

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



# YEARS

HOME SUITE  
**HOPE**

LIVES PERMANENTLY CHANGED FOR THE BETTER.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Mississauga, showing a large marina with many sailboats docked along a river. In the background, there are several high-rise apartment buildings and a bridge crossing the river. The image is overlaid with a dark blue semi-transparent filter.

# Land Acknowledgement

Halton Region acknowledges the Treaty Lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation as well as the Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Anishinabek on which we gather.

In stewardship with Mother Earth and the enduring Indigenous presence connected to these lands we acknowledge the Indigenous Nations of the past, present and future.

In the spirit of ally-ship and mutual respect, we will take the path of Truth and Reconciliation to create change, awareness and equity as we strive to elevate the collective consciousness of society.

Miigwetch, Nia:wen, Marsi, Thank you

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# A Letter from HSH's Executive Director

For the sixth year, I have the incredible honour of sharing the inspiring work that Home Suite Hope, from our volunteer Board of Directors to dedicated staff to the resilient single parents have accomplished.

As we reflect on 2024, we recognize it as "The Year of Partnerships and Perseverance." This year brought remarkable milestones, strengthened alliances, and inspiring successes, but it also tested our resilience amid ongoing funding challenges. Through it all, the unwavering support of our community empowered us to advance our mission of ending single parent-led homelessness in Halton.

Home Suite Hope proudly celebrated its 20th anniversary of serving families experiencing homelessness in Halton. This milestone stood as a testament to the passion and dedication of our staff, volunteers, and supporters who have helped pave the way for stability, independence, and hope. We commemorated this achievement with heartfelt events, including a Volunteer Appreciation BBQ and a 20th Anniversary Celebration, uniting partners and supporters to reflect on our journey and build momentum for the future.

A major focus in 2024 was addressing the urgent need for affordable housing. We took a meaningful step forward by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with One Urban, a development company committed to incorporating affordable housing.



This MOU secured one long-term affordable unit in a new development on Old Bronte Rd — a crucial achievement in our broader strategy to expand access to safe, stable homes for single-parent families. Still, the road ahead is challenging. As costs continue to rise, we remain steadfast in seeking innovative partnerships to combat the housing crisis.

Advocacy remains at the forefront of our efforts. Our team raised awareness at key forums, including engagements with the Rotary Club of Oakville and 100 Women Who Care Burlington, emphasizing the critical role of supportive services in breaking the cycle of homelessness. We also met with local MPs and MPPs, including Oakville MP Anita Anand and Milton MP Adam van Koeverden, as well as MPPs Effie Triantafilopoulos and Stephen Crawford, to push for expanded housing solutions. I was honored to discuss Canada's housing plans with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and then Minister of Housing, Sean Fraser, highlighting the need for long-term, sustainable solutions.



Amid these efforts, our Homeward Bound Halton program continues to thrive. In 2024, we celebrated seven families graduating and taking one step closer to self-sufficiency. We also enhanced our financial literacy workshops, mental health support, and employment readiness programs, ensuring participants gained the skills they need to thrive long-term.

Securing sustainable funding remains a challenge. Yet, through perseverance and community collaboration, we achieved key funding milestones. We became a United Way-supported agency, receiving multi-year program funding. Additionally, we secured a \$58,800 Capital Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, allowing us to expand outreach and improve our services. Fundraising events like Luxury Bingo, hosted by Wishlist Group, and our annual Empty Bowls fundraiser provided vital resources to sustain our programming.

We continue to witness the incredible generosity of local businesses and organizations. Fresh Kitchen & Juice Bar and Bellwether Investment Management were among those who stepped forward to support our mission. The Purse Project Network brightened Mother's Day for our single moms with beautiful, care-filled purses. Rotary Club of Oakville Trafalgar donated grocery gift cards, while CIBC Mellon packed hygiene and activity kits for families. These partnerships make a tangible difference in the lives of our participants.

Volunteers remain at the heart of Home Suite Hope. We hosted several Volunteer Appreciation events, honoring their tireless contributions. Notably, Cindy Perras was recognized at Burlington MP Karina Gould's Volunteer Appreciation Awards, exemplifying the spirit of service that fuels our work.

