

For Immediate Release

Community Support Month highlights vital role of Community Care Durham in supporting local residents

Embargoed until Oct. 1, 2020

DURHAM REGION, Oct. 1, 2020 – October is Community Support Month and over the next four weeks Community Care Durham and other local agencies will be celebrating and raising awareness of the vital community-based support services provided by dedicated staff and volunteers to help local residents live independently in their own homes.

With nearly 50 years of experience in supporting people and strengthening community, the team at Community Care Durham has innovatively met the challenges presented by COVID-19, moving programs online and implementing new safety protocols for in-person programs and services.

Bart Hancock, a CCD Meals on Wheels volunteer has been delivering hot and frozen meals to clients for over 20 years. CCD provided more than 96,000 meals to local residents in 2019-20 and, as a result of the pandemic, the volume has increased. This year, from April until August, CCD provided 66,274 meals (meal units) to clients.

Since COVID-19 volunteers have altered their delivery processes and now do contactless meal delivery. Meals are left hanging on a client's doorknob or in other pre-arranged spots. Upon delivery, a knock on the door or a ring of the bell alerts the client their meal has been delivered.

"It's very different, but it's necessary," Hancock said of the new COVID-19 protocols.

Other programs and services that continue to be offered by CCD include:

- Foot care clinics
- Community Food Box deliveries
- Transportation Services
- Online Adult Day Programs
- Telephone Reassurance
- Online and telephone COPE Mental Health Support Groups
- Online Falls and Exercise classes
- In home Personal Support Worker visits

People interested in obtaining CCD services are encourage to visit the CCD website at www.communitycaredurham.on.ca or call 1-888-255-6680.



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CCD and other agencies across the province will be recognizing their staff and volunteers over a series of special days and weeks in October:

October 5-9	Meals on Wheels Week
October 7	Congregate Dining Day
October 9	Supportive Housing/Assisted Living Day
October 11	Friendly Visiting/Telephone Reassurance Day
October 12	Respite Services Day
October 12-16	Community Care Worker Week
October 14	Client Intervention and Assistance (CIA) Day
October 19-23	Adult Day Program Week
October 23	Home Help/Maintenance Services Day
October 26	Transportation Services Day
October 27	Attendant Services Day
October 28-29	OCSA's Virtual Community Connect Conference
October 30	Hospice and Palliative Care Services Day

Follow the conversation on social media at #CSM2020.

Community Care Durham (CCD) is a multi-service registered charitable organization providing a broad range of support services for individuals over the age of 16 and their caregivers so that people are enabled to maximize their independence and thrive where they choose to live. At CCD, coordinated networks of volunteers and inter-professional staff, working out of integrated community hubs and other locations, strive to enrich the well-being and quality of life for people who choose to live at home. As the largest community support services agency in Durham Region, CCD collaborates with its partners and the broader community to address community issues and support local citizens to achieve their goals to live independently.

Interviews are available with Meals on Wheels volunteer Bart Hancock OR CCD's CEO, James Meloche.

To arrange an interview or for more information, please contact:

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