

The SOCIETY Scoop

SEASONS'S GREETINGS FROM OUR CEO ABBY KATZ STARR



I have had the privilege of serving New Unionville Home Society as President and CEO for almost two years now. Our NUHS “family” far-reaching: from our residents in the Villa, Heritage Village and in Wyndham Gardens; our clients through the Geriatric Outreach Team who rely on us to guide them through tough decisions; the clients in our Adult Day Program who we have faithfully served throughout this time, virtually and now in person, and our members and users of our Seniors Active Living Centre, the UCCS, as we broaden our reach to support the seniors community; and our employees who provide care and support, bring laughter and joy into our hearts, and who are tireless in their efforts; and thankfully returning volunteers who choose to serve their community through us; our committed and loyal donors who support our mission; and finally our steadfast Board members.

During this past year, together we have done everything necessary and beyond and often making personal sacrifices to serve those who needed us. We have creatively offered new ways to connect, through virtual programming, FaceTime and Skype, and most important, we have come through stronger, ready for anything and everything!

As the year comes to a close, it seems appropriate to acknowledge important events that are marked in December. They include the annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons which aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities which is on December 3, followed by International Volunteer Day, mandated by the UN General Assembly, held each year on the 5th of December, a unique chance for us to celebrate the important role of our volunteers; and finally, we mark Human Rights Day on December 10th. Each year, Human Rights Day has a different theme. In 2021, Human Rights Day is focusing on how rights are the beginning of peace within societies, and a way to create a fairer society for future generations.

So, in the spirit of this important time, we look back on where we have been, what we have come through, and now look forward to a journey that we will do together. I wish you all peace, good health, and happiness in 2022.



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YEAR END REFLECTION FROM NUHS BOARD CHAIR CHRISTINE JOE



As I reflect on 2021, I could dwell on all the challenges we faced such as lockdowns, continuously changing LTC directives, routine COVID screenings, as well as the realities of our new normal but I would rather praise the way our staff and leadership managed throughout this crazy year, to ensure the safest environment for our clients, families and friends. I am also inspired by the optimism that has returned to the campus with resumed in-person visits for our residents, the Unionville Community Centre for Seniors restarting in-person programs and the return of the Adult Day Program clients.

I look forward with hope and continued optimism to an exciting 2022. Since taking on the role of NUHS Board Chair in June 2021, I continue to be amazed at the quality and commitment of our staff, the engagement of our Residents' and Family Councils, the strength of our volunteers and the incredible depth of our donors. We will continue to make NUHS/UHS a vibrant and exciting campus of care that enables older adults to thrive; aging well and living better.

On behalf of my fellow Board of Directors, I wish you the happiest of holidays and may 2022 bring you peace, joy and prosperity.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT – JUNE HEALEY VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

I live on the Unionville Home Society campus and I really enjoy running the gift shop every Wednesday having been a volunteer for over 50 years.

It all started when the Unionville Council of Churches met to discuss the need for housing and care services for seniors. I met my good friend Branch in the kitchen where she was making coffee for everyone. The Ladies Auxiliary formed and we started canvassing the community for funds to build Union Villa.

One of my favourite personal memories is being so excited waiting for Father Christmas in England during the war and looking forward to opening our pillow cases at the end of our bed where we would find a fine selection of British chocolates!

Some of my fond memories include having the “Gala” on site, running the Gift Shop storefront from the old building and of course the ever popular Christmas Bazaar.



IN MEMORIUM – BRANCH IRENE DUNCAN 1919-2021

We want to make special mention of a long-standing volunteer who recently passed away. Branch was loved by everyone she met, always there to help, offering drives to Church, sending birthday cards to Union Villa residents, helping at the UCCS reception desk, and baking for the bazaar. She was one of the original members of the Union Villa Ladies Auxiliary with over 50 years of volunteer service. We will always remember her kindness.

ELF ALERT AT UNION VILLA

Did you know that Union Villa has its own group of elves? They are active all year, day in and day out. They do not make toys but are instrumental in sharing joy and helping us in providing a quality service to our residents. We are speaking about our Family and Resident Councils.



Both councils meet on a monthly basis to provide suggestions for improvements but they don't stop there. Our Family Council actively recruits teams of volunteers to work in our gardens for spring planting, watering and fall cleanup. They also decorate the Home for special events and support our Recreation department by assisting with events through volunteering their time and providing financial support for some of our programs. They also take time to recognize our staff for the care they provide.

