

St. Demetrius (Ukrainian Catholic) Development Corporation

Our Mission is to help seniors experience life to its fullest in a warm, homelike Ukrainian setting with the highest quality of services, compassion and professional care.



Annual Members' Meeting

The St. Demetrius (Ukrainian Catholic) Development Corporation is an incorporated not-for profit public benefit corporation with a charity status that was incorporated on June 29, 1979 in Ontario.

The Corporation serves the residents living at the St. Demetrius Apartments, at the Ukrainian Canadian Care Centre and the seniors in the community with respect, empathy and compassion.

The Corporation's mission is to help our seniors' experience life to the fullest in a warm, home-like Ukrainian setting with the highest possible quality of services, compassion and professional care and with the health and safety of our seniors being our utmost priority.

Last year started with an unremitting focus on the Pandemic and on the War in Ukraine when Russia launched its full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022.

Our organization values independence, compassion, integrity, and respect, the importance of family and spiritual support during trying times. We reached out to friends and families to assist Ukrainian emigrants. The Corporation provided emigrants three apartments rent free with assistance in finding jobs and getting settled in the GTA.

They are family. Families boost our confidence and make us feel loved. We learn the values of love, respect, faith, hope, caring, culture, ethics, traditions, and everything else that concerns us through our families.

Family bonds are important because family helps us get through the most disastrous times and the best of times.

Between Friends, was an evening of appreciation where we came together as family with the Ivan Franko Homes and Sts. Peter and Paul Residence to reach out to the Polish Community at the Copernicus Lodge to thank them for their assistance with the vast number of Ukrainians fleeing Ukraine. It was an evening of prayer, good food, dance and joy. Sto Lad!

Today, Covid-19 and the War in Ukraine are still with us.

We pray and hope that each tragedy will come to an end very soon.

This year, the Corporation's mandate was to ask the question, what can we do to make things better?

We met both virtually and in person and again reached and surpassed our challenges.

As the pandemic continued to impact our service dynamics, with more seniors aging at home longer requiring additional outreach services and residents entering long term care arriving with more health issues requiring greater levels of care, the question is... are we up the challenges we face? I say yes we were.

Among other initiatives during Covid-19, the Development Office developed an extensive outreach program to virtually serve our seniors in the community. Their Stay Connected program offers exciting and meaningful opportunities for socialization and participation of older adults in various recreational activities such as gentle exercise, games and interactive creative sessions. Many joined in our Sing with a Singer, Paint with an Artist and Perform with the Actors sessions. Program participants are also offered the opportunity to stay for lunch and enjoy an afternoon concert.

In the interest of both seniors and government to develop a Seniors Age in Place plan, the Visioning Committee is beginning to work on a plan to provide a professional Seniors Aide Training Program to assist seniors Age in Place.



Olga Shiels - Artist

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Our Mission is to help seniors experience life to its fullest in a warm, homelike Ukrainian setting with the highest quality of services, compassion and professional care.

At the start of this last term, I asked our members to not only to bring their best to each meeting, to be informed and to vote with a good understanding of each motion, but to represent the Board in the community as a forward thinking Corporation that is committed to achieving excellence in each service delivery in a setting that is sensitive and respectful to the cultural and spiritual needs of everyone we serve.

Directors responded positively and attended supplementary Board meetings to discuss continuum of care issues, to resolve staff pension complications and to approve bylaws amendment.

We worked effectually in a constantly changing environment dealing with a variety of issues arising from the Ministry of Health, the new legislation for Ontario Not for Profit Corporations and in helping seniors with Covid-19 related isolation living in the community.

I am happy to report that our Board of 14 members worked hard to achieve our mandate of care in a professional and proficient manner and that the Corporation is able to continue working from a foundation of strong financial management and executive leadership. Generous donations assisted in supporting quality of life programs for our seniors and in completing many of our capital projects.

This has also been a year of greater understanding and desire to take care of business as a governance board. We developed Terms of References for each standing committee and focused on reviewing policies and procedures. With the recent legislation for not-for-profit Corporations, we worked on updating our letters patent and amending our bylaws to ensure compliance with Ontario Not for Profit Corporation Act's mandate.

One challenge was to ensure board members had access to an interactive virtual communication system. Directors have approved and will soon be able to log onto a Board portal within the very near future.

Risk management is about preparing for an uncertain future. During the pandemic, the Board and management assessed key risk management plans with respect to long-term resident care. They started with a focus on cybersecurity, data management and legal compliance. This work is ongoing.

The Marketing and Communications Committee developed a strategy to assist board members in being the Corporation's ambassadors starting with posting board members bios on the website. This year fundraising focused on connecting with families and on the Cardinal Walkathon. The committee also contacted a third party professional consultant to review the Corporation's branding with respect to communication and fundraising.

And, the Strategic Visioning Sub Committee worked with Laurier MBA group to assess incorporating and building a hospice on UCCC's property for end of life care focusing on comfort, respect for personal health care treatment decisions, support for the family, and the psychological, cultural and spiritual concerns for our loved ones.

Canada's population is aging as seniors 65 and older now represent the country's fastest growing demographic. The next challenge is to assist seniors to Age in Place by continually expanding our Stay Connected Program and developing new innovative initiatives. Board members need to contribute to the strategic and long-term success of the Corporation's mission, vision and values in an atmosphere of collegiality, cooperation and professionalism.

This year brought many challenges to our Board. In working with the management team and the executive director we came together as family, ready to help in any way they could and accomplished a lot.

Please accept my deepest appreciation to all of you for your dedication to the Corporation and in helping residents living at the apartments, those at the Care Centre and the seniors in our community to live a better quality of life.

Marusia Kuschmir

Chair

St. Demetrius (Ukrainian Catholic) Development Corporation

30 May, 2023