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A Note from Our Chair

As our community emerges from its snow-covered lairs to welcome the March sun, I am happy to report that our Auxiliary has foregone its winter hibernation and accomplished a great deal. Cottage Gift Shop Coordinator, Cathy McQuinn, and her UHA elves successfully executed another Poinsettia fundraiser, again adapting to the challenges of the Hospital parking lot and managing to merrily deliver over 380 plants, in below-zero temperatures!

At the UHA Christmas Luncheon at Wooden Sticks over 75 Auxiliary volunteers dined, socialized and welcomed our invited guests from the Hospital Foundation and Oak Valley Health. It was there, that all were invited to our final 2026 UHA cheque presentation taking place on the One-year Anniversary of Chances Are at its new location, and where Michelle, Mackenzie and Jacquie of the Foundation offered to bring the food. Then, on the 10th of December, these three lovely ladies arrived at Chances Are with some beautiful luncheon trays and joined us in the fun-filled celebration, graciously accepting the Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary's $100,000 donation on behalf of the Uxbridge Hospital Foundation.

Speaking of luncheon trays, Maria Ciarlandini of Vince's Market reached out hoping to promote her Random Acts of Kindness (RAOK) program and on the 17th of December another delivery of bountiful trays arrived at the Uxbridge Hospital, compliments of Vince's, to the surprise of both Hospital staff and volunteers. Maria and Vince's have also since made a substantial pledge to become the Title Sponsor of our 2026 'Run for the Diamond!' Thank you, Vince's Market. And thank you to Boston Pizza for choosing the UHA as the beneficiary of its February Valentine's campaign! What a community we have been blessed to serve, all for the betterment of its healthcare.

2025 was a very successful year for our multi-faceted Auxiliary, raising a grand total of $450,000 for our Hospital! 2026 now strives to make '25 jealous. Congratulations, UHA Volunteers, for your extraordinary hours of hard work and your unending sincerity - to your co-workers, our hospital's visitors and the Uxbridge community as a whole. The Face of our Auxiliary is a Beautifully Determined One. You should all be very proud!

Extending an early invitation to Spring on behalf of the UHA,

Gwen Layton
UHA Chair

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Chances Are - A Note from Manager, Victoria

Things at Chances Are have been going really well. We've had a steady flow of donations and great support from the community. Even with this crazy winter, we've still had people coming out on the coldest days, which has been wonderful to see. The volunteers continue to do an amazing job keeping everything running smoothly!



One fun highlight lately has been some interesting vintage donations coming through the door — they always draw attention and keep customers browsing a little longer! You just never know what will come through those doors!





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Knitting Report - from Jackie Teskey

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our knitting and crocheting volunteers. They are the “behind the scenes” volunteers who work in the comfort of their homes to help raise money for our hospital.

So many times I have heard compliments about the quality of the handwork that are displayed in the gift shop.

Records are kept with the numbers of hours these volunteers have spent with busy hands and needles. From January to December 2025, this number was 7309. There was also a record amount of sales for this time period - $7826.00. Almost $1400.00 was sold in December alone which was a record amount for a month’s sales.

Thank you to these volunteers for their fundraising efforts.
Thank you to Cathy McQuinn and all the gift shop volunteers for their work.





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Run for the Diamond

We are gearing up for another exciting Run for the Diamond and keeping fingers crossed Mother Nature attends in our favour! This year's Race will take place **Sunday June 14, 2026.**



The committee is actively working on sponsorships - Big Thank you to Vinces for stepping up as our Title Sponsor this year.

Thank you also to Boston Pizza who has also been actively running promotions to help increase donations and awareness for the Run.

A big Welcome Back to Dan Pollard as well who has confirmed he will be back to MC on race day!

We are excitedly moving forward with a green initiative for this Run. In lieu of T-Shirts we will be offering a sapling with each race registration.
This sapling is for each participant to take and plant wherever they would like.
In addition to this, we are working with Lake Simcoe Conservation and other various organizations and will be planting a mini pocket forest with a location set to be on the outskirts of Elgin Park along Elgin Park Drive. (*This is pending Council approval at the April 13th meeting).

In the meantime, please continue to spread the word.
If you know of anyone or any business that may be interested in sponsoring the Run on a corporate level, please feel free to reach out to Michelle and she will provide you a sponsorship package.

Please keep an eye on our Run for the Diamond Social Media accounts (Facebook and Instagram) for further updates!

Volunteers are welcome in any and all capacity and are encouraged to contact Michelle Baker directly at kukla1@hotmail.com.