Another significant achievement was the expansion of our mental health support services. We proudly hired an in-house psychotherapist, solidifying our commitment to mental wellness. In fact, Home Suite Hope was named one of the top four not-for-profit employers for employee mental health in Canada.

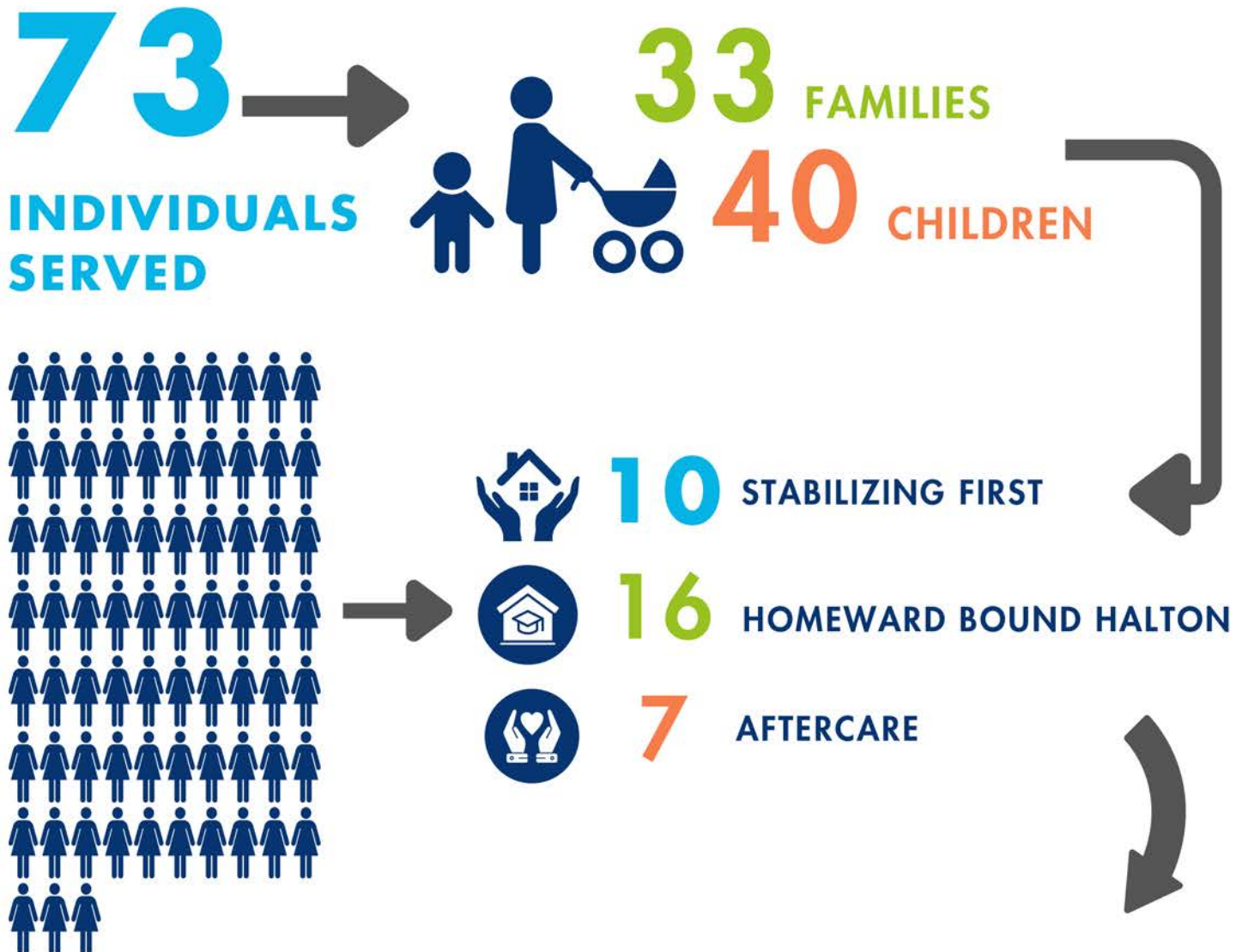
As we look ahead to 2025, we remain steadfast in our mission. The partnership with One Urban is only the beginning. We are actively pursuing additional housing opportunities, knowing that each door we open is a step toward permanent change. The challenges are significant, but so is our resolve. Together, we can continue to build a future where families thrive, free from the threat of homelessness.



