





STRONGER because we care

Annual Report | 2024-2025

Nos services et ces informations sont également disponibles en français.





STRONGER because you care.

We see you out there doing extraordinary things for other people – even when it's hard. Your care, your compassion and your heart are what turn the hard days into better days.

It takes real strength to care for other people – and in these uncertain times, caring for other people is the ultimate act of hope.

Thank you for holding fast to the belief that **everyone** deserves extraordinary care and showing up for our community.

Because nothing is stronger than people who care.



Sharon Vathy, Nurse | 30 Years of Extraordinary Care

"I am thankful and grateful for 30 wonderful years at Acclaim Health and for all of the staff I have worked with and continue to work with."



Gordon Cronjaeger, PSW | 25 Years of Extraordinary Care

"I joined this organization because of its commitment to the veterans of Canada. Twenty-five years ago, there were thousands of veterans from the World Wars still alive, and I was given the freedom to give them the best care possible. Working with the outstanding leadership here, I knew I had arrived at an agency I could call my second home for the rest of my career. I made the best choice and never looked back."



Camille Bardwell, Nurse | 20 Years of Extraordinary Care

"I came to Acclaim Health out of a naive curiosity for community nursing. That curiosity grew into a passion and that passion into a calling. I don't think this would have occurred had it not been for the many opportunities Acclaim Health has provided to further my education, allowing me to grow as a nurse and as a person. What a privilege it is to be part of ensuring a patient and their loved ones are comfortable, supported and prepared for their end of life journey."



Jocelyn Senica-Shaefer, PSW 20 Years of Extraordinary Care

"20 years is a long coming but I am grateful. I couldn't have done it without the patience and encouragement of all the amazing supervisors and schedulers. Why I stayed with Acclaim Health? Professionalism, systematic and the chance to better yourself through continuing education."



Jean Grieve

30 Years of Supporting Extraordinary Care

Over the last few decades, Jean has been one of our most consistent donors! Many thanks, Jean, for your long-standing love and support of the people we help.



Sylvia Langlois

30 Years of Supporting Extraordinary Care

Sylvia started giving to Acclaim Health when she experienced the wonderful support we provided to her son, her friends and family members. Sylvia is a wonderful example of the kind of lovely people that make up the Acclaim Health community: people who feel moved to pay it forward so that others can experience extraordinary care.



St. John and Carolyn Blakeley

30 Years of Supporting Extraordinary Care

St. John and Carolyn have a proud family legacy of supporting their community through Acclaim Health. They began supporting over 30 years ago, and Patricia Blakeley, their daughter has been with the organization for almost 20 years. Go Blakeley family!



Bonnie and Terry Jackson

30 Years of Supporting Extraordinary Care

"How could we not support this amazing organization, when we see firsthand the passion and heartfelt joy they share and the extraordinary attention they extend to all who receive care? My role with Acclaim Health started as a Hospice Volunteer, and now we are proud to be staunch supporters of the many programs offered."



Don Croucher

25 Years of Supporting Extraordinary Care

25 years ago Don walked into a day program with his friendly demeanor and guitar in hand and never looked back. He has brought so much joy to countless club members and caregivers, sharing his passion for music and making others smile.

There are even more

amazing people

to meet in the rest of this report!

2

IT'S GOLD

for Acclaim Health!

Acclaim Health is one of the few organizations in the country to be Music Care Certified at the highest level - gold! WOO HOO!

Led by Meredith Woodiwiss and Mason Gibson, our amazing music therapists, the teams across our four Clubs have worked hard to integrate music into our care, including:

- Making personalized playlists to reduce anxiety, elevate moods
- Integrating music into every single club member's care plan
- Introducing musicking boxes at each club (for spontaneous music making!)
- Starting an intergenerational music program for kids 3 and under and their "grandfriends" at the club
- Using music to cue activity transitions
- All of the usual fun musical stuff that happens at the clubs - singing, sound play, percussion, and JOY!

Music therapy is also becoming an important part of our Hospice Care and Bereavement programs.

- Help people process emotions
- Assist with pain control
- Create deeper connections with their family
- Give them an outlet for their creativity

For people living with grief, music helps them:

- Honouring the life of the person
- Reform their identity after a loss
- And coming soon...our first ever Bereavement Choir!

Along comes this music program that totally changed everything to the good... so this is really serious stuff to our family, my family... my family has really benefited from

this program... it just got me back to the land of the living."

- Larry, Music Therapy Client



CELEBRATE WITH US!



Wednesday, November 26, 2025 | 6:00pm-9:00pm Appleby College, Oakville

SCAN ME

To celebrate our gold Music Care certification and to raise funds for our music therapy program, we're hosting Choir! Choir! for a one-of-a-kind event!

