

THE HOMEFRONT

FALL/WINTER 2011-2012

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VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

Women's Committee of Markham supports Dementia Programs at Union Villa

Since 1968, the Women's Committee of Markham has been raising funds to assist many worthwhile causes in the local community. Their fundraising initiatives have included tours of homes, luncheons, fashion shows, garden tours, tea parties, concerts, and even publishing a cookbook.

This past year, the Women's Committee organized two outstanding luncheon events with the proceeds benefitting the Dementia Programs at both Union Villa and Markhaven: The Garden on the Greens, and the Fall Fling Fashion Show. Thank you Ladies for all your hard work and commitment to quality seniors care.



Janet Whiteley and Judy Prentice (WCM), John Carruthers (Union Villa), Bruce Ander (Markhaven)

A Community's Loss *Remembering a Dear and Devoted Friend and Board Member*



1961 - 2011

On Thursday November 27th, the Markham Board of Trade presented the 2011 Anthony Roman Award posthumously to the family of Rob van Velzen. The recipient was an exceptional and remarkable man who sat on our Unionville Home Society Board.

Rob van Velzen had been a member of the Board of Directors of the Unionville Home Society for more than 6 years. He actively served as Vice Chairman of the Board, and also as a member of the Finance Committee, the Planning and Development Committee, the Wyndham Gardens Board of Directors; Vice Chair of the UHS Foundation, and Chair of

the Fundraising Committee. While he held all of these positions during his time on the board, his most significant legacy was his commitment to quality of care for seniors.

Rob's steadfast commitment to our residents and seniors made him a Champion. He was a gracious, warm and compassionate man who really cared about his community and about his family.

As Rob was unwavering in his dedication, so shall our memories of him be cherished with tremendous fondness and respect; and shared by all those whose lives he touched.

The Union Villa Cornerstone Circle

There are no words to thank Elson and Joyce Miles for their unprecedented gift of \$1,000,000 to Union Villa. Their legacy to our community has set the bar for a level of generosity and kindness that can only be acknowledged by showing Elson and Joyce what we are able to achieve as a result of their outstanding gift. Our heartfelt thanks go to this wonderful couple for their community spirit, unselfish giving, and generous philanthropy.



The 'Union Villa Cornerstone Circle' represents a very special group of donors who have reached \$250,000 or more in cumulative giving. This group of philanthropists share a commitment to supporting the best in comfort and care for our seniors. The Miles hope to inspire others to give generously.

For more information, please contact Maria Dimson at 905 477 2839 ext 4270.

Dreams Come True at Union Villa!

The Second Wind Dreams program was launched at Union Villa in 2007. Its purpose was, and is today, to fulfill dreams of our residents, enriching their lives with hope, joy and compassion.

With the help of our very own 'Dreamweaver', Barbara Taverner, and her team of volunteers, we have been able to realize quite a few dreams this past year, including 'Table for 2', a romantic dinner for 11 of our residents with their special loved ones. The couples dined on fine Italian fare accompanied by live entertainment. The evening was an enormous success offering an unforgettable experience for all involved.



Another notable dream was whisking over 92 residents and guests downtown and onto the Mariposa for a cruise of the Toronto harbor and the islands. This experience created a sense of adventure for our participants and an opportunity to reminisce.

Giving begins at our UHS "Home"



Debra Cooper Burger, Unionville Home Society CEO considers Union Villa much more than a workplace, it is a home away from home. On a daily basis, Debra sees the impact on our Union Villa residents as a result of the great care,

compassionate staff and a warm homelike environment.

As we kick off the Holiday Season and begin to think of gifts that mean the most. Debra feels that making a difference for seniors in our community is a priority.

Thanks to a generous contribution from Debra and her husband, Michael Burger, we are able to increase our resources to ensure the best in care and comfort of the residents.

"As a family we believe in the good work being done by Unionville Home Society and want to show our support in a tangible way by contributing to the comfort of residents who live at Union Villa."

On behalf of the residents and staff, thank you Debra and Mike for your contagious passion to the Unionville Home Society. Your warmth and compassion makes a difference.

