

The Vine

“KEEPING US UNITED”



An Email To MPP Sam Oosterhoff - Budget 2026-27: An Upstream Plan For Seniors' Care In Our Community

Dear Sam,

I am writing as a constituent of Niagara West and as someone who, as Chief Executive Officer with United Mennonite Home for the Aged, is connected to seniors' care and housing in our community. On behalf of the seniors we care for, I'm looking for your support.

Our campus in Vineland is a proud member of AdvantAge Ontario, the association that represents more than 530 providers across long-term care, seniors' housing, supportive housing and community services. We are equally proud of our history in providing seniors' housing, supportive housing, and long-term care services we see as a continuum of care campus. We currently have 309 people living on site and employ 209 staff. Our long-term care home has capacity for 128 beds. Together, our association is urging the province to make Budget 2026-27 a turning point for seniors' care by prioritizing upstream investments in supportive housing, home care and community supports. This is a new playbook. We need to invest in measures that prevent crises, not just in those that deal with their impacts. These investments will help older adults stay well at home longer and reduce avoidable pressure on emergency departments, hospital beds and long-term care homes.

Did you know that a majority of long-term care admissions, 50.1 per cent, are coming from hospitals? That's a 67 per cent increase compared to pre-pandemic levels. This is not sustainable for patients, caregivers, or the health system. AdvantAge Ontario's recommendations also represent a strong value proposition. Average cost per day caring for an older adult is approximately \$63 in supportive care, \$127 via home care, \$200 in long term care, \$323 in an emergency department visit, and \$700 to \$1200 for a hospital bed. The most expensive care is the care that happens too late.

I am asking you to support the following actions in Budget 2026-27:

1. Expand assisted living supports and home and community care, by:
 - Creating a dedicated capital and operating funding stream to expand seniors' supportive housing, including specialized supportive housing for seniors with complex mental health and addictions needs.
 - Stabilizing existing supportive housing and community support programs to prevent service erosion and closures.
 - Providing ongoing, permanent funding for Nursing Homes Without Walls so more older adults can receive supports earlier and closer to home.
 - Investing \$605 million in home care, community support services, and independent living to reduce avoidable emergency visits and hospital stays.
2. Ensure long-term care is resourced for rising acuity and changing needs, by:
 - Providing dedicated funding to LTC homes to enhance care for residents with complex mental health and substance use needs, including staff training and specialized staffing.
 - Investing in community-based support for older adults with mental health and addictions diagnoses so people get appropriate care in the appropriate place.
 - Increase level of care funding to keep pace with rising costs and support high quality care.
 - Providing a 6.1 per cent funding increase for nurses, PSWs, and allied health professionals to sustain four hours of direct daily care.

If helpful, I would welcome a short meeting and/tour on-site to discuss what these investments would mean for seniors and families in United Mennonite Home for the Aged campus.

Thank you for your time and your work on behalf of our community.

Sincerely
Walter Sguazzin, CEO



Resident/Family
Satisfaction Survey



We are asking residents or their substitute decision makers to complete our 2026

Resident/Family Satisfaction Survey. A link will be emailed to all resident contacts requesting to complete the online survey by March 31, 2026. Alternatively we will have hard copies available at the volunteer desk in the front lobby. Completed hard copies can be submitted to the main office.

The Resident/Family Satisfaction Survey is an essential tool for assessing and enhancing the quality of care in in our Home. It provides valuable insights into residents' experiences and perceptions, guiding improvements in service delivery. We appreciate and value your participation.

Jodi Thompson
Programs Manager

Elizabeth MayerDeBerncastle
February 2, 2026

Frances Tegel
February 4, 2026

Marie Verhaeven
February 9, 2026

Kathe Urbshaitis
February 16, 2026



Stella Graham
Harbour 137

Walter Funk
Blossom 123

Anna Meeboer
Garden 227

Hazel Hardeen
Meadow 255

Martina Gibbons
Garden 212

Robert Butler
Meadow 231

Edward "John" Millar
Garden 213

Diethard Scheunder
Garden 205

Carmel C
March 2nd

Elizabeth B
March 4th

Patrick K
March 10th

Andrea T
March 15th

John W
March 17th

Mary N
March 19th

Phyllis K
March 21st

Jack S
March 25th

Norman R
March 25th

Gisela K
March 26th

Monica R
March 26th

Aurelia M
March 30th

Eleanor H
March 30th



Orchard View APARTMENTS

INDEPENDENT LIVING WITH CARE



Orchard View Tuck Shop Opened to ALL Tenants across Campus

Wednesdays & Saturdays
9:30am-11:00am

It's located at Orchard View Apartments just around the corner from the auditorium kitchen on your left.

Orchard View APARTMENTS
INDEPENDENT LIVING WITH CARE

February/March Birthday Party

Open to Orchard View Tenants Only!
Monday, March 9th @1:30pm
in the OVA Aud

*Enjoy Cake
and a Sing-a-long
with Ruth & Friends!*

Ladies Group

Meet & Greet
with Granny Nanny
Services

COFFEE/TEA AND LIGHT SNACKS
PROVIDED!