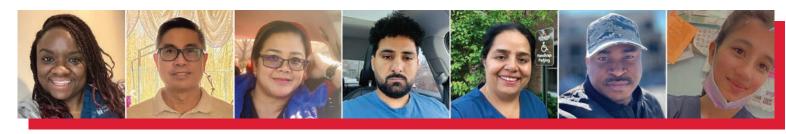
Choir! Choir! Choir! is a fully interactive, participatory show that turns audience into performer! So get ready to laugh, dance and SING! your hearts out with hundreds of other music-lovers just like you. It's like a big party for the greatest songs of all time - and you're invited!

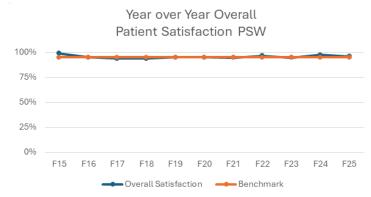
EPIC anthems unite the world and are the soundtrack to our lives. And there is none more EPIC than Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." When a room, filled with hundreds of strangers, starts to harmonize, you'll feel it deep in your soul. And that's not all! Get ready to sing your way through the greatest songs of all-time - from Joni to Whitney and Oasis, Adele to Pink Floyd, you never know what will happen at a Choir! show, but guaranteed you'll wanna SING them all!



STRONGER BECAUSE WE'RE

providing more care than ever before





More Personal Support Than Ever Before

Our incredible Personal Support Worker (PSW) team provided a whopping **433,869** personal support visits – **13% more** than last year, and more visits than ever before in our 95-year history! Despite this huge increase, overall satisfaction with our PSW care is as strong as ever – a testament to extraordinary people who provide this extraordinary care.

More Happy Feet as Footcare Expands

In partnership with the Burlington Family Health Team we were able to offer footcare at no cost to residents of Burlington at our Burlington Nursing Care Centre. Through the Burlington Family Health Team initiative we also offered foot care to people living at the Bethany Residence and partnered with Support House to provide footcare to unhoused people through their Mobile Health Team. Both of these initiatives made good footcare much more accessible to people who need it. Run as a social enterprise, last year our footcare service provided **5,505** footcare sessions to **1,111** people - keeping everyone's feet happy and healthy!



STRONGER BECAUSE everything is better with Priends

Tech Cafés Connect Older Adults in a Digital World

Our drop-in Tech Cafés have become a popular way for older adults to get help using their devices. Part of our new Technology Accessibility Program (TAP), the cafés use volunteers – many of them teens – to help older adults learn how to join video calls, register for events, send text messages, use social media and more – all important tools in staying connected to their friends, family and community. Many thanks for the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their support.



Fun for Everyone at the Moments to Treasure Gala

Our first annual Moments to Treasure Gala offered our club members and clients the chance to have a fun night out with their family caregiver or volunteer in a supportive, safe and celebratory environment. The night was a huge success, with many guests reporting "they felt human again." The dance floor was on fire! It can be really intimidating to attend fun events when isolated, living with dementia or other health challenges – but socializing is one of the most important factors in aging well. Sounded like a great reason to have a party! Thank you to Amica Credit Mills and Amica Glen Abbey for their sponsorship of this event.



On Friday my mother had a fall. Her fall assist button contacted the fire department for a lift assist. My mother was in quite a state, when in walked her PSW Maria - taking control, cleaning my mother up, making sure everyone that needed to be contacted was contacted and then facilitated the lift assist to take place without humiliation to my mother. We are forever thankful that Maria has become part of mom's life and proved herself to be a blessing to us again."

Sharing Good Meals in Good Company

Oakville now has a new community lunch, offered by St. John's United Church in partnership with Acclaim Health. These new community lunches have become wonderful gathering places for older adults to meet other awesome people, enjoy great food and generally have FUN! Even with multiple languages present, the laughter, feeling of connection, and all-around good vibes have been strong. Designed to address a lack of community meals for older adults, they have become a popular event – attracting up to **60** people each time.

STRONGER

because the best is yet to come.

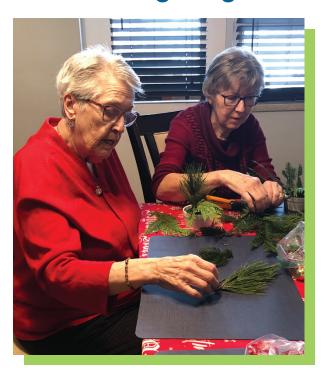
Club Waiting Times Reduced... By a Year!