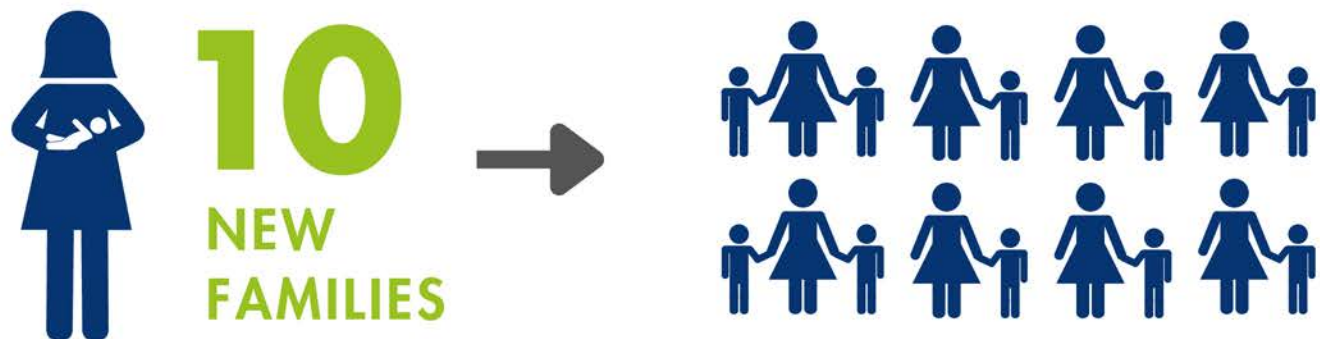
**Sara Cumming, PhD**  
Executive Director  
Home Suite Hope

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Sara Cumming'.

## HOW MANY FAMILIES DID WE SERVE?



## HOW MANY PARTICIPANTS WERE ON-BOARDED INTO PROGRAMMING WITH HOME SUITE HOPE?





## ACADEMIC JOURNEY



**9** PARTICIPANTS  
BEGAN THEIR  
ACADEMIC JOURNEY



**2**

PARTICIPANTS  
ENROLLED  
ACADEMIC UPGRADING



**7**

PARTICIPANTS  
ENROLLED IN  
1ST YEAR OF  
POST-SECONDARY



**7**

PARTICIPANTS OBTAINED THEIR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION THROUGH THE HBH PROGRAM



**3**

GRADUATED FROM THE  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
(EXECUTIVE) PROGRAM



**1**

GRADUATED FROM THE  
DENTAL ASSISTANT  
PROGRAM



**1**

GRADUATED FROM THE  
CREATIVE WRITING &  
PUBLISHING PROGRAM



**1**

GRADUATED FROM THE  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
(HEALTH) PROGRAM



**1**

GRADUATED FROM THE HAIR  
STYLING PROGRAM



## HOW MANY PARTICIPANTS HAVE COMPLETED THE HBH PROGRAM?

**2**

PARTICIPANTS  
COMPLETED



**50%**

EXITED WITH FULL-TIME  
EMPLOYMENT

**50%**

ARE WORKING IN THEIR  
FIELD OF EDUCATION

**100%**

CAN AFFORD MARKET RENT  
INDEPENDENTLY



**\$58,000**

IS THE AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME OF GRADUATES  
FROM 2024

# About Our Programs

## Stabilizing First Halton

A stabilizing program that prepares participants to pursue a pathway towards employment, education, and/or training. It includes life skills training, intensive case management, goal-oriented service plans, a housing rental subsidy, and wraparound supports and referrals.

Fun Fact: Home Suite Hope partnered with One Urban, an urban development company, which allowed HSH's first ever participant to be housed in an affordable unit after couch surfing with her 10-month-old daughter. The unit is newly built and listed well below market rate rent to ensure affordability.

## Homeward Bound Halton

A 3-year program available after completing Stabilizing First Halton. It provides a housing rental subsidy, life skills training, college tuition, textbooks, professional development, mentorship and employment support. The HBH program sees education as a pathway to gain employment and seeks to support participants throughout their academic journey to eventually help them find full-time employment.

Fun Fact: This was the largest group of college graduates in HSH history! Seven graduates walked across the stage in 2024.

