

## Needs Assessment Survey Results Overview

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The purpose of this document is to provide a brief overview of key results from the recently conducted needs assessment survey that was administered to Barrie seniors and to those who are caregivers to Barrie seniors or act in a related capacity.

The survey numbers are not meant to reach statistical significance at this point, but instead to provide a meaningful initial overview of the top needs that can be addressed by Georgian College student volunteers.

Top Needs Identified by Seniors:

1. Snow removal – **41.18%**
2. Transportation – **29.41%**
3. Two needs tied at **27.27%**:
  - A. Dealing with technology; and
  - B. Lack of social gatherings/contact due to COVID -19
4. Lack of Recreational Activities – **23.54%**
5. Communication, Lawn Mowing, Organising things – **17.65%**

Top Needs Identified by Caregivers and Related Stakeholders:

1. Transportation – **80.00%**
2. Five needs tied all at **70%**:
  - A. Meal preparation
  - B. Snow removal
  - C. Visiting healthcare centres
  - D. Organizing Things
  - E. Recreational Activities
3. Lawn Mowing – **60%** with gardening at **50%**
4. Three items tied at **40%**:
  - A. HomeCare
  - B. Dog walking
  - C. Communication with talking on phone at **30%**

After examining the identified needs, we can look at which top identified needs could be addressed by Georgian College Volunteers.

Although noting the great importance of the needs identified, we can first look at which of the few needs are already being addressed by other sources in Barrie and/or which needs would not be ideal for being addressed by student volunteers.

Snow removal is already being addressed by Snow Angles in Barrie.

Transportation provides challenges due to current social distancing protocols and has large insurance risks based on younger drivers.

Looking at where the caregivers and seniors overlap in top needs identified and where student volunteers are most likely to be effective we can identify the following categories under the “Seniors’ needs that can be addressed by Georgian College Student Volunteers”:

1. Helping Seniors Deal with Technology including Helping Seniors Communicate with Others (via phone and/or internet)
2. Organizing Virtual Social and Recreational Events
3. Lawn mowing and gardening, dog walking (with social distancing dog “hand-off” protocols).

**\*4.** Meal preparation was not identified as an issue by the seniors. In fact, most of the seniors surveyed **95.45%** indicated that they can prepare meals for themselves. However, as the senior sample was relatively small, it is very much worth considering (including addressing in future, wider surveys) that the caregivers are identifying seniors who were not strongly represented in the seniors’ survey and/or that caregivers are seeing that the meal preparation process among the majority of seniors could use some level of assistance.