Our Residents' Council members serve as representatives on each unit to bring forth suggestions and help plan resident activities. This dedicated group of volunteers welcomes new residents and answers questions that arise during the transition period to their new home. They take part in special celebrations and you may even hear our Residents' Council members singing in our halls during the holiday season as many are also members of our choir, the Villa Voices.

We value these groups who serve as advocates for our residents. They help us recognize areas where our services can be improved to meet, and hopefully exceed, the needs and expectations of our residents. Their tireless efforts do not go unnoticed and we wish them a happy holiday season as we look forward to our continued collaboration in 2022 and the years to come.

ADP RE-OPENING – WELCOME BACK



The Adult Day Program (ADP) opened to in-person programming on November 1st, 2021. We are successfully running an in-person and virtual Adult Day Program to serve the many complex needs in our senior community.

With strict York Region Public Health guidelines in place, we are providing our current and new clients with much needed social engagement and a sense of community. Our focus is to provide connection while working on and maintaining some valuable independent life skills through meaningful leisure and recreation programs, both virtually and in-person.

The pandemic moved us to quickly adapt to the physical distancing/lockdown restrictions by developing a virtual Adult Day Program where clients could (and still can) access meaningful, safe leisure programs/groups. We developed 1:1 virtual

sessions by appointment as well as At Home activity kits with personalized refills. The response to our innovation in senior virtual care was welcomed by our current and new clients and family.

Testimony from the son of a long-standing client who attends our virtual 1:1 session:

“Every person has a story. At times it's hard to imagine the trials and tribulations that people have experienced in their lives. But at the end of the day, each person should have their story told regardless of their lot in life. (Our mother) is a remarkable woman and thank you for all the kind, patient and caring assistance that you and your team members give my mother. You will never know how valuable you are and how much we appreciate your efforts.”

Testimony from a recently admitted client's son whose mother is receiving 1:1 virtual sessions:

“Just wanted to say "THANK YOU" for the one-on-one with mom today with the zoom”. “You do have a way of getting her to engage, she was doing well, singing, following your movement, dance moves and puzzle and the Raptors. For a while afterwards, I felt she was more awake and using her brain a little more. Thank you!”

Despite all of the challenges we have faced to re-open and remain safe, we work diligently to make every client feel special and at the 'centre' of our ADP universe.

SHARING OUR HOLIDAY MEMORIES: A SELECTION OF RESIDENT TRADITIONS

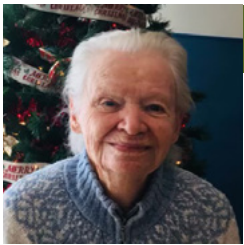


RALPH: BOX GROVE

Favorite holiday tradition: Would gather pine bow and cedar bows, as well as branches with red berries and make a

display for the front porch. He would put it on a black wooden pot. Would do that every year for about 30 years.

Favourite holiday memory: During Christmas Eve the family would always sing Silent Night.

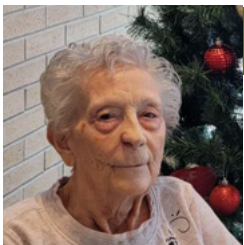


LOIS: UNION MILLS

Favorite holiday tradition: All my family would get together on Christmas and they eat the turkey with cranberry sauce. We all go

to church together on Christmas.

Favourite holiday memory: Having little puppies visit during the Christmas season.



ALMAS: VICTORIA SQUARE

Favorite holiday tradition: During the Christmas holiday, we use to clean our house, decorate the Christmas tree, exchange gifts,

and do a lot of cooking. We have turkey every year.

Favourite holiday memory: Although I lost a lot of my memory, I still remember how we kept WHO Santa IS as a secret from the young children in our family, we were good at hiding the truth from the children. And there is a lot fun when you see the young children waiting for Santa to come with the Christmas gifts, and it was very funny when they found out who Santa is.



VLADIMIR, CEDAR GROVE

Favorite holiday tradition: Traditionally, Russian people like me don't celebrate Christmas, it's a new holiday for us. But we used to decorate the trees for the New Year, and we have fireworks, and special dinners.

Favourite holiday memory: I usually spent my Christmas holiday with my wife in Acapulco in Mexico, which is a beach resort town. We enjoyed the sunshine, the beach, the fine foods, and the drinks there.