At the peak, families were waiting well over 18+ months to get a spot in one of our amazing clubs for people living with dementia – a lifetime for people on the brink of burnout. With funding from our *Because You Care* campaign, wait times have been reduced to an average of 6 months. Woo hoo! However, there are still over 1,000 families waiting for dementia care across Halton. That's far too many, waiting for too few spots....





Introducing Bring the Club Home!



Bring the Club Home is designed to use the best practices honed in our Adult Day Programs (Clubs) to deliver fun, enriching care – right in the club member's home. Our dream team of our crackerjack dementia care experts will provide recreation-based activities tailored to the club member's interests, abilities. Plus, community club members will have a chance to meet other club members at dementia-friendly social events!

Our first club members will be welcomed to the program this summer. The community club will provide 4 hours of support a week for 3 months. Not only will this help families cope until they can access an ongoing program, it will also ease the transition to a club outside the home when a spot opens up.

Support for this program has been provided in part by the Halton Region Community Investment Fund, and some of our awesome community members. You can help or find out more at acclaimhealth.ca/bring-the-club-home



SCAN ME

STRONGER

because our team cares

Our First Annual Angela Awards

The Angela Award was created to both honour the legacy of Angela Brewer, a long-time Acclaim Health CEO, and to recognize the contributions of outstanding team members who exemplify best in extraordinary care. **Congratulations to these two INCREDIBLE nurses!**



Camille Bardwell

Camille has an incredible ability to build connections with her patients and colleagues, and it is awe-inspiring to see how easily patients (and other nurses!) open up to her. Even when facing difficult situations, she always responds with kindness and patience, provides comfort, offers solutions and actively listens. She encourages each individual to overcome their obstacles on their own strengths, and as a result, everyone she approaches is immediately at ease in her presence. Furthermore, she is incredibly skilled. She is an excellent nurse in every respect. She has the clinical knowledge to provide medical care, and the compassion to provide reassurance and peace.

As the evening nursing team lead, she always checks in with the nurses during her shift to offer help or even just to provide updates. She follows up to make sure everyone completes their night safely. She has, on multiple occasions, stepped in during her days off to help manage caseloads or problem-solve care issues. Thank you for putting your whole heart into the care you provide, Camille!



Yda May Escobar Cruz

Yda May forms meaningful connections with each client, adapting her empathetic approach to meet their unique needs. Patient feedback often highlights the exceptional care she provides, whether it's for those with ALS, Parkinsons, advanced-stage lung cancer, pressure wounds, or general check-ups. Her extensive expertise is invaluable, as she can swiftly assess client needs to prevent potential health complications and hospitalizations. Her strong relationships with the PSW team enables them to identify optimal care approaches when evaluating new clients. She also frequently cares for end-of-life clients, ensuring they receive the highest level of support during this sensitive time. Her attention to detail ensures optimal comfort, and she goes above and beyond to offer comprehensive support to both clients and their caregivers.

She has become a cornerstone of the North Halton team, demonstrating unparalleled commitment and support to patients and colleagues alike. Thank you Yda May for your extraordinary professionalism and care of your patients!

STRONGER because our volunteers care.

Cheers to these caring volunteers for supporting extraordinary care in our community!

25 Years

Don Croucher, ADCS
Barbara Davidson, Friendly Visiting
Nancy Williams, Tele-Touch



Charolette Adams, Friendly Visiting Kathy DeSantis, Tele-Touch Quentin Polacco, Memory Visiting

10 Years

Andrew Amatiello, Tele-Touch
Margaret Foley, Memory Visiting
Kristine Kazias, Tele-Touch
John Kidston, Bereavement, Tele-Touch & Friendly Visiting
Grace Maharaj, Friendly Visiting
Anthony (Tony) Massari, Friendly Visiting
Christie McCarthy, Hospice & Friendly Visiting
Annette Morris, Friendly Visting & Hospice
Ginette Young, Hospice



Karen Aikman, Hospice
Lindsay Garbatt, Bereavement
Lara Huska, Hospice
Margaret Jardine, Memory Visiting
Kim Keliehor, Friendly Visiting
Douglas Kelley, Hospice
Marius Musteata, Memory Visiting
Daksha Patel, Bereavement
Charlene Patterson, Tele-Touch
Mary Porco, Friendly Visiting
Moina Sayeed, Memory Visiting
Alyssar Taychouri, HSEP & Friendly Visiting
Carol Todd-Skuce, Friendly Visiting
Joanne Venman, Bereavement