## Life Skills Workshops

A resource offered to the community and a core element of HSH programming. The life skills curriculum covers important topics such as budgeting, financial literacy, healthy relationships, food and nutrition, mental health strategies, and more! The program includes online, self-paced learning components and in-person group workshops.

The online life skills curriculum was developed through "The Life Skills Project", run by Dr. Sara Cumming and Sheridan College, and funded through NSERC. It is a research, community-informed curriculum targeted to support individuals with maintaining housing.

## Aftercare

A transitional program that supports HSH program participants as they transition to self-sufficiency. The program offers case management and community navigation support to ensure participants that have left the program stay connected and supported as they embark on this new chapter.

Participants in the Aftercare program support and stay connected to their peers in active HSH programming through the "On the go" WhatsApp group for participants. They help answer questions, share resources, and share their own big milestones.



# Building Community

## Community Events Benefiting Home Suite Hope

Home Suite Hope is thankful to all the community members and organizers who support HSH's causes through their meaningful initiatives and campaigns:

- St. Andrew's Christmas House Tour that featured tours of eight beautifully-decorated Oakville homes and was a popular, sold-out event. This initiative selected HSH as one of the beneficiaries;
- Fresh Kitchen and Juice Bar Oakville donated \$1 towards local women's housing programs for every 'Hello Gorgeous' power shake purchased throughout March, which helped raise awareness and drove financial support.
- The community rallied together to support Home Suite Hope's inaugural Spring Cleaning Donation Drive, resulting in an incredible 3,240 lbs of donated items! Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we collected 2,014 lbs of clothing, 409 lbs of books, and 817 lbs of miscellaneous goods, raising \$585 to support HSH's mission. This achievement wouldn't have been possible without our dedicated volunteers, who worked tirelessly to lift, sort, and transport thousands of pounds of donations. Their commitment and effort were the driving force behind this successful initiative
- Oxygen Yoga and Fitness Oakville and Little Yogis/Busy Minds Halton held a Women's Circle event
- A group of nine young girls: Anjali, Deeya, Kate, Everleigh, Lexi, Zoe, Carly, Emma, and Beatrice - all future change makers, held a fundraiser that included making posters, baked goods, lemonade, and handmade bracelets. They collected over \$1,000 and personal hygiene products for single-parent families at HSH.
- St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School's (SMLS) Graduates ran a fundraiser with the self-love theme for Valentine's Day which contributed to HSH's funding
- SMLS' Jack.org Club collected women's hygiene and makeup items for Home Suite Hope. The event kicked off with a key-note speech from HSH Executive Director, Sara Cumming

## 100 Women Who Care Burlington's 10-Year Anniversary

Sara Cumming was honored to attend the 10th Anniversary of 100 Women Who Care Burlington on January 17th. The event included organizations that have been supported by the initiative, one of them being Home Suite Hope, also featuring Burlington's Town Crier.

## Affordable Housing Media Event

Home Suite Hope was among other local non-profit housing organizations invited to attend an announcement by Milton's Mayor, Gordon Krantz, then Federal Housing Minister, Sean Fraser, and Milton's MP, Adam van Koeverden, about the accelerator funding for Milton. A federal-municipal government partnership in Milton will build 800 homes in the next three years, with a focus on affordable housing and increasing rental housing as the Town of Milton fast-tracks the construction process thanks to \$22 million from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Housing Accelerator Fund.





## Sara Cumming's Honorary Keynote Speeches

Home Suite Hope was honored to have Executive Director, Sara Cumming, represent HSH as a keynote speaker at many events over the course of 2024. Sara shares the work and resilience of HSH participants and highlights the importance of having an involved community. Sara had the pleasure of speaking at:

- The Oakville Trafalgar Rotary Club at Mo's Family Restaurant: Sara outlined the importance of programs like those offered by Home Suite Hope and access to affordable housing. The members shared a wide range of questions ... and some haggis, yum!
- The Boldt Realty's Brokerage during their monthly meetings: The Boldt team are long-time supporters of the Hope 4 Holidays campaign. Many of its members also serve on a variety of housing boards in Niagara and connected Sara with the Niagara Region's Community and Social Services.
- All three Rotary Clubs in Oakville: With the Rotary Club of Oakville Trafalgar, Sara was invited to share her story at a Oakville Rotary Club meeting at the Oakville Golf Club, and Club President, Mahendra Shah, presented HSH with a \$6,200 cheque to support the moving costs, technology and basic supports of two new families entering HSH's programming. She also shared a keynote presentation at their post-secondary scholarship award presentation.

