

The SOCIETY Scoop

President & CEO's Message: Revitalizing our efforts



We are looking ahead to warmer days, and I am optimistic that a revitalization is imminent within our vibrant community of care and across the province.

The Government of Ontario is gradually lifting the majority of public health and workplace safety measures. Our community members can rest assured we will remain vigilant and support our seniors, staff and families to focus on the best healthcare outcomes possible.

I would like to thank our staff and volunteers for their unwavering perseverance and hard work. During the pandemic, your tireless efforts have made our campus of care, a leader in our community. We are looked to by others to provide advice and guidance in building strength within their organizations. Each and every one of you should be proud of the work you do and the care you provide. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

I would also like to recognize and celebrate several milestones for our organization. On April 1, we began a new chapter in our journey when the Board of Directors for the New Unionville Home Society (NUHS) amalgamated with the Board of Directors for the Unionville Home Society (UHS). We now have a single, unified UHS Board. The collaboration of our Boards will create new opportunities for growth, to be more resident-focused and responsive to our clients' needs.

In addition, we are looking forward to the launch of a new business model this spring, equipped with new digital tools, that will positively impact the entire campus.

We're planning to refresh our organization's strategic plan for 2023/2024 and beyond. We will be reaching out to you, our community members and partners, for your input on what you hope to see our organization prioritize and achieve in order to fulfill our vision of **building a community of care where older adults can thrive by aging well and living better.**

Together, we are stronger.
Abby Katz Starr

Happy Spring from UHS Board Chair, Christine Joe

Happy Spring to everyone! I love this change in season as I can put the snow shovel away and look forward to seeing buds on trees and crocuses pushing through the ground.

Fingers crossed that the worst of COVID is behind us and while we still need to be vigilant, I am excited to see our Foundation's signature events back and in-person – Garden by the Greens and the Unionville Charity Golf Classic. I look forward to attending both of these events and hope you are able to join us.

I truly want to thank UHS's Senior Leadership Team and all the staff for enduring and persevering through the Pandemic. I know it has been hard and a tough slog but you have been amazing and I applaud each of you. I also want to thank our friends, families, volunteers, donors and sponsors for your continued financial support, words of encouragement and in-kind donations.

We are surrounded by an amazing community and we could not do what we do without you.

Spring is all about renewal and there are exciting times ahead for our campus of care.



Christine distributing nourishments to staff on behalf of the Boards during Non-Profit Appreciation Week.

It's Official! UHS and NUHS join forces

On April 1, 2022, the New Unionville Home Society officially amalgamated with the Unionville Home Society and so begins a new chapter of our organization's journey.

A key change in this amalgamation is the coming together of the Boards of NUHS and UHS, to form a single Board under the UHS name.

"I am honoured to serve as the first Chair of this unified UHS Board of Directors," says Christine Joe, formerly the NUHS Board Chair. "We have an amazing organization, with incredible staff, administration, volunteers and Directors of our Boards. By bringing these two Boards together, I look forward to strengthening UHS and working closely with campus leadership and the Boards of Wyndham Gardens and the Foundation, in order to support our hard-working staff.

I especially look forward to the completion of a new campus-wide strategic plan, which will outline how we will continue to improve our community of care over the next five years."

Christine adds, "With this amalgamation, I do not expect anything to change with respect to the delivery of our exceptional programs and services. The change that has happened is really 'behind the scenes' relating to how our Boards are structured and will operate moving forward. Having a single UHS Board will help us be more efficient and allow us to proactively pursue new opportunities aligned with our vision and the needs of our seniors."

Immediate past UHS Board Chair, Glenn Crosby, was one of the key architects of this amalgamation. He comments that while having two Boards worked well for that time, especially in attracting talented Board members and surviving the pandemic as an organization, having one unified Board will allow the organization to focus on stronger strategic planning, and for a more focused response from senior leadership.

