

The SOCIETY Scoop

Greetings from our President and CEO, Abby Katz Starr



Welcome to summer! June was Senior's Month, a time to celebrate the contributions of older adults and seniors to our campus and to the broader community.

This year's theme, "Working for Seniors" is an apt description of both our campus team and our mission which has always been to foster an environment

where residents, clients, families and staff feel valued, respected and empowered. Senior's Month is always a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the richness of the experiences, wisdom and stories that each of you brings to our community. Your resilience, achievements and ongoing vitality inspire us every day.

Our Annual General Meetings were held June 26 and was an opportunity to review the progress we made in the last fiscal year and share some insights into the plans for the upcoming year. This past March new funding was announced for the seniors' sector, including an historic investment in long-term care specifically. These new funds give us more opportunities to consider new core initiatives and programs to better serve our residents. We are thankful that the calls for more support for our sector have been heard and look forward to sharing more details in the future.

The last few months have been busy. We hosted a Volunteer Appreciation event in April where our

leadership was joined by the now former Minister of Long-Term Care Stan Cho, Markham-Unionville MPP Billy Pang, and Markham Ward 3 Councillor Reid McAlpine in honouring our volunteers. We proudly recognized the dedicated volunteers who donate their time and effort to enriching the experience of aging for seniors on our campus. To our volunteers: thank you for making every moment matter every single day.

Two of our major fundraisers are already under our belts as well. On April 25, our 6th annual Garden by the Greens event raised funds to enhance the sensory gardens and horticultural programming at Union Villa LTC, and on June 11, we held the 8th annual Unionville Charity Golf Classic to raise funds for dementia-friendly programs and services. Both of these successful events would not have been possible without the support of our participants, donors and volunteers. As we prepare for the rising number of older adults entering care with greater and more complex needs, we are grateful for the support of this community. We are committed to enhancing our facilities and services, always striving to exceed your expectations.

There is much in development on our campus as we continue to advance UHS' ability to deliver a strong continuum of services to our community. We hope you enjoy this snapshot of the diverse activities and vibrant culture on our campus.



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Program Spotlight: Southeast Geriatric Outreach Team

There is no one size fits all in seniors care. A National Institute on Ageing survey conducted in 2023 survey shows that almost nine in 10 (88%) Canadians aged 50 years and older would choose to remain in their own home as they get older. Helping seniors 'age in place' is a crucial component of a functioning continuum of seniors services.

The Southeast Geriatric Outreach Team (SEGOT) "helps seniors age in place in the community," says Kate Papillo, Manager of UHS' Adult Day Program and SEGOT. "Having someone guide a senior to the right service at the right time is crucial." The Unionville Home Society SEGOT is unique as it not only receives referrals from the community and healthcare professionals but also welcomes referrals from family members and self-referrals.

If appropriate, the client receives an in-home Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA) from one of our Geriatric Outreach Team Clinicians. After the assessment, a member of SEGOT would develop a report identifying any healthcare concerns and provide recommendations and suggest community supports to the client.

"Navigating the healthcare system can be daunting especially when the health and well-being of older adults begin to change," says Janice Stober, GOT Clinical Educator. "Our approach is proactive rather than reactive. We work collaboratively with clients, community partners and their healthcare providers to provide linkages and/or referrals to services that will help the client age in place."

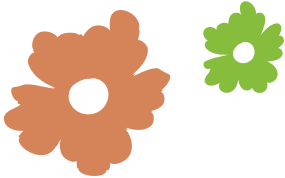
The team has worked diligently for over 15 years building strong relationships within the community and positioning themselves as a valuable resource seeking to improve pathways of care for seniors living at-risk in the community.

"Helping someone who is struggling to live the way they want is always a fulfilling experience," says Leslie Borch, SEGOT's Occupational Therapist. "Because we are in their home, we can see solutions that may seem small but can make a huge difference in someone's quality of life."

Eligibility:

- Service available to clients who are 60 years of age or older
- Have a valid Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP)
- Live within the service boundary (north of Steeles, south of Davis Drive, east of 404 and west of Durham 30)

There is no cost for the comprehensive assessment as it is covered by OHIP.



SEGOT is funded by the Regional Geriatric Program of Toronto (RGP).

For more information, visit

www.uhs.on.ca/geriatric-outreach/
or call (905) 201-3389.



My Life: A Resident Profile

Meet Mr. Chow

Mr. Sau Oi Chow was born in Guan Dong province in China in 1937 in a small town called Shantou.