ANNA MAE, BUTTONVILLE

Favorite holiday tradition: Going to Midnight Christmas Eve Mass and afterwards we were allowed to open only one gift.

Favourite holiday memory: Getting together with the family and having fun.



MARY, BUTTONVILLE:

Favourite holiday tradition: Mom and Dad would continue with the Ukrainian Tradition by placing straw under the table.

Mom would put candy and nuts on the straw and all the children would crawl under the table to get all the candy and nuts.

Favorite holiday memory: Visitors and family would go skating on the river in Manitoba on Christmas Day.



JANE, BUTTONVILLE

Favourite holiday tradition: We were never able to go downstairs to open the gifts unless everyone was up.

Favorite holiday memory: Celebrating two cultures Ukrainian and Canadian. Ukrainian would be celebrated on Christmas Eve and Canadian on Christmas Day.




UPDATE FROM UCCS

It's been an incredibly busy year at the Unionville Community Centre for Seniors(UCCS) and we've seen uninterrupted interest and commitment from the seniors we serve. Many embraced the various online formats but the re-opening of the centre to in-person activities garnered the most excitement. As one senior shared "I am never lonely when I am at UCCS".

UCCS IS READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS, with a Festive Dinner Party and a Holiday Reception this December for our membership. Our gratitude to the Members' Council who are generously sponsoring both events with funds from their numerous fundraisers over the years.

We are also thrilled to share the return of our Holiday Bazaar with gently used items for sale, holiday décor and a great selection of items for the perfect gifts. For information on this shopping experience, list of vendors or to donate items, please contact the centre at (905) 477-2822 ext. 4235.



UCCS BAZAAR & CAFÉ
Friday, December 17, 2021
10 am to 4 pm
17 Anna Russell Way,
Unionville

SENIORS WELLNESS SYMPOSIUM EVENT HIGHLIGHT

The Unionville Community Centre for Seniors (UCCS) hosted a week-long, online Seniors' Wellness Symposium this past November. This event was made possible by funding from the City of Markham's Celebrate Markham Grant.

Our first symposium ever engaged 30+ participants with interactive workshops and online seminars and on a range of topics related to physical, mental, cognitive, and social wellness for seniors.

We look forward to bringing more opportunities to support our seniors in the new year. Stay tuned.



LIVING WELL AT WYNDHAM GARDENS AN INDEPENDENT LIVING OPTION



Wyndham Gardens Apartments offers a comfortable retirement living atmosphere in Unionville for seniors 55+ years of age who are able to live independently with or without support. The suites are designed to meet the needs of the growing senior's population and to support aging in place. It is a Life Lease community, and part of the larger campus of the New Unionville Home Society. In life lease housing, the buyer purchases an interest in that property which gives the buyer the right to occupy a unit for a long period of time, often for their lifetime. Like condo owners, the buyer pays a lump-sum purchase price, and then continues to pay property taxes and monthly fees for maintenance.

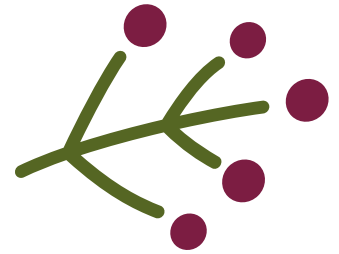
Large and in demand. currently the suites are fetching record prices when they hit the market, with multiple offers and selling within days of being listed.

Wyndham Gardens has an active resident population and at this time we would like to acknowledge Mavis Collingwood, who just recently moved from Wyndham Gardens. She has been a dedicated volunteer from the day she and her husband, Harold moved in, in 1996. She was a long-standing member of the Wyndham Gardens Residents' Association, firstly, as a member, then secretary, vice president and president. Mavis was appointed as a Board member of the Wyndham Gardens Apartments of Unionville in June of 2011 and served until June of 2016. Mavis also played a very active role in planning Special Events.

Many thanks to Malcolm Lennox, another long-standing resident who has organized yet another annual Wyndham Walkers' Challenge for Heart Health within our Campus. This Challenge is directed to the Unionville Home Society CREW (Campus Representatives of Employee Wellness) team. The Residents will be competing against the CREW staff team to see who walks the most miles. We will of course celebrate everyone's participation and acknowledge the winners at the end of February which is Heart Health month.

UNIONVILLE HOME SOCIETY FOUNDATION UPDATE

Investing in our Residents' Care



THE IMPACT OF GIVING

In 2021, the Foundation continued with its important work to reach out to the community and corporate leaders for much needed support and funding to our seniors campus.