FRIDAY,
MARCH 6TH
@10AM

ORCHARD VIEW
HARVEST ROOM

Legacy Project Free presentation by Rose Cottage

**Wednesday,
March 11th @1:30pm
in the Terrace Hall**



Legacy volunteers work with participants to document their life story, and create a book for them to treasure and pass on to families to be enjoyed for years to come!

Bird Photography Presentation Presented by: Murray Vader



Wednesday, March 18th @ 1:30 in the OVA Aud

View prophotography while learning about birds!
Free Will offering accepted!



Tech Time: Friday, March 20th
@ 10am in the TVT 3rd Floor
Games Lounge

Book Mobile: Tues, March
24th @ 10am in the OVA Lobby



**Drop-in Entertainment:
Sunday, March 22nd @2:00pm
Immanuel Life Group Choir in the OVA Aud**



**Tenants Helping Tenants!
Handyman & Handywoman Services Needed!**

We are compiling a list of tenants who are willing to offer private **or** volunteer services to fellow tenants in need of extra support with light tasks around their home. This list will simply be a resource; staff will not be involved in managing the services, aside from providing the contact list. If you're interested in being included as a helper, please reach out to Jessica at jgrabell@umh.ca or Ext. #2504.

supporting senior
wellness 



CHAIR YOGA

Tuesdays at 10:30am
Terrace Hall



EXERCISE CLASS

Exercises will continue on
Wednesdays at 10:45am
and Fridays at 1:00pm in the
Orchard View Auditorium



**SHAKE
YOUR
Shamrocks!**

**IRISH DINNER
& SOCIAL**

**TUES, MARCH 17TH
@5:30 IN THE TERRACE HALL**

**\$20/PP INCLUDES SHPEHERD'S PIE,
DESSERT, BEVERAGES + ENTERTAINMENT**



Coffee Social
Wednesdays @ 10am
Second Floor Lounge



Drop-in Musical Entertainment
Free will offering will be accepted!



Tuesday, March 24th @7pm in the OVA Aud

Music by the Beatles, John Denver and more!

Follow FACEBOOK updates!



@ *Twenty Valley Terrace*

VOLUNTEER FOR SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE TERRACE HALL

Scan the QR Code below to sign up as a Special Events Volunteer!

By filling out this form, you consent to your information being shared with Tenants across campus who can contact you when they are hosting special events or fundraisers on campus!

If you require assistance, please notify Jessica.



Meet & Greet with C.S.S.N.



Community Support Services of Niagara will be in the Terrace Hall on Wednesday, March 25th @ 1:30pm

Learn about their meal delivery programs and other services provided to older adults who live in independent living across Niagara.

On-site registration for services will also be offered to Tenants at Twenty Valley and Vineland Park Estates.

Worship Services: Every Tues @2:00pm

Bible Study: Every Thurs @2:00pm

In the Orchard View Auditorium

Services are opened to Tenants and their guests across campus!





**NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
WEEK 2026**
**IGNITE
VOLUNTEERISM**
APRIL 19-25



Have you recently moved?
Don't forget to notify
Pamela to change your
address in our files.

*Welcome
new Volunteers!*

JC Castano

Maddy Lamb

Ayan Mohamed

Kenneth Onyeachonam

Kingsley Onyeachonam

Pet Therapy Volunteers Wanted!

We are currently looking for community members and family members who have friendly, well-behaved dogs and would be willing to bring them in to visit with our residents.



Pet therapy offers countless benefits, including:

- Increased mental stimulation
- Improved communication
- More "PAW-sitive" thoughts and fewer negative ones
- Reduced loneliness
- Decreased anxiety
- Relief from symptoms of depression

If you have a people-friendly, house-trained pet who would be a great candidate for visits, we would love to hear from you!

Please contact Pamela Kohut at volunteere@umh.ca for more information.



Please note: all pets must be kept on a leash at all times.

Thank you for helping us bring comfort, connection, and joy to our residents! 🐾

Volunteering Across Campus:

UMH Volunteers, contact:

Pamela at volunteer@umh.ca or 905-562-3711 ext. 5008

OVA Volunteers, contact:

Jessica at jgrabell@umh.ca or 905-562-3711 ext. 2504



Or Sign-Up Here



March is Nutrition Month!

Texture modified diets are extremely important to safely provide food for residents with chewing and swallowing difficulties. In the same way, modified fluids make swallowing liquids safer. Here's why...

