

The SOCIETY Scoop



Greetings from the CEO, Abby Katz Starr

While the focus continues to be on the pandemic, I have been working in the background with support from the Board and the Senior Leadership Team to confirm a future vision of leadership strength, excellence in service delivery and program effectiveness, as well as increased collaboration and engagement across our entire campus.

Despite the challenges brought on by lockdowns, outbreaks and public health restrictions, we have not only maintained the successful delivery of services and activities for our residents, members, staff and families but strove to surpass all expectations.

Our next priority is to operationalize our Strategic Plan and create a formalized blueprint to ensure the successful delivery of the most critical priorities.

To ensure our organization is playing a vital and key role in the strategic direction of our sector, I am providing leadership in the following:

- Chair of the AdvantAge Ontario Region 4 (the LTCs, RHs, social housing providers and community service providers in the catchment)
- Member, Advocacy Committee of the OLTCA (just confirmed the election, May 2021)
- Core Leadership Council of the Eastern York Region North Durham Ontario Health Team (EYRND)
- Chair the EYRND OHT Network Table of Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes.

It is important that NUHS is visible, present and a leader in care and change, and that is my next challenge, so stay tuned!

Campus Construction Update

Housing York Inc.'s general contractor Martinway Contracting Limited continues to make progress on the Seniors Affordable Housing building on our North Campus. The second floor is nearing completion and Martinway expects to have completed the fifth floor by the end of August.

Our landscape contractor, SerraCon was on site in early June to plant approximately 25 spruce trees adjacent to the staff parking lot between UHS and Wyndham Gardens. They also graded the area and applied topsoil and sod.

In late 2020, Housing York Inc. announced that the building will be called "Unionville Commons." The project is on schedule with completion expected in late 2022/early 2023.

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

Message from the NUHS Board Chair, Glenn Crosby



Who could have imagined that we would still be compromised by the Covid epidemic after almost a year and one half? As a campus we have responded to new protocols and behaviors. We have been sensitive and respectful to our neighbours, residents, friends and co-workers. We have managed, by and large, to keep Covid at bay. Now is not yet the time to let our guard down. Hopefully by summer we will be able to operate in a more reasonable familiar manner.

Thanks to all for your cooperation and understanding. We will continue to provide support as best we can with the protocols in place and, in a modified way, virtually. We are excited with discussions now underway for new programs and activities to be developed utilizing the entire main floor of the new Regional building that will be the Campus Community Centre. A massive increase in size from our existing Centre. Better days are coming. Thanks to all for your support. In very challenging times you have all endeavoured to maintain the "Home" on our campus. Thanks to all.

Nursing Week and PSW Day Celebrations

This past May, our organization celebrated our Nursing Team. Fresh flowers in vases and in pots, an ice cream truck delivering treats, and a huge photo wall featuring photos of our Nurses and PSWs, highlighting their dedication and incomparable efforts.



L-R: Terry, Silvia, Olga, Janet, Claire



L-R: Jane and Terry



Nocketta

UNION VILLA LTC STATS

VACCINES

To date, we are happy to report that

98%

of our residents

and

84%

of our staff

are fully vaccinated with both doses.

SATISFACTION SURVEY

Our recent Union Villa family survey reported,

100%

of families rated us
"good" / "very good" /
"excellent"

and

100%

would
recommend our
home to others

Staff Spotlight: Union Villa Screeners



Nurah



Jacqueline



Shanique



Ryan



Benjamin



Likithan

If you asked us about the need for security at the Union Villa entrance prior to the start of the pandemic, we would have probably thought of it as unnecessary and said “No, thanks”.

Since the early days of the pandemic, the screeners have been the first point of contact to ensure all staff and visitors are welcomed, screened and made aware of IPAC protocols and practices before entry.

The Screener position is a crucial role that also supports customer service operations, as well as other administrative tasks of our long-term care home.

From 6:30 am to 11:30 pm daily, 7 days/week, one of our Screeners will be dressed in full PPE and ready to make your visit to Union Villa a safe and pleasurable one.

What's New at Wyndham Gardens

NEW TRANSFORMER INSTALLED

A power outage is like a day without sunshine, but thanks to excellent planning by the Housing Manager, Linda Jackson-Wyatt and her team, the new transformer arrived and was installed on May 20 in just 5 hours.

Tenants prepared themselves, enjoyed some outside walks and took advantage of a lovely day with some socially distanced conversations on the patio.

Extra staff from the greater campus came to Wyndham for the day to support the residents who stayed onsite and deliver bottled waters and boxed meals. What a great surprise when the lights came back on early. The new transformer, now owned and maintained by Alectra Utilities, replaces an outdated piece of equipment that was privately owned and located on Heritage Village land that will be sold in the future.

“Special mention goes to Linda who did a yeowoman's job checking on us to ensure we were safe, and generally keeping us abreast of the progress of the work at hand... and the hospitality treats were unexpected, but certainly appreciated.”