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The Cottage Gift Shop - A Note from Cathy McQuinn

The Gift Shop has gone Plum Loco!



That's right … the popular Plum Loco 'Made in Italy' brand is back in the Gift Shop with fabulous spring clothing. Clothing is one size fits most, so come in and take a look.

And while you're there, be sure to check out the CLEARANCE rack with 30% off the lowest price!

The Gift Shop is also looking for assistance with the Gift Shop Coordinator Role.

Anyone interested should contact the Director of Volunteers

Interested individuals should note the following requirements -
- Good leadership and organizational skills
- Good communication skills
- Commitment of 40 hours per month approximately
- Willingness to drive to vendors and trade shows in the GTA
- Merchandizing (love of ironing and steaming new clothing product)
- Accessibility to answer questions and concerns during business hours Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm

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Director of Volunteers - A Note From Bev

Hospital Volunteers Needed
In the Gift Shop, Exercise Program & Wayfinders no regular shifts available but need a volunteer for fill in.

Gift Shop
Gift Shop Coordinator
- Good leadership and organizational skills
- Good communication skills
- Commitment of 40 hours per month approximately
- Willingness to drive to vendors and trade shows in the GTA
- Merchandizing (love of ironing and steaming new clothing product)
- Accessibility to answer questions and concerns during business hours Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm

Chances Are
Require afternoon Receivers and Sorters

The UHA Board of Directors has recently passed updated policy in regards to Covid Vaccinations.
If you are working in a hospital or health care environment, Vaccine requirements are in accordance with the hospital staff requirements as has always been.
However if you are working outside of the hospital - specifically ***Chances Are****, there are* ***no*** *longer any Vaccine requirements applicable at this time.*

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In and Around the Auxiliary….











The Order of the Diocese of Toronto, an award created in 2013, honours members of the laity in the diocese who have given outstanding service over a significant period of time in their volunteer ministry. We give thanks to God for the work and witness of these faithful people who, in the exercise of their baptismal ministry, have demonstrated that “their light shines, their works glorify.” In 2025, the recipients came from the following deaneries: Etobicoke-Humber, Huronia, Oshawa, Scarborough and Toronto East

Olive Joy Freemantle, ODT
St. Paul, Uxbridge
Mrs. Freemantle has been nominated by St. Paul, Uxbridge for a quarter century of faithful service to her parish. As a past warden, she is currently a member of the altar guild, chair of the Outreach Committee, coordinator of the prayer chain, organizer of the Christmas hamper program, reader, intercessor and lay administrator. Her faith is exemplified in devoted engagement.

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Uxbridge Hospital Foundation



Upcoming Events and Volunteer Call out

Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary Volunteer Information Meeting
Uxbridge Legion
Monday March 30th 11am - 1pm
Special Guest Jodi Bussiere, Registered Physiotherapist and Owner of Uxbridge Physiotherapy
Tea, Coffee, and Homemade Muffins will be available for light refreshments

Uxbridge Hospital Foundation Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
Wooden Sticks
April 20th at 11:30am
RSVP by April 6 to Jacquie Noble at janbole@oakvalleyhealth.ca or 905-852-9771 x 5219

Run for the Diamond - Save the Date! June 14, 2026
Reach out to Michelle Baker kukla1@hotmail.com to get involved

Catch the Ace!
Tickets start at $10
2 Chances to win each week, choose your card for the progressive jackpot
More information - https://uxhospitalace.ca/

Thank you to all of our generous volunteers!

Any questions, or to volunteer in any capacity - please contact the Director of Volunteers - dovuchauxiliary@oakvalleyhealth.ca or 905-852-9771 x 5237
Check out page 6 for current needs for volunteers

Contact Information

Your UHA Board of Directors
uchauxiliary@oakvalleyhealth.ca

Chair - Gwen Layton
Vice Chair - Ginger Jackson
Secretary - Michelle Baker
Treasurer - Joy McKinnon
Director of Volunteers - Bev Latva
Rayna Davies
Sherrill Hodgson
Gloria Eng
Wayne Brasseur

Governance Committee
Chair - Rayna Davies
Joy McKinnon
Teri Murphy

PR and Social Media
Gwen Layton
Michelle Baker

Volunteers
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dovuchauxiliary@oakvalleyhealth.ca

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kukla1@hotmail.com

Chances Are
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manager-chancesare@outlook.com

The Cottage Gift Shop
Cathy McQuinn

Auxiliary Newsletter Editor
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