

The SOCIETY Scoop

New Year Message from President and CEO, Abby Katz Starr

As we enter 2026, there is strong momentum across Unionville Home Society. Following a season of celebration and reflection, I am pleased to look ahead to the opportunities of the year before us and to the continued evolution of our campus of seniors' services.

This January, we proudly launched our new website—an important milestone and a project long in the making. With a modern, dynamic design and engaging video content, the site showcases our dedicated staff, innovative programs, and welcoming facilities, while offering a more intuitive and accessible experience for our community.

We are also pleased to continue building our partnership with York University through its robotics program, including immersive Augmented Reality initiatives. We look forward to engaging residents and families in a demonstration of this emerging technology, highlighting its potential to enhance engagement, connection, and quality of life.

Our DementiAbility program continues to expand, with increased training and implementation across the home. We are especially proud to have been selected for additional funding through Ontario's Improving Dementia Care Program, reinforcing our commitment to emotions-based care. This recognition, alongside the positive feedback we consistently receive from families,



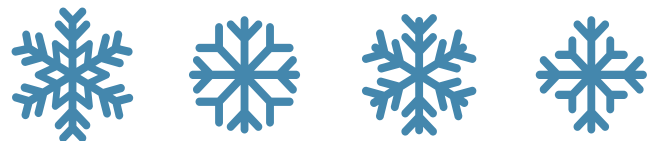
Board member Glenn Crosby (L) and Board Chair Philip Enright (R) presenting Abby Katz Starr with her Long-Service Award

affirms the meaningful impact this work is having within our community.

While we take pride in these accomplishments, much remains ahead. In the months to come, we look forward to further strengthening relationships with our government partners, advancing the launch of our strategic and operational plans, and sharing our work at the AdvantageOntario conference, where we will highlight the innovation taking place at UHS.

We are moving confidently into a promising year, and I look forward to sharing further updates from our Board. Thank you for your continued support as we bring together technological innovation and person-centred care to ensure the very best for those we serve.

—Abby Katz Starr



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Greetings from UHS Board Chair, Philip Enright



With a new year and the deep freeze of another Ontario winter, it is good to take stock of what we have accomplished and what lies ahead.

Our campus of senior care at Unionville Home Society continues to lead by example through the dedicated and loving care of our staff and volunteers. It is no accident that the Minister of Long-Term Care for Ontario chose our home to announce important governmental elder care initiatives. Several times in the Autumn, Minister Natalia Kusendova-Bashta and her staff visited UHS. Her enthusiasm for the quality of our work and commitment did not go unnoticed. I congratulate our CEO, Abby Katz Starr, her senior leadership team and, most of all, our devoted nursing and care staff for all they do daily to improve the lives of our residents.

But we cannot rest on our laurels. We have serious issues to address in the months and years ahead. Behind the scenes, your volunteer Board of Directors advises on decisions which will chart the future for our campus of care. Strategic and financial decisions, property development options and the continuing delivery of top-notch elder care are core considerations in your Board's deliberations. As our population continues to grow older (a wonderful thing) and the realities of dementia-related conditions become more prominent, there has never been a greater need for additional capacity in long term care and elder care. I think it will be a year of challenges, growth and opportunity.

I wish you all the very best of health and success.

– Philip Enright

uhs.on.ca: A Redesigned Website Experience

We're excited to share a first look at something we've been working on behind the scenes for months: a completely reimagined uhs.on.ca is officially live!

At the beginning of 2026, UHS launched a completely reimagined website. This is an important milestone in modernizing UHS's digital presence. More than a visual refresh, the new platform delivers a faster, clearer, and more intuitive user experience. Improved navigation, streamlined content, and a contemporary design now make it easier for visitors to find information and engage with our organization.

The site also introduces dynamic video features that showcase our campus, staff, and programs in a more immersive and compelling way, helping us tell the stories that define our community. As we move

forward, ongoing feedback from staff and clients will guide continuous updates to ensure the site remains current, relevant, and aligned with our evolving communication needs.

