

The SOCIETY Scoop

Season's Greetings from President and CEO, Abby Katz Starr

As we enter this season of reflection and gratitude, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible community that makes our campus of care here at Unionville Home Society, such a special place.

To our donors, your generosity lights the way for all we do. Your support helps us provide compassionate care, innovative programs, and a warm, welcoming environment for our residents and clients. You are the heart of our mission, and we are deeply thankful for your belief in our work.

To our dedicated staff, your kindness and commitment inspire me every day. You go above and beyond to ensure our residents feel valued, respected, and loved. You truly embody the spirit of the holidays throughout the year.

To the families and friends of our residents, and to the broader community that supports us, thank you for your partnership and trust. Together, we've created a campus of care that feels like home—a place where dignity, independence and joy flourish.

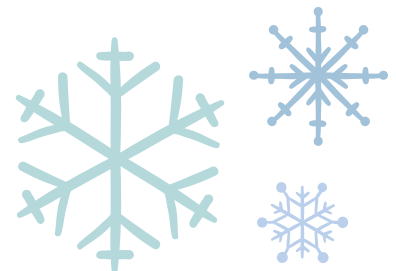
As we look ahead to a new year, we remain committed to enriching the lives of those we serve and continuing to innovate and grow in meaningful ways. This vision is only possible because of you—our supporters, team, and champions.



On behalf of everyone here at Unionville Home Society, I wish you and your loved ones a season filled with peace, joy, and connection. Thank you for being an essential part of our story.

Warm holiday wishes,

– Abby



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UHS Participates in PSW Initiative

It takes a special type of person to deliver direct care to others sincerely and professionally. With a sector-wide staffing shortage and seniors entering care with greater and more complex needs, attracting staff is ever more crucial to providing compassionate, dementia-friendly services in LTC.

This past April, UHS successfully applied to be a part of the Ontario Government's Personal Support Worker Initiative (PSWI). The PSWI provides two main incentives: Student Stipend and Return of Service. When students complete their courses at a registered college, they must apply to an organization for 300 placement hours to gain experience. Previously those hours were unpaid, but with the PSWI, they receive financial support at the end of the 2-3 months of placement.

Cynthia Li, UHS' Volunteer and Student Placement Coordinator, says, "I want every PSW to feel like there is financial and administrative support available to help them build a successful career in LTC. I am so happy they will be helped by this PSW Initiative."

The second aspect of the PSWI is the Return of Service Program. If a newly certified PSW is hired at a PSWI participating organization, they commit to working for that employer for 12 months full-time. At 6 months they receive incentive pay of \$5,000 and another \$5,000 at the end of the agreement, totaling \$10,000 in financial support. The PSWI is retroactive to April 2023 and will continue until 2026.

Shanique Brock is one of the four PSWs eligible for the Return of Service Program at UHS. She initially worked as a screener during the pandemic, returned to school, completed her placement, and is now employed as a PSW. "The ROS program has been incredibly beneficial for me. It allowed me to pay off my loans more quickly and reduce my stress levels. I believe it will attract more people to pursue a career as a PSW." Shanique, Empress Cobourne, and Clara Obiajulu-Nduka were able to receive the ROS thanks to Cynthia's efforts to notify eligible staff. Lalithanbigai Jeyaratnam was the first UHS PSW to receive both the Stipend and the ROS.

Cynthia reports that more and more colleges are calling to ask if UHS is participating in the program. Placement student hours in this fiscal year are the highest on record and UHS now has agreements with 25 Ontario educational institutions, including Seneca Polytechnic, Anderson and Centennial Colleges. The higher volume of students thanks to the PSWI is also increasing the opportunity for current PSWs to take on the Preceptor role and train the next generation of PSWs.

A strong PSW workforce significantly impacts the seniors sector and enhances the experience of residents in long-term care, where the majority of direct care staff are employed. Cynthia states, "By supporting PSWs and the nursing team, we are making a valuable investment in the future of senior care."



Resident Leo with PSW Lalitha, who received full benefit of PSWI program



PSWs Empress and Shanique with Cynthia (center)

Resident Profile

Meet Jim Tebutt

I was born in Markdale, Ontario (where Chapman's Ice Cream is made) on June 3, 1941.

I went to a one-room schoolhouse. There were 8 grades in it, 12 kids, 1 teacher, no furnace. I did small jobs around town, like helping out the mail office twice a day by dropping mail off to the train coming through. We would also help out the farmers, learning to do important things drive horses, fix things, and chew tobacco (haha). I joined the Air Force after high school and worked for 3 years as a radar operator, a role you would call an air traffic controller now. I quit the Air Force because they wanted to send me to France or Germany, and I didn't want that. I left and got married.

We had three children together. Two boys, one girl. The younger boy loved space and astronauts. The older one had a charitable mindset even as a youngster. The girl passed sadly when she was 8 years old.

I went through many local jobs, then got into Pittsburgh Plate Glass (PPG) where I was happily employed for 30 years. We made glass for buildings and cars, shipped them all over. It was good place to work and I made good money for my family. We continued to live in and around Owen Sound (Markdale is close by), and I started a small collectibles business selling historical items and ephemera. One of my favourite items I remember was a metal lapel pin which was an Ontario-issued driver's license from 1920.

In 1996 I met my second wife, Ann through mutual friends. She was working as a nurse in an acute psychiatric unit in a hospital. I liked her because she was funny and smart, much smarter than me! You can't be too serious about yourself. We have been together 28 years now.