\$50,323* was allocated from fundraising efforts to purchase equipment and invest in program enhancements and support:

Residents' Recreation & Special Events

- Music Therapy
- Clown Therapy
- Kitchen equipment
- Social Services Worker
- Resident Courtyard maintenance
- Residents' Slings and Mattresses
- Staff Appreciation, Nourishment and Training
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Program support for Unionville Community Centre for Seniors

**Calendar year ending December 2021.*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR FIRST HYBRID FUNDRAISER

It's always good to have a 'Plan B' when organizing any event. The pandemic created the need for multiple plan B's but thankfully everything started opening up and safe, social activities were permitted. This fall we implemented Plan A and B to offer a hybrid fundraiser to enjoy in-person or at-home.

On Thursday, November 4th, 70 guests attended the elegant dinner at Angus Glen Golf Club. While there was no dancing or live auction, the guests were entertained by our MC, UHS Foundation Board member Audrey Jamieson. Our Chief Executive Officer Abby Katz Starr provided greetings and thanked all who made this event possible. On Friday, November 5th, 15 households hosted their own gourmet dinner party complete with wine and flowers (donated by Kate's Garden). These at-home guests enjoyed a welcome and greetings sent virtually.

Senovva Canada premiered a special video presentation to share with our guests appropriately called "BETTER TOGETHER". This gift celebrates the resilience of Unionville Home Society staff and residents, and our commitment to quality care for our residents. You can view this video and others from past events at www.uhs.on.ca/about-us/videos.

The virtual silent auction surpassed all our expectations with almost \$15,000 raised and over 80 wonderful items for bidding – just in time for holiday shopping.



thank you

FOR HELPING US RAISE OVER \$95,000 FOR UNION VILLA LTC



Unionville Home Society Foundation held a hybrid version of the Union Villa Dinner Party with in-person and virtual fundraising opportunities between October 25th and November 5th. This year's theme was **Better Together** and despite the pandemic keeping us apart from our family and friends, we found creative ways to connect and support one another.

Our commitment to high quality long-term care and services for our seniors is unwaver-

ing and throughout these uncertain times, we have been humbled by the compassion and generosity of supporters, sponsors, dedicated staff, board members and volunteers. Thank you for making this year's event a success. Funds raised will be directed to refreshing resident rooms, and other important resident initiatives at Union Villa LTC.

A heartfelt thank you for making a difference and confirming that we are truly **Better Together!**

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PATRONS: LiUNA Local 183 • Gatzios Planning + Development Consultants

A special thank you to our event committee: Audrey Jamieson, Michelle Probert, Lorraine Chipperfield, Tara Clucas, Dara Greene, Jan van Velzen, Lynn Dawson, Frances DiCarlo and Maria Dimson.

SAVE THE DATE – 2022 EVENTS

2021 showed us how unpredictable life can be and for our Foundation, many lessons were learned. We needed to be flexible and quick to adapt, we embraced virtual platforms and social media to reach our community, to share our cause and spread our mission. We found different ways to engage new supporters and keep our dedicated donors connected.

We look forward to bringing back our signature events in 2022 and hope that you are able to join us.

Net proceeds from our fundraisers enhance the home environment and resident experience at Union Villa.



THURSDAY MAY 5, 2022

ANGUS GLEN GOLF CLUB

10:30 AM Garden Marketplace

12:00 PM Luncheon & Horticultural presentation

TICKETS

Early Bird (by February 28).... \$60

Regular price (after March 1).... \$75



2022
UNIONVILLE
CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC
WEDNESDAY JUNE 22, 2022

ANGUS GLEN GOLF CLUB SOUTH COURSE

6:30 AM Registration

7:45 AM Shotgun

TICKETS

Ticket per golfer.... \$275

Early Bird Foursome (by March 31).... \$1,000

Foursome Regular price (after April 1).... \$1,100

Includes: 18 holes of golf/cart, Breakfast & Lunch,
Passport & Activities



For tickets, more information on these events or sponsorship, please contact us at 905.477.2839 ext. 4270 or at mdimson@uhs.on.ca.

**portion of ticket fees may be eligible for a tax receipt, subject to CRA guidelines*

Our Mission: Enhancing the experience of aging, one person at a time.

Our Vision: A progressive community where older adults thrive; aging well and living better.