

Memo to Seniors Advisory Committee

TO: Seniors Advisory Committee, City of Barrie

FROM: Martin Rochon, Social Impact Project Coordinator, CCSI, Georgian College

RE: HomeShare Project

Date: November 16, 2020

The following is a current brief update on the HomeShare Project.

Attached is also the report that covered the project in detail From January 8, 2020 until August 31, 2020 and a testimonial letter from Barrie CARP.

HomeShare was initiated as part of a partnership between Barrie's Office of the Mayor and Georgian's Centre for Changemaking and Social Innovation. It was intended as a pilot project that matches post-secondary students with older adults aged 55+ who have a spare room in their home. In exchange for reduced rent the student would provide up to seven hours per week of companionship and light help with household tasks. The project was based on the successful Toronto HomeShare project.

The project was and remains strongly affected by COVID-19 as safety and legal protocols dictated and continue to dictate that Georgian College Students could not and cannot be placed into seniors' homes until the COVID-19 risks lessened. The program will continue to gather, and screen matches so that when the pandemic situation improves, we can quickly and effectively place the students with the best matched seniors.

The project has undergone a substantial pivot while remaining true to its core goal of mitigating social isolation for seniors and students. The pivot is supported by a \$50,000 grant from Simcoe-Muskoka United Way that runs from June 20, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

The pivot is centered on the currently conducted Barrie seniors' needs assessment surveys that will be completed on November 17, 2020 and an app designed by Georgian College's Interactive Media Design: Web students. The app will be used to dispatch Georgian College Students to address some of the identified seniors' needs. Currently, the app is being refined and student volunteer recruitment is ongoing. The project will fully launch on January 18, 2021 – at which point student volunteers will start to be dispatched to address the needs of Barrie's seniors.