Hazem Kamal Abouagwa Hassan Ahmad Phyllis Alcantara Robert Alonso Sandy Amodio Galina Antonik Josephine Arguez Anna Armstrona Helen Arsicot Mary Atto Amad Awan Ricky William Baele Frances Bagley Freda Bailey Slava Banfi Slava Banfi Kimberley Bates Christina Belcin Serida Bhattacharva Christine Bilusack Deborah Borotsik Angela Both-Soukup Verdun Bourdon Nelly Boyle Judy Bridgman Norma Buchanan Violeta Burany Ayesha Butt Nora Cameron Elizabeth Campbell Karen Capindale-Smith Romina Carlorosi Michael Carusone Theresa Castonguay Kevin Chisholm Shakuntala Chockalingam Colleen Clairmont Denise Correia Milica Culum

Diana Dao

Regan Degroot Alice Dekleer Marisa Di Filippo Candyce Elioff Clara Fernandes Jeffrey Findlay Gayle Fisher Susan Flack Anne Fox Chiharu Fukuda Pearl Gabriel Natalia Ghiglioni Valerie Gibson Joanne Goodwin Melissa Gordon Karen Granatier Margaret Gray Hogervosrt Sasha Hanson Bonita Head Megan Heil Marilyn Heintz Scott Hledin Chelsea Howard Amanda Hunt David Hutchison Hala Issa Mary Jaggard Paulene Jodry **Beverly Johnston** Tamara Karpova Irene Kim Chervl Kozak Mitch La Tour Robin Lampman Teresa Lazette Gaon Lee Neha Mahajan Linda Manto Jessa Mae Marquez Ellie McCarthy

Brenda McElroy Tracy McIver Manal Milad Smita More Ken Moxie Shakira Mutalova Dain Na Francine Nadeau Warda Naeem Niam Nasir Caroline O'Brien Rose Orellana **Noelle Parsons** Asha Patel Kathy Patrick Mary Pettingill Churchill Linda Pinkney Barb Podgorski **Brett Prior** Jeanne Purdy Roshni Rajagopal Samir Ahmed Rangooni Julia Rawlinson Jan Raymond Ali Raza Victor Reano Lois Reyes Luisa Reyes Colleen Richmond Leanna Ringler Li Ritchie Pamela Roach Beth Robertson Julie C. Robertson Debbie Robinson Yanina Robles Susan Roth marie Thérèse Rush-Smyth Loveleen Sandhanwalla

Michelle Sandoval

Pamela Seran Hamza Serhat Guran Debbie Shackleton Waleed Shirwa Manal Shishani Mags Shorey Steve Shuta Juliette Silva Jack Smye Nancy Soloman Hannah Song Elizabeth Sreblowski Nancy Stavert Nancy Stewart Ruth Stockdale Misha Sud Ruhail Sud Ai Suevoshi Trevor Tafri Balinder Taneja Aric ten Brinke Jennifer Thomas Angela Varghese Dali Varma Marcela Velez-Pulgarin Blair Vintinner Randil Vithanage Christine Walach Deborah Walker Blythe Ward Minuki Wickramasuriya Laura M. Williams Maggie Wong Melissa Yardy Kensi (Na) Zhang Cindy Zhou

And many more who prefer to remain anonymous!

STRONGER because our community cares.

Thank you to our incredible donors for supporting extraordinary care in our community.

This list includes donors who gave between April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. We have made every effort to make sure this list is accurate. Like seriously, we looked at spreadsheets for *days*. If we missed you, we are so sorry and we will make it up to you with a visit from the pom pom squad!



Karen Pettit25 Years of Supporting Extraordinary Care

Karen's Mom was blind and Acclaim Health provided companionship for her – a support that was extremely helpful to her Mom and the whole family. She continues to see the good we do in the community as we've now helped some of her friends too.



Sophie Saeys 25 Years of Supporting Extraordinary Care

Sophie is an amazing, adventurous person who has lived a life full of travel and hiking. She loves to see the world, but has made supporting her local community a priority too.



Doreen Beaman

20 Years of Supporting Extraordinary Care

When Doreen's husband died, she found herself at loose ends. She decided to volunteer, becoming a Friendly Visiting volunteer. Doreen says being a volunteer was a wonderful thing to do: she needed it, got a lot out of it, and hopes she helped some people too!



Tish Butson20 Years of Supporting Extraordinary Care

Tish's connection with Acclaim Health has taken many forms. She received help as a caregiver, she has been a volunteer, and she has been a supporter. In her own words, "I wanted to give back in some way for the good care that I was able to get for my husband and me when he was in his last stages of life."



Madeline Goliger 20 Years of Supporting Extraordinary Care

"Doing good makes me feel good. Volunteering with Acclaim Health has been a wonderful experience because of the staff and the people behind the scenes that keep you going. It has been excellent!"