Visit now for a great digital experience AND feel free to share the excitement with your family and friends!



Resident Profile

Meet Annie McCrorie

Born Anne Stuart Ramsey on July 18, 1933, Anne McCrorie's childhood in urban Glasgow established her love of activity. With an older sister and brother, Anne's family moved to different addresses around the city. She recalls how she loved to play tennis, badminton, and later, go out dancing with her boyfriend at the dance hall, a popular pastime. She also the cinema, where she particularly loved the Flash Gordon films, as well as actors Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, and the films of duo Rock Hudson and Doris Day with their iconic '50s and '60s style.

Anne later took computer operating training, and in her early twenties, studied to become a social worker. "I loved it!" she recalls, describing her career and how she "went to troubled families and tried to help them with their problems." With her heart for helping others, she continued to work in the field after she was married, despite the unpredictable hours and evening calls. Later, when her father came to live with her and her family, she was able to work for the hospital, where hours were more defined. "You knew you could leave them because you knew what would happen," Anne explains. She would be able coordinate care with the nurses—a change to her previous role.

In 1953, Anne married James McCrorie. They moved back and forth between Canada and Scotland, first travelling by ship and later by plane. Her brother-in-law was already established in Ontario and helped them to get settled. Her sister also moved to Canada, and so Anne has had family on both sides of the Atlantic, including cousins still in Scotland. She recalls her first impressions of Ontario, saying it was "scary but curious" and she enjoyed discovering the city since "it was good to know where to go."

Anne and James (since passed) have one daughter, Moira, along with three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Moira lives close-by in



Ontario, and Anne lived with her before coming to Union Villa. "My daughter is very good to me," Anne says of their time together and their bond as widows. It is clear how important family is to her as she talks about her grandsons who both live in Ontario and her granddaughter, Claire, who lives in B.C. She proudly shows off the little figure of a highland cow on her side table, complete with a tartan bow. Claire brought it for her as a Christmas present from a recent trip to Scotland, the love of the country clearly passing from grandmother to granddaughter.

Back in Scotland, Moira showed Claire the dress shop that Anne used to visit in Glasgow, but Anne says most things in the city have changed. "I would love to go back just once more," she admits.

Even into her nineties, Anne is eager to stay active. She is grateful to be in Union Villa and able to use her walker to continue to stay mobile, and she is glad to see her daughter is able to now travel to see family. Having been in Union Villa over a year, she says she is thankful that the staff are so nice and understanding.

"My daughter tells me behave myself because I'm always on the go," Anne says with a bright smile.

Winter Activities from our Campus



Deciphering Groundhog predictions



Celebrating Robbie Burns Day



Baking up a cookie storm at the Adult Day Program



Cold days bring warm artistic expression to our residents



Families and volunteers join residents for a friendly game of crib



Happy New Year!



Baking with the professionals



UCCS staff and volunteers serving members with a smile

Voices of heartfelt appreciation

At Unionville Home Society, we are humbled by the many stories shared with us each day. Families, residents, students, and staff all carry their own meaningful experiences and the moments where our organization has touched their lives or the lives of those they love. **Here are a few of their reflections.**

I am very grateful for the opportunity to learn in such a supportive and welcoming environment, and I have gained invaluable knowledge, skills, and confidence throughout this placement. I could truly see how much the staff care for every resident, which made the experience even more meaningful.

Jessie, Nursing Student

I recently had the opportunity to participate in the DementiAbility workshop, and I left the two-day training feeling truly inspired. The experience helped me rethink dementia and the stigmas often associated with it. I gained valuable knowledge about effective communication tools for supporting residents living with dementia.

Veronica, Staff

Your staff is wonderful. It is reassuring to our family when you know that she is looked after and they are also kind and patient with her. Keep up the good work Union Villa.

Resident family

My co-op placement was a really positive experience. I learned how important it is to be patient and connect with people, and it gave me a new appreciation for working with the community.