- Astley, WG Resident



SECOND SHOT

Thanks to York Region Public Health, we were very pleased to offer the vaccine with mostly 2nd shots to the Wyndham Garden tenants at an on-site vaccination clinic on June 2. Our organization is committed to our residents' safety and happy to have made this possible.

Program Spotlight: South Asian Adult Day Program

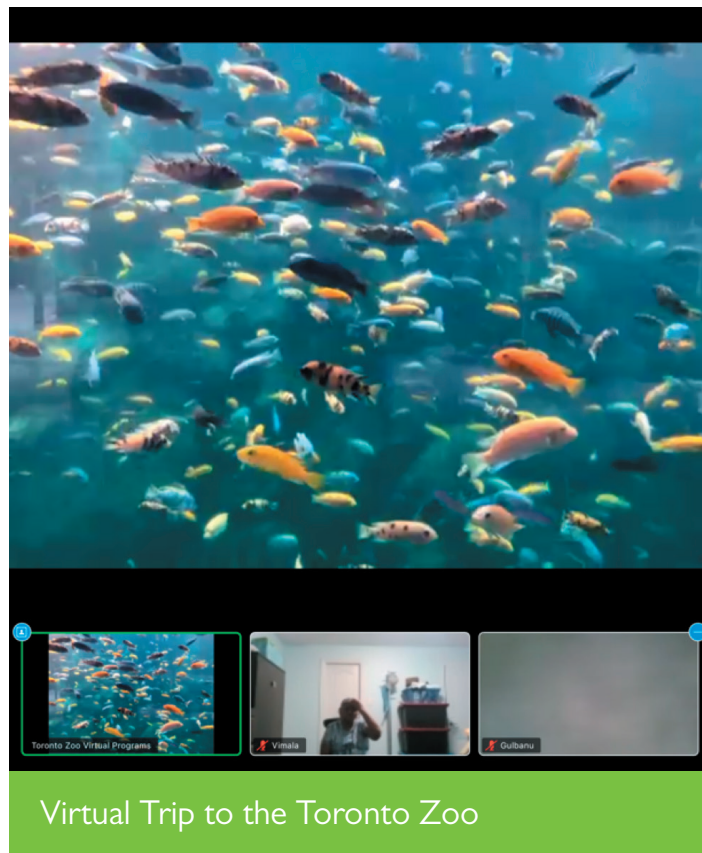
Social Services Network (SSN) in partnership with Unionville Home Society operate a unique South Asian Adult Day Program (SAADP). SAADP activities includes a variety of social and wellness activities, companionship, nutritious snacks and lunch, in a safe, friendly, and caring environment while addressing social isolation for older adults. Activities include exercise, mental stimulation, crafts, relaxation programs, entertainment, health promotion, and disease prevention.

Focused on racialized seniors, the program integrates mental, physical and social elements to create a holistic approach that addresses key risk factors for seniors' health.

As seniors are especially vulnerable, these risk factors have been exacerbated by the pandemic, particularly the impact of social isolation due to physical distancing. Dementia, cognitive decline, heart disease and depression are all risks associated with social isolation, with immigrants and newcomers among higher risk groups. [2014 Report, National Seniors Council, Government of Canada]

Having consulted with our seniors, SSN designed an online platform called RISE (Response to Isolation and Social Exclusion) as a way of mitigating the impact of the pandemic on seniors, especially vulnerable groups that have physical limitations and exhibit borderline dementia. RISE integrates 1) community health and support services 2) communication and information 3) social participation 4) respect and social inclusion – integrating physical exercise, community presentations and service updates, self development activities – music/arts/field trips/cultural events (all virtually hosted), social networking and chai and chat sessions – to keep seniors connected and healthy.

To ensure that Seniors from the SAADP program and those that are on the waitlist have access to this platform, our staff work with their caregivers to get them connected to technology with



dedicated one on one tech support provided to alleviate any challenges. The virtual platform is available at no cost, requires no additional formal registration, and provides an opportunity for seniors to continue to take care of their physical and mental wellness while providing respite to their care givers. This program platform eliminates issues such as transportation and number limits, while providing a service in the comfort of their own home irrespective of season.

For more information on this program, contact **Hina Abubaker (hina@ssnon.com) – Program Coordinator**, Social Services Network for the York Region

Website: <https://ssnon.com/>

Unionville Community Centre For Seniors – Staying Active And Connected

As we officially usher in summer, we wonder how did we get here so fast? During the entire winter and spring 2021, UCCS remained closed to in-person programming but continued to offer an array of special programming and events online.