Pictured is Jim holding a model boat fully handmade by soldiers returning from the war.

I was a part of the Markdale Rotary Club for many years. We threw fundraisers for the local community, raising money for wheelchairs, food, toys, lots of stuff. We even raffled off a house for \$350,000 in support of the new hospital. On my own, I supported the Owen Sound hockey team by buying season tickets for 15 years straight.

After I retired I started volunteering for the Canadian Cancer Society. I would drive people to their appointments, sometimes as far as London and Windsor. It was a good job, a sad one sometimes, but it was good to help people out in their time of need.

I came to Union Villa in 2022 and was reunited with Ann, who had been there for over a year. I like the people here a lot, especially my physio sessions and bingo. Between my children and my stepchildren, I have seven grandchildren.

– Jim



UCCS Seniors Active Living Fair - Promoting healthy living

Over 170 older adults and caregivers attended the Fall 2024 Unionville Community Centre for Seniors (UCCS) Seniors Active Living Fair held at the Unionville Commons housing building on November 13, 2024.

The Fair offered a variety of essential resources and services for seniors, featuring exhibitors representing 22 different seniors' agencies and service providers. Attendees could explore offerings from non-profit organizations, government agencies, and for-profit businesses, all focused on promoting healthy living, social engagement, and lifelong learning for seniors. Participants had the chance to network, gather important information, and connect with various programs available through local community resources such as UHS's Unionville Community Centre for Seniors, Adult Day Program, and the Southeast Geriatric Outreach Team.

The fair also included four informative presentations. The Alzheimer's Society provided valuable information on brain health, while Service Canada introduced attendees to The Canadian Dental Care Plan. Shawn Nesbit led a session on the benefits of pole walking, and the Ontario Securities Commission offered an important presentation on fraud prevention for seniors.

In addition to the wealth of resources available at the Fair, local community leaders were present, including Mayor Frank Scarpitti, MPP Billy Pang, Ward #3 Councillor Reid McAlpine, and UHS President and CEO



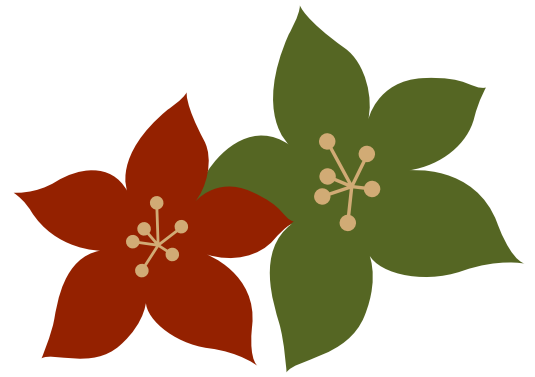
Abby Katz Starr. Their attendance underscored the community's strong commitment to support seniors and their well-being.

Special thanks go to the many volunteers who contributed to planning and organizing this invaluable opportunity for our community to remain engaged and connected.

For information on UCCS membership and programs, please email uccs@uhs.on.ca or call us at (437) 431-2831.

The Seniors Active Living Fair is a public education initiative, developed in partnership between the Older Adults Centres' Association of Ontario (OACAO) and the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA). Funding was provided by the Government of Ontario, MSAA. Through events like the Seniors Active Living Fair, OACAO leads the way in promoting active and healthy aging across Ontario.





Celebrating the Season on our Campus



Deck the Union Villa halls with balls and holly!



Volunteers from AVIVA kick off holiday decorating at Union Villa



ADP clients enjoy holiday crafting



Holiday baking with UCCS members

Unionville Home Society Foundation Signature Fundraiser a Success!

Over \$90,000
raised to support DementiAbility!

On November 7, 2024, the Union Villa Dinner Party fundraiser, "The Future is Ours," was held at Angus Glen Golf Club. The event attracted over 230 guests who enjoyed an evening of fine dining, live jazz music, an extensive silent auction, and a raffle.

As the largest annual fundraiser for the UHS Foundation, this event's net proceeds will significantly contribute to advancing and expanding Union Villa's dementia-friendly care model, DementiAbility, throughout Union Villa long-term care home. This innovative model employs person-centered approaches aimed at enhancing the abilities and addressing the holistic needs of our residents living with dementia.

We extend special recognition to our dedicated volunteer event committee, who spent months meticulously planning and executing the event to ensure a memorable experience for all participants while maintaining a focus on the needs of our residents.

Much of what makes our campus feel like home has been made possible through funds raised at our fundraising events and the generosity of our community.

Thank you to all for making a meaningful difference in the lives of our residents, regardless of their abilities, both now and in the future.

2024 Committee Members: Lorraine Chipperfield, Patti Enright, Dara Greene, Michelle Probert, Kim Pryor, Jan van Velzen



Abby Katz Starr, UHS President and CEO, and Saied Aghaei, Signature Sponsor, Times Group Corporation



Union Villa Residents with staff



2024 Dinner Party Hosts, Debra Ambrose and Amaar Naqi, with Presentation Sponsor, Keith Chang (center), Senovva Canada



Guests enjoyed virtual reality demos

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From our home to yours,

We wish you Happy Holidays and all the best for the New Year!



Members of the Union Villa Nursing Team



Adult Day Program Team



Our Mission

Engaging our communities through a continuum of services that enhances the experience of aging.

Our Vision

A progressive community where older adults thrive, age well and live better.