Glenn says, "The campus has, and always will have, a unique place in our community for seniors. From assisted living, long-term care, and affordable



L-R: Glenn Crosby, Christine Joe, Abby Katz Starr

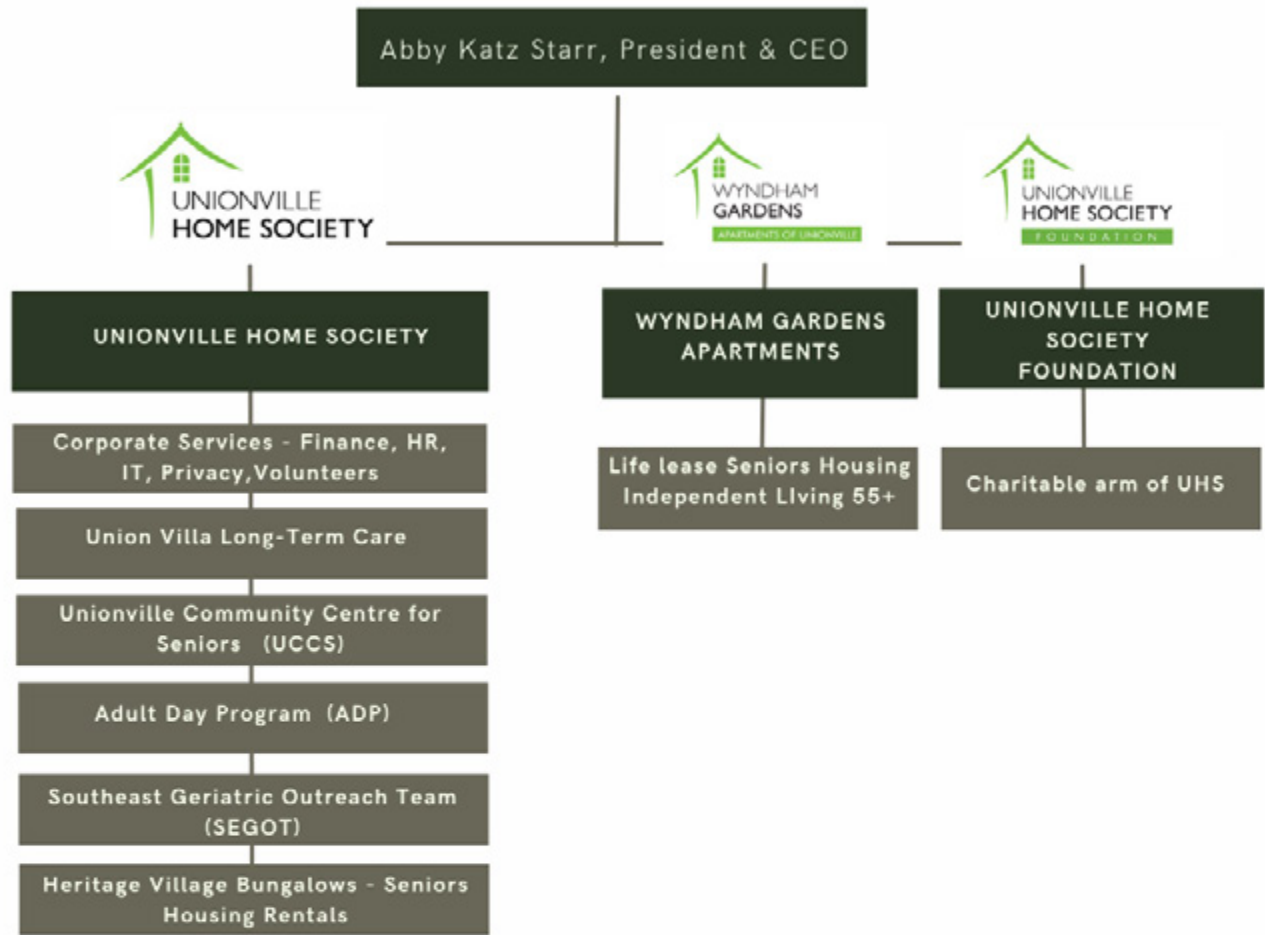
housing, we hope that with a more efficient Board we can continue to meet the increasing demands of our Boomers in a timely manner."

President and CEO Abby Katz Starr echoes the sentiments of both Christine and Glenn. "I'd like to thank our Board members for their continued dedication to our campus. With their willingness to explore new efficiencies, we are collectively demonstrating our commitment to doing things better. The increased collaboration between our Board members will help us to continue to deliver on our vision of leadership strength, excellence in service delivery and program efficiency."