Dysphagia, the medical term for difficulty swallowing, is a condition that affects a significant portion of the elderly - estimates suggest as many as one in three adults over 65 experience it. Causes range from natural age-related muscle weakening to the effects of neurological conditions like stroke, dementia, Parkinson's disease, as well as structural changes in the throat or esophagus. While it may initially present as mild discomfort or occasional coughing during meals, dysphagia can lead to serious complications such as malnutrition, dehydration, and aspiration pneumonia. Treating dysphagia in older adults requires a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach. Speech-language pathologists assess and recommend texture and/or fluid consistency modifications, dietitians implement the recommendations considering individual preferences and other nutrition needs, and nursing staff monitor residents for complications. The dietary staff prepare and serve a range of specialized, modified foods. These special foods are prepared using food items from the regular menu and have similar nutritional values. Thickened fluids are available both commercially and prepared in-house.

Christine Toderoff, Registered Dietitian
Pam Danyluck, Nutrition Manager



When I was a boy the church we attended observed the Lenten season by holding a weekly worship service on Wednesday evenings beginning on Ash Wednesday. That meant getting dressed up in my Sunday suit and tie in the middle of the week and sitting through another worship service each week. There was no separate children's program those evenings. I don't know that I got much out of those services, but I did attend them.

For children, observing Lent is something we may be forced to do by our parents. As adults, observing Lent is something we get to do, a choice we make for ourselves. This year Lent began on February 18th which was Ash Wednesday. I would invite you to observe Lent in some way again this year; to take time during the 40 days leading up to Easter to reflect and prepare our hearts to understand the sacrifice Jesus made for us on Good Friday. Let's choose to observe this special season. Let us identify with the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness before beginning his ministry and appreciate the ultimate sacrifice He made for us on the Cross.

This year we will be offering a Communion service in the Home on Friday, March 27 to prepare ourselves for Palm Sunday and Holy Week. We will also be offering worship services at UMH and Orchard View on Good Friday, April 3rd. We invite you to be a part of these services as a way to reflect more deeply on the life and ministry of Jesus.

Chaplain David Gifford

COMMUNITY CONCERT



dop·pel·gäng·er

TUES, MARCH 3RD @7PM

IN THE TERRACE HALL

@ TWENTY VALLEY TERRACE

3311 MENNO ST. VINELAND

THIS IS A FREE EVENT - FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE ACCEPTED.

REFERRAL PROGRAM



\$1000.00!

Current or former campus members who refer a relative, friend, or acquaintance that rents a unit at Twenty Valley Terrace before April 2026 will receive a referral reward from United Mennonite Home!

The incentive is paid in cash once the referred person signs a Tenancy Agreement and moves into their apartment at Twenty Valley Terrace.

 905-562-7385 x 5012

 abeeke@umh.ca

 3311 Menno Street
Vineland ON LOR 2C0



CONTACT US

4024 Twenty-Third St Vineland, ON L0R 2C0

 (905) 562-7385  thehome@umh.ca  www.umh.ca

CORPORATE OFFICE

**Vineland Park Estates
Twenty Valley Terrace**

Walter Sguazzin Chief Executive Officer	ext 5001
Janice Cairnie Director of Finance	ext 5007
Rob Millar Director of Maintenance & Capital Works	ext 5006
Marcus Kabel Finance Supervisor	ext 5037
Ashley Beeke Executive Assistant TVT Placement Coordinator	ext 5012

ORCHARD VIEW APARTMENTS

Stephanie Easton Supportive Housing Manager Orchard View Apartments Coordinator	ext 2501
Jenna Smith Assistant Supportive Housing Manager	ext 2503
Jessica Grabell Programs and Community Engagement Coordinator	ext 2504

UMH CARE CONTACTS

Charge RN	ext 6000
Blossom Lane	ext 5022
Harbour Lane	ext 5023
Garden Lane	ext 5024
Meadow Lane	ext 5025

UNITED MENNONITE HOME

Nursing

Kelly Chuckry Chief Nursing Officer	ext 5002
Erin Heynemans Director of Care	ext 5013
Rae Anne Pollard Nurse Practitioner	ext 5036
John Rioux Assistant Director of Care/IPAC Lead	ext 5032
Lynne Chiasson Assistant Director of Care/RAI-MDS	ext 5028
Celeste Rakowski Pain & Palliative Care Coordinator	ext 5033

Programs

Jodi Thompson Director of Programs & Recreation	ext 5004
Jenn Trudel Social Service Worker	ext 5018
Pamela Kohut Volunteer Coordinator	ext 5008
David Gifford/Rob Collier Chaplains	ext 5014
Nina Raskovic-Dragas Physiotherapist	ext 5027

Dietary

Pam Danyluck Nutrition Manager	ext 5003
Christine Toderoff Dietitian	ext 5027
Erin Royer Food Services Supervisor	ext 5019

Administration

Bobbi Lynn Bachur HR & Operations Manager	ext 5005
Lorraine Wilson Administration	ext 5032
Kenidi Begolo Scheduling Coordinator	ext 5009

Follow United Mennonite Home
on FACEBOOK for updates!

@ United Mennonite Home

 Follow

