

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **OCTOBER IS COMMUNITY SUPPORT MONTH**

***Celebrating the frontline workers helping seniors, vulnerable individuals, stay safe and healthy at home through the pandemic.***

**TORONTO, October 1, 2021** – This Community Support Month recognizes the 20,000 employees and 100,000 volunteers delivering essential home and community care services across Ontario through charities and not-for-profit agencies.

Last year, they helped over 1 million Ontarians, delivering 2.7 million meals, providing 1.8 million rides to medical appointments, and serving 42,000 Ontarians in adult day programs and nearly 25,000 with assisted living services.

There are over 25 different programs offered by the sector, including services such as nursing care and personal care, homemaking, Meals on Wheels, Alzheimer and adult day programs, transportation to medical appointments, caregiver support, and hospice and palliative care services. Home and community care provides health promotion, preventative services, and re-enablement services, and given the strain on the health system this last 19 months, these services are more important than ever to keep Ontarians from declining and requiring more intense health care services.

“As our health care sector is beginning to return to pre-pandemic operations, a strong and robust home and community care sector is critical to a well-balanced functioning system”, says Deborah Simon, CEO of Ontario Community Support Association.

“Recognizing the importance of the work we do, Community Support Month helps bring attention to receiving care in the community – the place where we live, work and ultimately want to be if we need care.”

Not-for-profit home and community care programs only receive partial government funding, and are supported by community foundations, individual donations and thousands of dedicated volunteers. Through celebration days like “Community Care Worker Week” and “Attendant Services Day,” the month recognizes the hard work these frontline workers do for our community, while increasing public awareness of what community support services are and why they are an integral part of the healthcare system – especially now.

**Community Support Month celebrations are scheduled as follows:**

October 4-8	Meals on Wheels Week
October 6	Congregate Dining Day
October 8	Supportive Housing/Assisted Living Day
October 11-15	Community Care Worker Week
October 12	Friendly Visiting/Telephone Reassurance Day
October 13	Respite Services Day
October 15	Client Intervention and Assistance (CIA) Day
October 18-22	Adult Day Program Week
October 22	Home Help/Maintenance Services Day
October 25	Transportation Services Day
October 26	Attendant Services Day
October 7/14/21/28	OCSA's Virtual CommunityConnect Speaker Series
October 29	Hospice and Palliative Care Services Day

Follow the conversation on social media in October at **#CSM2021**

**About OCSA**

Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) represents close to 230 not-for-profit organizations that provide home care and community support services that help seniors and people with disabilities live independently in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. These compassionate and cost-effective services improve quality of life and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations, emergency room visits and premature institutionalization. They are the key to a sustainable health care system for Ontario.

For more information, visit [www.ocsa.on.ca](http://www.ocsa.on.ca) and <https://twitter.com/OCSAtweets>.

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

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