Information about the unified UHS Board effective April 1, 2022 is available online at:

www.uhs.on.ca/about-uhs/board-of-directors/

CORPORATE STRUCTURE - As of April 1, 2022



OUR CAMPUS OF CARE



Union Villa
Long-Term Care



Wyndham Gardens
Apartments



Unionville Community
Centre for Seniors



Heritage Village
Bungalows

Programs that Support Seniors in the Community

The Unionville Home Society Adult Day Program (ADP) is thrilled to be back in-person offering both virtual and in-person programs. Our expanded scope of service has filled gaps in various client scenarios. With the development of our virtual programs we have improved access to those who would otherwise not be eligible for our in-person program, served clients on our waiting list, enabled a continuity of virtual programs to clients that may move geographically between family members or travelled away from their main residence for extended periods of time. An exciting component of our virtual programs are our 1:1 personalized sessions which are client focused and utilize innovative techniques and resources in a meaningful way.

To the right are testimonials from family members of Adult Day Program clients that receive weekly 1:1 virtual sessions from Activity Programmer Julie.

Our **Southeast Geriatric Outreach Team (SEGOT)** also found itself adjusting and creating new program delivery models as a result of the challenges posed by the pandemic. The team's steadfast commitment to quality client care and quick attention to implementing safety measure as recommended by York Region Public Health enabled the continuation of home visit assessments.

In the spring of 2021, SEGOT was invited to be part of the **Seniors Home Support (SHS) Program**. The SHS Program is an integrated primary care program delivered by an interdisciplinary team to home-bound seniors who for medical, social or cognitive reasons cannot access office-based primary care services. SEGOT and partner agencies (Markham Family Health Team, Markham Stouffville Hospital, Central Region Home and Community Support Services and York Region Paramedic Services Community Paramedicine Program) deliver the home-care services.

The SEGOT is proud to be an integral part of the initial entry phase into the SHS program and to provide seasoned clinical skill to triage those referred.

“Thank you so much for continuing to offer the virtual program. It has become very important in the management of my mother’s condition and her quality of life.

This engaging program has been a lifeline for my mother who has been impacted by the pandemic. She is unable to go to physical day programs like she used to and family and friends who used to visit don’t for fear of bringing contagion to her. So, my mother is more isolated, which is exactly the wrong thing given her condition.

I would watch my mother transform from an isolated and bored individual passing time, to an enthusiastic and engaged participant of the virtual program. During the program I would observe my mother’s performance improve in the various games or exercises Julie programmed for us that day. Whether it was songs, puzzles, or reading; my mother was actively interacting with Julie.”

“The ADP program staff are making the lives of seniors better.my mom Elizabeth is so fortunate to have ongoing 1:1 sessions with Julie. We thank you for being so caring.”



Unionville Community Centre for Seniors

It's been a busy few months at the Unionville Community Centre for Seniors (UCCS). In addition to our regular complement of virtual and in-person programs, UCCS is once again hosting special events for the seniors in our community.

On February 22, UCCS staff, volunteers, and our Senior Leadership team hosted a Celebrating Red Dinner, a celebration of Valentine's Day and the Lunar New Year, and other observances in February. Attendees enjoyed dinner and live entertainment from Emilio Zarris, whose performance was co-sponsored by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton and Ward 3 Councillor Reid McAlpine.

March has seen even more special events. On March 8, UCCS hosted an International Women's Day High Tea event. In keeping with this year's theme, "Women Inspiring Women," our CEO, Abby Katz Starr, welcomed our guests with moving remarks about the women who have inspired her. Attendees enjoyed a traditional High Tea spread and a rousing round of International Women's Day trivia. On March 18, UCCS hosted a St. Patrick's Day Luncheon. Over 30 attendees enjoyed lunch, Bingo, and brain games, while dressed in their finest green garb.

Finally, on March 23, UCCS hosted a Virtual Seniors Active Living Fair, with support from New

Unionville Home Society's Adult Day Program (ADP), the Older Adult Centres Association of Ontario (OACAO), and the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility. This online event featured presentations from an array of partner agencies including Community and Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS), Social Services Network (SSN), Alzheimer's Society of York Region, Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada, Novo Peak Health, Canadian Hearing Services, Lifeline Canada, and the South East Geriatric Outreach Team (SEGOT). Over 70 seniors and practitioners working with seniors attended this event online, with another 15 joining us in-person for a Lunch and Learn experience.

