

August 25, 2020

Dear Friends,

What a summer it has been! I hope that you and your family and friends have remained safe and well. Everyone at ESS continues to thrive and we all send our best wishes.

Earlier this year, ESS learned Florence Umphrey, a dear friend and steadfast supporter of ESS left us with a \$30,000 gift to continue our work in the community, which she strongly believed in.

Florence is very fondly remembered for her compassion, kindness, sense of humor and many musical talents. You can learn more about our long friendship with Florence [on our website](#). We look forward to honouring her legacy by using her gift to continue helping seniors and caregivers remain well at home and in their community through our basket of essential programs and services.

We have turned our attention to reopening our group in-person programs. We have seen an increased demand for our transportation and respite care services.

Over the summer our vehicles have been fitted with protective barriers. This, combined with the limited number of passengers we can safely transport at one time, are key parts of our Infection Prevention and Control strategy.

With respect to our Adult Day Programs, relying on Public Health and Ministry guidance, a slow return will be implemented. The number of clients involved each day will be limited and the staff to client ratio increased to ensure physical distancing, heightened client attention and care. We will start with half days with the goal of gaining the experience needed to plan for longer program days.

The programs will first open at our Alderwood (525 Horner Avenue) and soon-to-be new Rosemount (30 Rosemount Avenue) sites. We are also looking for other potential locations where we can safely run the programs.

I am pleased to tell you about a new program we will launch in the fall. As a result of funding approved by the United Way of Greater Toronto, under the Allan Slaight Seniors Fund, ESS will be introducing a program to support seniors who are caring for their adult children with disabilities.

This five-year program will be delivered in partnership with Community Living Central York and Humber College. Its objective is to support the seniors involved in coping with the significant stresses they face in light of their caregiving responsibilities, to educate and support them in adopting tools and techniques to plan for the longer-term care their loved ones may need. Building community and connecting seniors in the program with their peers will be a critical feature of the program.

As this will be a new initiative for ESS, other partners with expertise in senior care and well versed in supporting adults with disabilities, will also be engaged. We will learn much, and share this knowledge, as it is implemented.

If you know seniors who are caring for their adult children with disabilities, please encourage them to reach out to us as soon as possible as we are launching it in the fall.

Of course we continue to send our best wishes to you. As always, if you or anyone you know may need our help, please call (416) 243-0127, access us through our web site at [www.esssupportservices.ca](http://www.esssupportservices.ca) or by e-mail at [agency@esssupportservices.ca](mailto:agency@esssupportservices.ca).

Regards,



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