Ways to Give:

We truly appreciate any donation that you may be able to give and any support you can provide. Here are some suggestions for the best ways to donate to UHS:

- Individual/family gift
- Group giving through company's employee program
- In memory/tribute giving
- Legacy gifts/planned giving
- Endowment

Gala 2011 Fundraiser brings a good night's sleep to Union Villa Residents!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Unionville Home Society and the Gala Committee, we would like to thank our guests for attending the event; our sponsors for their amazing generosity, and our community for supporting the 2011 Gala -- including the countless volunteers who worked so hard to make this event a fabulous experience and overwhelming success. Special mention goes to the **Times Group Corporation** for being our signature sponsor again.

The Gala brought together friends, family, staff and residents who celebrated with joy and enthusiasm the wonderful aspects of living at Union Villa and the Unionville Home Society's commitment to meeting the needs of today's seniors.

Thanks to the success of the 2011 Gala, we were able to raise almost \$90,000 for *Project Comfort Excellence* – funds allocated for the purchase of new state-of-the-art beds and pressure relief mattresses for our residents. To date, we have renewed 20 beds and 35 mattresses, with more on order to reach our goal of providing new beds and mattresses for all 160 residents.

So, **thank you** for being part of our journey to ensure that our residents not only have the very best in care and comfort, but can also now enjoy one of the most important aspects of healthy living – a good and restful night's sleep!

Gala 2012 Save the Date

*The Unionville Home Society Foundation
presents*

**The UNION VILLA Gala Dinner
& After Party**

Friday, November 9, 2012
6 p.m.



For tickets or sponsor information please contact Maria Dimson, Unionville Home Society Foundation at 905-477-2839 ext. 4270 or email gala@uhs.on.ca.



2011 Gala Committee

New Foundation Leadership

The UHS Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Khalid Usman as the new Foundation Chair. Khalid is well known and respected for his tireless efforts with numerous charities and community initiatives. Khalid's appointments have included:



- Board Member, Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation
- Director, Frank Scarpitti Charitable Foundation
- Vice Chair, York Region Community Foundation
- Former Director, Markham Board of Trade
- Former Councillor at Town of Markham

Corporate Day of Giving

Giving back to the community



Earlier this year, UHS welcomed the return of community supporter, **Levi® Strauss & Co.**, and its employees, as gardening volunteers. Several volunteers graciously donated their time and skills to assist our residents at Heritage Village and Wyndham Gardens to open up their gardens for the season. With great pride, the volunteers got good and dirty mixing in fertilizer; planting flowers and vegetables; and still managing to mingle happily with the residents. We really appreciated all the help provided by Levi Strauss & Co., and its employees, and are pleased to announce that the volunteers' efforts were matched by a generous donation to programs at the UCCS. Thank you again, and we look forward to seeing everyone next spring!

In October, we welcomed a new corporate volunteer group, **Motorola Mobility Canada Ltd.** With their tremendous help, an Oktoberfest celebration was held at UCCS. The volunteers went diligently to work hours before the event setting-up the tables and decorating the auditorium. Once the event started, one of Motorola's very talented employees provided musical entertainment on his guitar, while the others worked away serving food to residents at their tables, transforming the auditorium into a restaurant. The occasion was very special and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Needless to say we would not have been able to put on this event without their help! A big 'thank you' to Motorola Mobility Canada Ltd and its wonderful volunteer staff.

If you would like to get your organization involved in a volunteering activity, please contact us. Your group could help us host an event, or perhaps you have a unique idea of your own that you think would be suitable. We are open to all concepts and suggestions!

*Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Nikki Sandhu, to obtain more information.
Telephone: (905) 477 – 2839 ext. 4240*

Building Community Partnerships

University of Toronto

Residents Benefit from Research Study

Union Villa was selected as one of 15 homes to participate in a research study between the University of Toronto, St Mike's Hospital and Union Villa. The PUMTT Study (Pressure Ulcer Multi-Disciplinary Teams via Telemedicine) is designed to promote the best practices for healing pressure ulcers and wound healing for residents that have this condition, and to facilitate access to the multidisciplinary wound care team at St Michael's Hospital for expert advice and consultation.

York Region

Enhancing Palliative Care for Villa residents

Union Villa was chosen as one of four homes in York Region to participate in the Palliative Care 'Education Program to Develop Inter-professional teams' within LTC Homes. The education sessions are being provided by Dr. Andrew Patterson (Medical Director, Parkview Home) along with a Clinical Nurse Consultant from HPC Teams for the Central LHIN and a member of the Nurse Led Outreach Team. The program is 4 weeks in duration and attended by Physicians, registered nurse and registered practical nurses, personal support workers, and pastoral care workers.



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