Mr. Chow loves to sing. It was his dream to go to Russia to sing in the prestigious Russian opera, but because he had a family member associated with a rival political party, he was not allowed to pursue this dream. Luckily his family had a business, so he was able to go beyond basic schooling, and attend university, which was very unusual during this time. When he graduated, he taught economics to managers in the government, but he could not forget his dream. He tried again but was declined, so in 1960 he went back to Shantou to teach middle school history, music and coach the basketball team.

During this time, he was introduced to his first wife, who had been a schoolmate of his. They wed in 1964 and had four children. At the time, Hong Kong was the business hub of China and there were many opportunities there. He started an embroidery business in 1973 with unique beautiful designs. His big break came when he partnered with a businessman from Ohio who made a very big order. This changed everything for him. In 1975, he moved his whole family to Hong Kong, another very rare thing to happen during this time. His success meant he was able to send all his children abroad for school.

In 1991, his wife fell ill, and he received a lot of support from the local Christian community. They both converted to Christianity, but she passed later that year. Mr. Chow feels that God blessed him and his family because he held two strong business principles: to be honest and build trust with customers.

In 1992, he immigrated to Canada with his children, but he continued to travel back and forth to run



Mr. Chow holding a plate with one of his designs

the business in Hong Kong. He closed the business shortly after Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule and he joined the church to preach the gospel. Through the church, he met his wife Pearl. Pearl was very involved in the community and a former manager of Canada Post. She was pursuing a degree at the Ontario College of Traditional Chinese Medicine. They fell in love and were married for more than 20 years. In 2017, Pearl fell ill and he took care of her at home for as long as he could. When he could no longer care for her, he applied for her to live at Union Villa. Soon after, Mr. Chow moved in and they lived together at the Villa until she passed away in 2022.

Mr. Chow says he now treasures every day and enjoys reading *and a little bit of singing!*

Our Young Community of Givers – Inspiring us everyday



Every day, we are grateful for the contributions of the selfless volunteers who spend time supporting seniors out of the goodness of their hearts. In this story, we are proud to highlight our young community of givers and their commitment to caring for older adults and seniors.

Meet brothers Tim and Alex, young volunteers at Union Villa

Volunteering is a family affair for these brothers. Their mother was a volunteer at Union Villa when she was in high school. Says Tim, “My mom was a big influence on me. She is a very helpful person who wants to help others. I started volunteering at Union Villa two years ago and had a positive experience, and then my little brother Alex also joined me.” There were times when both brothers and Mom were volunteering together!

“Volunteering is meaningful to me and my family because I am making a difference in someone’s life,” says Tim. “I would volunteer on Saturdays helping to lead resident bingo games. It made me realize that older people have different needs and abilities, and that being patient and thoughtful are very important life skills.

If you enjoy talking to people and listening to their stories, you should volunteer at Union Villa. There are many opportunities to give back. It has opened me up to many new experiences that I hadn’t considered before.”

Meet Julia and Alysha, young philanthropists and founders of The J.A. Foundation

In spring of 2024, Alicia and Julia contacted the UHS Foundation to ask if they could donate funds from an upcoming event to our residents at Union Villa. Of course, we were thrilled that they had chosen us as their charity of choice for their fundraising efforts

which was a talent showcase of local youth who in turn donated money from their “red envelopes” to support our home. “We started raising funds for the seniors because we wanted to give more recognition and attention to their needs. We created this foundation to reach our goal of contributing to our community.”

Since the founding of The JA Foundation in 2022, three very successful community events have been hosted with local students and their families including dignitaries in attendance.

“A message that we have for the younger people who might want to start a fundraiser is that our elderly deserve our help. They have contributed so much to our community, and we are able to enjoy a good life because of their efforts. It’s important that we contribute in any way possible to their golden years. When we take good care of our elderly, we take good care of ourselves.”

“We chose Unionville Home Society because we live in the community and pass by Union Villa regularly. We feel the seniors in long-term care need more attention and care.”

Thank you to Tim, Alex, Julia and Alysha for supporting the UHS community and our seniors. You inspire us!

To volunteer at Unionville Home Society contact us by emailing volunteer@uhs.on.ca or calling (905) 477-2822 ext. 4261.