Evelyn, UCCS Co-Op Student

Our family would like to share our heartfelt experience with Unionville Home Society and the extraordinary care they provided to our mother, Christina, over the past 11 years. From the very beginning, the staff embraced her with kindness, patience, and genuine compassion. She was fondly called “Nanay,” which means mother in Filipino, by the nursing and caregiving staff who loved her.”

Martinez Family

For over 3 years, my husband has truly benefited from attending the UHS Adult Day Program. The staff treat him with patience, dignity and kindness, and he feels safe and engaged while he's there... I've seen positive changes in his mood and confidence. I'm deeply grateful for the care the UHS Adult Day Program gives my husband.

Family member of ADP Program

Celebrating a Year of Impact

How Your Generosity Transformed Resident Life in 2025

2025 was an extraordinary year for the Unionville Home Society Foundation.

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our donors, sponsors, and event participants, we dispersed an incredible **\$524,000** to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Union Villa. Every dollar contributed helped us advance our mission of Redefining Aging by supporting programs and improvements that foster independence, dignity, and meaningful engagement.

Below are just a few of the ways your support made a tangible difference this year.

Essential Equipment That Elevates Daily Living

- DementiAbility dinnerware, designed with high-contrast colours that promote independence and healthier eating habits
- Adaptive dining tables with customizable settings to support a wide range of mobility needs
- Specialized Blixer equipment to prepare safe, nutritious modified-texture meals for residents with swallowing challenges
- New beds and mattresses that provide comfort, safety, and a restful night's sleep
- Facility Enhancements That Inspire Comfort and Connection

This year, we continued our full spa renovations in the Cedar Grove and Union Mills Home Areas. These refreshed spaces now offer a calming, therapeutic environment where residents can relax and feel pampered.

We also invested in the ongoing care of our Resident Garden and Courtyard, ensuring these cherished outdoor spaces remain vibrant and welcoming.

Recreational Therapies That Nurture Emotional Well-Being

Your generosity helped expand our expressive therapy programs, including:

- Art, Music and Clown Therapy

These programs bring certified specialists into our home to create safe, joyful spaces where residents can express themselves, build connections, and experience emotional support through creativity and play.

Supporting the Staff Who Support Our Residents

Behind every exceptional resident experience is a dedicated team of frontline staff. Donor contributions helped us invest in:

- Staff Appreciation initiatives
- Technology for our nursing teams
- The Crosby Education Fund, which supports ongoing training and professional development

These resources empower our staff with the tools, knowledge, and encouragement they need to continue delivering compassionate, person-centred care.

Together, We Are Redefining Aging

Your generosity powers the equipment, programs, and dedicated staff that keep Union Villa at the forefront of long-term care. As we look toward 2026, we remain committed to a future where aging is embraced, honoured and supported.



Unionville Home Society Foundation – Upcoming events

Unionville Home Society
Foundation presents



**WHERE KINDNESS
BLOOMS**


THURSDAY APRIL 30, 2026

ANGUS GLEN GOLF CLUB

SCHEDULE
9:30 a.m. Registration & Marketplace
12:00 p.m. Luncheon followed by
Event Presentation

TICKETS
Early bird (until April 3): \$100
Regular (as of April 4): \$120
In support of Union Villa Long-term Care

Unionville Home Society
Foundation presents




**UNIONVILLE
CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC**

TUESDAY JUNE 23, 2026

ANGUS GLEN GOLF CLUB SOUTH COURSE
6:30 am Registration | **8:00 am** Shotgun start

TICKETS
Per golfer... \$300
Early bird foursome (until June 1)... \$1,100
Foursome (after June 2)... \$1,200
Includes: 18 Holes of golf with cart, Continental
breakfast, Lunch, Passport of activities
In support of Union Villa Long Term Care



For more information on tickets, corporate tables or sponsorship, please contact the Foundation at (905) 477-2822 ext 4270.

Proceeds to support resident programs, nursing equipment and technology advancements, all crucial to ensuring the best long-term care experience for those entrusted to our care.

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.