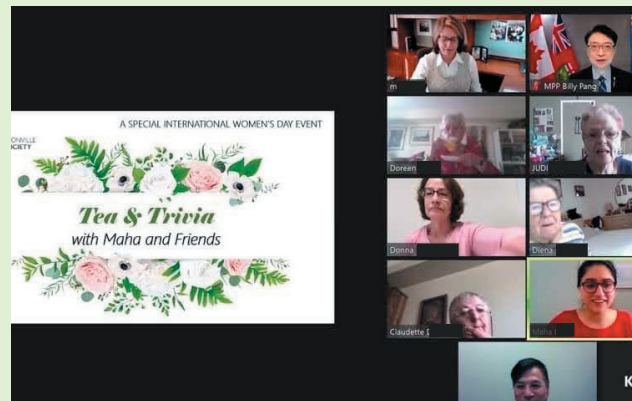
In February, our centre hosted a virtual Tea & Trivia celebration for International Women's Day, featuring remarks from our CEO, Abby Katz Starr, and our local MPP for Markham-Unionville, Billy Pang. Thank you to Abby and MPP Pang for making it a truly memorable virtual event. In March, UCCS partnered with Smile Theatre to bring a live, virtual performance of their show, *At the Hop* to our membership. Finally, in early April, UCCS offered our members the chance to get their photo taken at a physically distanced photobooth outside our main entrance. All participants received their pictures via email and were subsequently invited to participate in an online e-card workshop.



Through generous funding from the City of Markham's *Celebrate Markham* grant, UCCS was able to offer a series of three horticultural workshops, in partnership with Kate's Garden, which supplied the materials and expert facilitation via Zoom. This Better Busy Than Blue series was hugely popular and a novel way to bring the benefits of horticultural therapy to our community while keeping safe.

As the weather improves and restrictions continue to ease, UCCS staff and volunteers will be launching outdoor programs including more horticultural workshops, outdoor café, outdoor art classes and more.

We look forward to facilitating these physically distanced, outdoor programs, in addition to our online offerings.



Unionville Home Society Foundation: Investing in our Seniors

Summer is the season for many exciting opportunities; a time for a mid-year check in on your new year's resolutions. This is the perfect time for our Foundation to check in with you and provides updates on our fundraising activities – some cancelled, some adapted and a few new ones!

2021 began with many unknowns as a result of the declared pandemic. In the world of fundraising, we were in uncharted territory, but the need for funds to support our residents remained constant. Our strengths were asking for donations face to face, with exciting in person FUN and FUND-raising events. We took a leap of faith and worked together to tackle virtual platforms to connect with our donors, and we increased our communication by phone and email. The results were countless requests of "How can we help?". Both financial and in-kind gifts were received from families, friends and members of the community. Local churches, Lions Clubs, Youth Groups and businesses - small and large – offered their support.

A decision was made regretfully, to cancel two main events for 2021 to ensure the health and safety of everyone and to follow Public Health and government regulations and protocols. The Garden by the Greens Event in May and the Golf Tournament in June both held traditionally at Angus Glen Golf course were put on pause but to resume with enthusiasm in 2022. This, however, did not stop the Foundation staff from pivoting to new opportunities.

The Garden by the Greens Event morphed into the Mother's Day Special Gourmet Dinner event. What a success! 45 guests ordered and enjoyed a gourmet meal, including wine and a bouquet of fresh tulips delivered to their home on the Mother's Day weekend. Thank you to Food for Thought Catering for creating the wonderful menu and elegant presentation.



We launched a Hope Garden appeal asking for donations to enhance our resident gardens so that when the time came for outdoor visits, this space would bring maximum enjoyment. So far, we have raised over \$2000 for plants and garden supplies.

We continue to seek new ways to celebrate events and thank residents, their families, fellow staff members and everyone in the community for their on-going support. We never miss the opportunity to say thank you – either virtually, through a window or physically distanced and in full PPE for gifts delivered curbside.

...and we continue to receive gifts of “Gelato”, coffee pods, an abundance of sweet and savoury snacks and crates of fresh apples, oranges and bananas. A heartfelt Thank you!

As a famous person once said, *“We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word”*. – G. Persson.



UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATE

Unionville Home Society Foundation proudly presents

2021 UNION VILLA
DINNER PARTY

*better
together*

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 5, 2021

In the past year and a half, we have learned to adapt, pivot and adjust our fundraising activities to enable our Foundation to continue its single mission: To fund amenities and initiatives that enhance the lives of our residents.

In-person, Virtual or a hybrid of both? While the format of our signature event in support of Union Villa has yet to be confirmed, we can confirm welcome messages from special guests, entertainment, a Silent Auction with exciting offerings, a Giving Zone highlighting our residents' needs, and a "Dinner Party" option to enjoy with your guests.

Save the date and stay tuned for more details.

To register or for sponsorship opportunities, Contact (905) 477-2822 ext. 4270

INVESTING IN OUR RESIDENTS' CARE



Unionville Home Society Foundation is a registered charity founded in 1991. The foundation is dedicated to a single mission: to fund amenities and initiatives that enhance the lives of our residents. The foundation believes quality seniors care is a priority and endeavours to provide a variety of "giving" opportunities ranging from special events, to personal and corporate giving campaigns.

Charitable Registration #87172 1940 RR0001