Additionally, Sara released a four part-blog series, Empowering Change: Exploring Sustainability and Social Impact at Home Suite Hope. As the organization navigates the ever-evolving challenges of funding, Sara aimed to address the queries surrounding our surplus and fundraising endeavors.

## Visiting St. Jude's Anglican Church

Sara, along with HSH graduate, Melissa, were among the congregation at St. Jude's Anglican Church's Sunday Service on January 25th. Melissa shared her progress and gratitude for the congregation's commitment to helping fund her journey in the program through the Partners in Change Campaign. Partners in Change contributes the annual shortfall in funding needed to support a participant. That annual shortfall now sits at \$9,595. The St. Jude's congregation now supports a new active participant in HBH programming.

Later in the week, Sara was joined by HSH Program Manager, Nikkian Hanson-Daley and Caseworker, Haley Weber at a community partnership lunch where St. Jude's representatives discussed the importance of lending a helping hand to those struggling in the community and showcased community partnership where not-for-profits like HSH and St. Jude's work together to make a difference.

## Black History Month with Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton's (CCAH)

HSH attended the CCAH Black History Month Celebration kick off event at the Oakville Centre for Performing Arts. The theme for 2024 was "Celebrating Culture and History", with guest speaker, Anthony Sherwood; Juno Award-Winner, Jully Black; singer, Geri Defoe; Arthouse Children's Choir, Girl Power'd dancers, and the CCAH Steel Band. HSH was happy to not just join the evening, but to be partners in the community with CCAH to bring more awareness and support to the black community that's been served.





## Federal Budget Consultation with Oakville MP Anita Anand

Many local non-profit agencies - including HSH – attended a Federal Pre-Budget 2024 consultation with Oakville MP and Treasury Board President, Anita Anand. It was a full house for the meeting hosted at the YMCA of Oakville and moderated by its CEO, Kyle Barber. Sara Cumming, and The Director of Operations, Catherine Villaseñor, including Administrative Assistant, Angela Blackburn brought HSH's concerns to the spotlight.

## HSH Visits Queen's Park

Oakville North–Burlington MPP, Effie Triantafilopoulos, was among a host of MPPs in support of the WoodGreen Community Services Toronto reception to spread more awareness of the work being done through the Homeward Bound Halton programs. Sara Cumming and Director of Operations, Catherine Villaseñor attended to acknowledge HSH's Homeward Bound Halton program as the first-ever replica of the Homeward Bound program serving the Halton Region. All 124 of Ontario's MPPs were invited to the event, which was sponsored by Effie, and held at the Legislative Dining Hall at Queen's Park in Toronto. A keynote address was delivered by Ontario Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services: Michael Parsa.

## Mother's Day

Jill MacKellar and Gayla Matos, The Purse Project Network co-organizers, dropped off gorgeous purses packed with all kinds of goodies so the single moms at HSH could receive a great gift for Mother's Day! The Purse Project Network is an ongoing supporter of HSH and the single parents we serve. It was a special treat for our moms on their day! To top it off, moms also received household paper goods — thanks to the generosity of HSH's Board Member, Val Del Hierro and Irving Consumer Products.

## Allyship in Oakville Truth Project

Home Suite Hope joined the Oakville Community Foundation's (OCF) Debwewin: The Oakville Truth Project. It has been committed to a Declaration of Truth and Allyship along with many Oakville businesses, agencies and individuals. The Oakville Truth Project, according to the OCF website, is a partnership between the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Oakville Community Foundation to further our shared understanding of Oakville's Indigenous past and support local truth & reconciliation.

## Karina Gould's Volunteer Appreciation Month

Long-time Home Suite Hope volunteer Cindy Perras was recognized at Burlington MP Karina Gould's 2024 Volunteer Appreciation Awards at the Art Gallery of Burlington. Cindy was nominated by HSH during April, which is National Volunteer Appreciation Month in Canada, for all her volunteer work with HSH.