Joanne and Robert Hawkins 20 Years of Supporting Extraordinary Care

Joanne Hawkins is currently Acclaim Health's goddess of Quality and Risk, but she started her career with us 28 years ago when she was just a baby. Originally a volunteer in our Caregiver Support program, and then a team member in our Adult Day Program, Joanne has a deep passion for the people we help. Her exceptionally high standards, meticulous attention to detail, and rigorous pursuit of best practices have been integral in making Acclaim Health what it is today.





St. John and Carolyn Blakeley Lillian Clayton Thomas Cochran Jean Grieve Bonnie and Terry Jackson* Sylvia Langlois John and Joan MacArthur Mary McHugh Shirley Russell Betty Sale Elise Speed Ruth and Robert Urbasik Robert Welsh



Lynn Douglas Karen Pettit Sophie Saeys



Doreen F. Beaman Lois Boucher Alicia Butson Madeline Goliger Joanne and Robert Hawkins Jennie and Michael Kaloutsky



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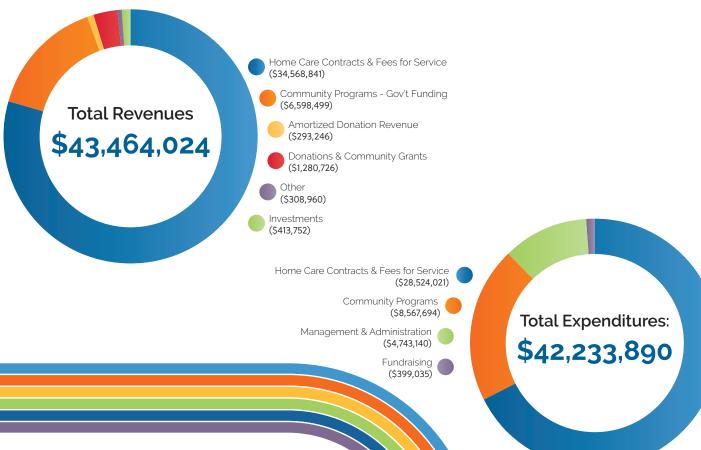


STRONGER BECAUSE WE'RE building an inclusive organization .

Doubling Down on Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA)

We strongly believe that we can only deliver extraordinary care when everyone is included. This year, we continued to provide core learning opportunities for all team members on anti-racist approaches and practices. IDEA key accountabilities were incorporated into every single role at Acclaim Health, and we're working hard to integrate an anti-oppression / social justice lens into all of our decisionmaking tools. Hey, we're not perfect. Far from it. But we know creating a truly inclusive organization takes time, and we're doing the work to make that happen.

Financial Highlights



Our Team Knows We Have Their Backs

Sometimes people are not at their best when we are trying to provide care. With incidents of physical and verbal harassment on the rise – and many team members working alone in people's homes – Acclaim Health increased its efforts to ensure our team members feel safe. A team of people from across the organization, including our Client and Family Services Advisory Committee, came together to strengthen our prevention measures, procedures and responses. Now, clients understand that violence of any kind will not be tolerated, and team members are better able to deal with incidents, feel more comfortable reporting them, feel much more supported at work.



Stuart du Kamp. Chair



Lawrence Benjamin



Debra Deakin



Cindy Lee Heinz, Past Chair

Mukul Asthana



Predrag Jurovicki



Dwania Peele



Cathi Mietkiewicz' *Resigned in March 2025

Want to know more?

Full audited financial statements and a link to our charity tax returns (T3010s) are available at acclaimhealth.ca/about-us/

Carla Velastequi



Kelly McWilliams, CEO (ex officio)

Community Committee Members

Margaret Grice Jason Merrithew Michael Marco Natalia Harhai

PULLING PLANES

a Party for the Busy Bees!

A big thank you to everyone who sponsored our United Way of Halton and Hamilton Plane Pull team.

Together we raised funds for United Way programs, won the SPIRIT AWARD (because we were having so much FUN), and came in 2nd in overall fundraising.





2370 Speers Rd. Oakville ON L6L 5M2

Tel: 905-827-8800

Toll Free: 1-800-387-7127

Fax: 905-827-3390

www.acclaimhealth.ca

Accredited by:





Funded in part by:





Acclaim Health provides nursing and personal support services under contract with Ontario Health atHome Mississauga Halton (MH) and Ontario Health atHome Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) in accordance with their programs and service guidelines. The views expressed are those of Acclaim Health and do not necessarily reflect those of MH, HNHB, Ontario Health or the Government of Ontario.

Charitable Registration Number: 11928 4602 RR0001