In the coming months, and as our membership grows, we look forward to hosting even more special events, including a Spring Bazaar on May 27 and 28. As the weather improves, we also plan to reintroduce outdoor programming like Ice Cream Socials, Art Classes, and planting workshops, among others.

For more information about UCCS programming or membership, don't hesitate to contact the UCCS Coordinator, Maha Naqi, at mnaqi@uhs.on.ca or (905) 477-2822 ext. 4235.



Celebrating our Volunteers – National Volunteer Week 2022

Volunteer Canada has designated April 24th to 30th as National Volunteer Week 2022. Last year the theme was “The Value of One, The Power of Many” which reflected on the awe-inspiring acts of kindness by millions of individuals and the magic that happens when we work together towards a common purpose.



Mary, our volunteer knitter



Wynn and June, Auxiliary volunteers



Lorraine, Program and Events volunteer

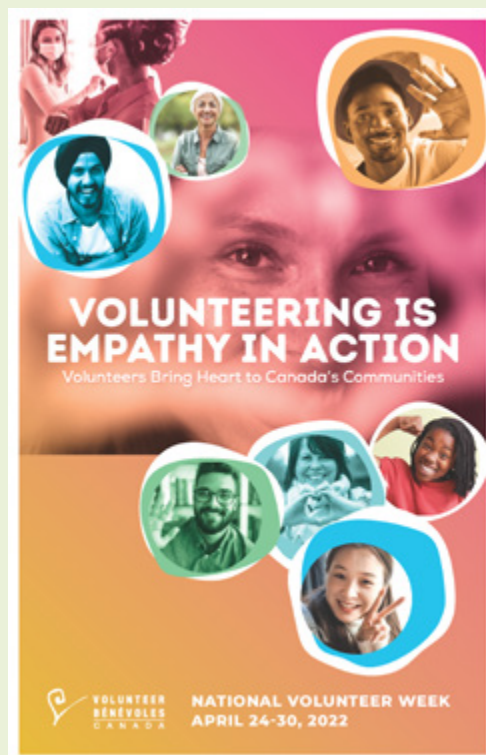
For 2022, the theme is: Volunteering Is Empathy In Action. The theme affirms the strong connection between volunteerism and empathy. This profoundly human connection is at the heart of healthier individuals and stronger communities.

At UHS, our volunteers continue to have a huge positive impact in the lives of our seniors. From our beginning in 1967, our volunteers have actively demonstrated their empathy towards our residents and clients. Their contribution has touched every part of our organization, from friendly visiting, spiritual services, special events, gift shop operation, assisting residents’ outdoor visits, to supporting fundraising initiatives and serving on our many committees and Boards. Our volunteers are fully committed to the vision and mission of our organization, where older adults thrive; aging well and living better.

We are delighted to celebrate our extraordinary volunteers during National Volunteer Week. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude, as we fully recognize your service, your understanding and commitment especially during these past few years.

As COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted in

Ontario along with the updated guidelines for long-term care homes, UHS is thrilled to relaunch our Volunteer Program and welcome back our volunteers. We look forward to opening our doors again to our valuable volunteers so stay tuned for updates on our website www.uhs.on.ca/volunteers/



Snapshots of Resident and Staff Engagement



Unionville Home Society Foundation Update

Investing in our Residents' Care

As our community starts to open up and restrictions are lifting, the Unionville Home Society Foundation is thrilled to bring back in-person fundraising. While we saw great success with virtual events thanks to those who continued supporting our mission, we have seen the comfort level increase with incredible interest in our in-person upcoming events.

We hope you can join us this April for Garden by the Greens and this June for the Unionville Charity Golf Classic.



Garden
by the *greens*

presents

**LIVE THE
GARDEN LIFE**

THURSDAY APRIL 28, 2022

ANGUS GLEN GOLF CLUB

10:00 am Garden Marketplace
11:30 am Floral Demo
12:00 noon Lunch and Presentation

TICKETS

Ticket price.... \$75



**2022
UNIONVILLE
CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC**

WEDNESDAY JUNE 22, 2022

**ANGUS GLEN GOLF CLUB
SOUTH COURSE**

6:30 AM Registration | 7:30 AM Shotgun

TICKETS

Ticket per golfer.... \$300
Foursome.... \$1,100

Includes: 18 holes of golf/cart, Continental 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.