and her 90th birthday, which garnered a royal thank

you from Buckingham Palace in response to our Birthday card signed by many of our residents.

These Teas are possible because of our amazing volunteers who often arrive in theme attire and donate their time on a Sunday afternoon to set up for the event, serve tea and interact with our residents. I would like to extend an enormous thank you to those happy band of volunteers, many of whom are teenagers signed on directly with Union Villa and through the Unionville Youth Council. It is heartwarming to see our residents enjoy the inter-generational fellowship. Thank you also to the Family Council for supporting these fun initiatives.

Comments like, “That was the nicest cup of tea” and the thank yous we hear from residents and their family are inspiring. I would encourage everyone who is able to volunteer at Union Villa to do so, because it makes such an amazing difference in the lives of our residents.

Everyone is welcome to the Afternoon Tea sponsored by the Union Villa Family Council which are usually held on the second Sunday of each month, except in the summer months.



THE HOMEFRONT

Union Villa Courtyard has Never Looked Better

This past summer, the resident courtyard was renovated with grounds being refreshed with proceeds from the Garden by the Green event. The highlight of the reno was



the addition of a beautiful new garden, professionally landscaped with funds from a memorial gift from the Tidball family. "It brings me great comfort to think of the residents and their families and staff enjoying this revitalized space that my mother and I enjoyed so much," said Michelle Tidball who was joined by her family at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 2nd.

UHS Campus Joins in the CANADA 150 Celebration

Thanks to the **Celebrate Markham Grant** program, we received funding to host a series of events to commemorate Canada's 150th birthday with the seniors on our campus. Markham Classic Cruisers helped us kick off the celebration with over 50 vintage cars on site. The planned events focused on Canada from West coast to East Coast. Residents were able to sample Canadian fare and experience the sounds of that region.

Our first stop was to the Calgary stampede. This was the Great Canadian BBQ, served up with sliders, poutine and authentic country music that got everyone dancing.

Our second destination was to Victoria, where we had a taste of elegance with The Great Canadian Tea Social. Residents were treated to a traditional Tea, with tiered treats both sweet and savory. UHS Volunteer Dave entertained on the piano while his talented daughters accompanied him with voice.

Our last stop across Canada was to the East Coast, where we had an authentic outdoor Fish Fry, battered and fried onsite. Add a talented fiddler and we were transported to the beautiful Eastern provinces. This truly was an experience that impressed everyone in attendance.



**Celebrate
Markham**
Funding generously provided by
this City of Markham program



2017 Unionville Charity Golf Classic – FORE Union Villa

Co-Chairs Danny Fantini and Larry Mariani along with their tireless committee put on another remarkable tournament with proceeds benefitting the residents at Union Villa LTC. The early morning shotgun started under perfect weather conditions and ended with showers but that did not put a damper on the golfers and volunteers who made it a great day. Sponsor support was visible everywhere. Even Canada's 150th was celebrated with a vintage red fire truck on the 1st hole providing a photo opportunity for all foursomes.

Over \$65,000 NET was raised and is designated to fund the installation of safety and security enhancements in resident home areas.

THANK YOU to all who participated, as well as our generous sponsors who continue to demonstrate their leadership in making long-term care a priority for the seniors in our communities.

Watch out for more details on the 4th Annual Unionville Charity Golf Classic in June 2018.



Winning Foursome – LedgeMark Homes



Co-Chairs with Mayor Frank Scarpitti & Councillor Don Hamilton



Danny Fantini, NUHS CEO Debra Cooper Burger, Foundation Chair Patrick O'Hanlon, Larry Mariani



Founding Sponsors – Bonnie & Jim Cochrane, Town + Country



Presenting Sponsor – The Watford Group

Join Us for Dinner - Union Villa Dinner Party Awaits You

Since 1968, Unionville Home Society Foundation has been fundraising to directly impact the health and wellness, care and comfort of the residents at Union Villa Long Term Care home.

This year's annual signature fundraiser, Union Villa Dinner Party, is on November 3rd and we invite you to join us. Enjoy a memorable night, with live entertainment, a gourmet meal, cocktails, live and silent auctions, and opportunities to celebrate our residents.

This year's theme **"Let the Music Play"**, captures the importance of music in enhancing the

quality of life of our frail and elderly seniors. Music LIFTS our spirits, CALMS us, and ENABLES us to connect with others.

Proceeds raised at the 2017 Dinner Party will support the Music Therapy program in addition to initiatives that enhance the residents' home-like surroundings and experience.

Thank you for your continued support and helping fulfill our vision of fostering a progressive community where older adults are thriving, aging well and living better.

Unionville Home Society Foundation proudly presents

Let the Music play

2017 UNION VILLA
DINNER PARTY & After Lounge

Friday, November 3rd, 2017
Angus Glen Golf Club 6:30 PM

Dinner Party Tickets \$200
Corporate Tables \$2500

To purchase tickets or inquire about sponsorship, please contact the Foundation Office at 905.477.2839 ext. 4270

Celebrating residents who embrace living

Charitable Registration #87172 1940 RR0001



CELEBRATING
THEIR
**9TH
YEAR**
AS SIGNATURE
SPONSOR

A Donation that Sounds Great!

Thanks to a grant from the J.P. Bickell Foundation, the Villa now has 5 brand new pianos - one for each resident home area.