Activity Highlights on our Campus



Appreciating our staff with ice cream (compliments of The Paul Butler and Chris Black Foundation at the Toronto Foundation)



UCCS Artists



Celebrating Father's Day



UHS CEO Abby Katz Starr and MPP Billy Pang welcome our Seniors



Wyndham Gardens presents a Black & White Dinner Party

UNIONVILLE HOME SOCIETY FOUNDATION

RECENT FUNDRAISING EVENTS



GARDEN BY THE GREENS

Together we Bloom

On Thursday, April 26, the UHS Foundation hosted its 6th annual Garden by the Greens Luncheon with over 230 guests, vendors and volunteers in attendance and raising over **\$13,000** net. This year's event 'Together We Bloom' resonated profoundly as the funds raised make it possible for Union Villa LTC to create and sustain the resident gardens, nurturing not just plants, but also fostering a sense of belonging, purpose, and joy among our residents and families. From early spring to late fall, our gardens connect our residents with nature and provide stimulation for the senses.

Our gratitude to the sponsors: The Tar Team, Highland Funeral Home- Markham Chapel, RE/MAX Benczik Kavanagh Team, The Hogan Group and Dime-Aire. Thank you to our Emcee Kate Seaver, and guest speaker Charlie Dobbin, host of The Garden Show on AM740/horticulturalist and landscape designer.

Special thanks to our committee: Gerlind Milich, Darlene McClelland, Jessica Competiello, Paula Hardman, Kim Schultz, Heather Millar, Helene Hayward, Lorraine Chipperfield and Emer Barnes-Chow.





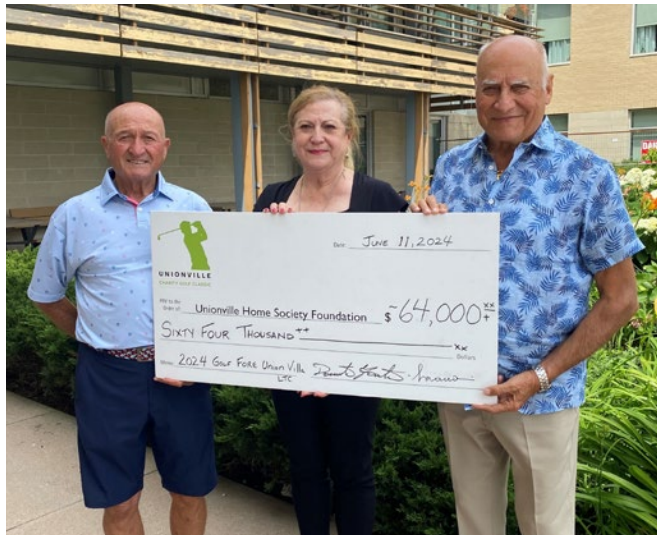
GOLF FORE UNION VILLA

Raising Funds, Engaging our Community and Investing in Resident Care

On behalf of the residents, staff, and the Unionville Home Society Foundation, we are thrilled to announce that almost **\$64,000** was raised! With seniors entering care with more complex needs than ever before and with those numbers projected to increase in the coming decade, this support is more important than ever.

This year's net proceeds will help expand our dementia-friendly program throughout Union Villa LTC. Funds raised will enhance resident programs, nursing equipment, and technology, all crucial for creating a compassionate and comfortable environment that promotes the well-being, independence, and safety of those under our care.

Since 2015, this tournament has now raised over \$465,000 helping our residents age well and live better.



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We extend heartfelt thanks to the invaluable contributions of our **2024 Golf Chairs**, Larry Mariani and Danny Fantini, and their committee, Don Carvalho, Paul Cousens, Glenn Crosby, Valerie Fantini, Lori Manserra, Adele Mariani, Markham Councillor Reid McAlpine and Jan van Velzen.

SAVE THE DATE

UNIONVILLE HOME SOCIETY FOUNDATION PRESENTS...

THE *Future*² IS OURS

2024 UNION VILLA DINNER PARTY
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

Angus Glen Golf Club

Cocktails...6:00 pm

Dinner...7:00 pm

Tickets

Before Sept. 30: \$250

As of Oct. 1: \$300

Corporate tables

(8 people): \$2500

Funds raised from the 2024 Union Villa Dinner Party will contribute to advancing and expanding our dementia-friendly care model throughout Union Villa. Implementing true innovation to deliver impactful interventions that will transform the daily experiences for our residents will require a significant financial investment. Your support will help Unionville Home Society to train its staff to use innovative, person-centred approaches to meet the holistic needs of our residents living with dementia. This initiative is a top priority for Union Villa as we work to foster a life enriched with purpose and meaningful engagements.



For more information on tickets, corporate tables, sponsorship, or donating to our silent auction, please contact the Foundation at (905) 477-2822 ext 4270 or by email at dinnerparty@uhs.on.ca. We hope you can join us on November 7th!

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

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.