## Celebrating International Women's Day with 100 Women Who Care Burlington

On Friday, March 8 which was International Women's Day 2024, the Home Suite Hope Program team joined 100 Women Who Care Burlington (100WWCB) at Burlington Centre's "The Hub" to share the celebration of recognizing and celebrating women's and girls' social, economic, cultural and political achievements. The event also brought more attention to the work being done to support the vulnerable women in our community through HSH, Halton Women's Place and 100WWCB.





## **HSH meets Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau**

Sara Cumming was at Halton Regional Centre in Oakville to meet then-Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau; then-Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada, Sean Fraser; Treasury Board President and Oakville MP, Anita Anand; Milton MP, Adam van Koeverden; and Burlington MP, Karina Gould as the Prime Minister highlighted new measures included in Budget 2024 and Canada's Housing Plan to build more affordable homes on public land.

## **Blueberry Fields**

Home Suite Hope's Community Garden, Blueberry Fields had another successful season in partnership with the Upper Oakville Shopping Centre. Over 600lbs of produce were donated, including potatoes, beets, rutabaga, beans, zucchini, radish, garlic, onions and peas. The garden welcomes individuals from the community and also corporate groups to get their hands dirty to support their community. Produce from the garden was distributed to people in need, including HSH families, through Kerr Street Mission.

## **Leaders for Change**

Home Suite Hope was awarded first place (\$10,000) after Executive Director, Sara Cumming presented on HSH at a Leaders for Change event at the Oakville Club. Leaders for Change is an organization with a simple mission — 'Bring together as many people as possible who have a heart for the community and care about supporting local organizations.'



## **Socials**

In 2024, HSH organized four social events for participants to come together, network and share their experiences, while having much-anticipated time to bond with each other and their families. They engaged in various activities such as bowl painting, movie night, an HSH Alumni-family dinner and had an extra fun time at the trampoline park with their kids. Socials provide a space for our participants to interact and establish a supportive community beyond HSH programming.

## **Mayor of Burlington's Affordable Housing**

On May 27th, at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre, Burlington Mayor, Marianne Meed Ward, launched her Speaker Series with an event focused on affordable housing featuring guest speaker, Jennifer Keesmaat, former Chief City Planner of Toronto. HSH's Director of Operations, Catherine Villaseñor, represented Home Suite Hope at "Making Housing Affordable: What We Can Do in Burlington" and the preceding tradeshow of industry experts and community groups including HSH, the Halton Region and Habitat for Humanity.



## Back-to-School Backpacks

Board Member, Julianna Varpalotai-Xavier, and her team from Bellwether packed back to school backpacks for all the single parents and their children heading to class in the fall of 2024. Backpacks were filled with essentials including notebooks, pencils, erasers, water bottles, and more! HSH is not only thankful for corporations coming together to lend a hand, but for donors who enable us to make these large purchases to lessen the financial burden on participants during the school year.

## HSH's Graduation Celebration

June 2024 marked a momentous accomplishment for many single mothers in Home Suite Hope's programming. Home Suite Hope welcomed the graduates (the ones as of June 2024) and community members to Kerr Street Mission's Patio for an evening of celebration of the six graduates and their accomplishments. Shannon was named Valedictorian and gave an inspirational speech at the event. HSH welcomed one more graduate to the Class of 2024 later that year, officially joining the cohort in December.

## Oakville Downtown – Mi Casa Your Casa

In partnership with Downtown Oakville, the Mi Casa Your Casa 2.0 installation in Towne Square featured three-dimensional red frames that resemble a house with open walls and a swing inside. Created by Mexico City-based artist, Esrawe+Cadena. The installation was inspired by the Mercados of Latin America: lively street markets where human connections are made every day.

## Community Focus Strategic Planning

HSH hosted a Community Focus Forum at FCT on Sept. 25th to gather insight into its strategic planning process. Individuals and groups from across the community were invited to provide their feedback and suggestions for HSH moving forward.

## Hope 4 Holidays Dinner

Home Suite Hope is grateful to everyone who supported its Hope 4 Holidays 2024 campaign. This campaign connects HSH's single parents and their children with the community through the spirit of giving. Thanks to overwhelming community support, HSH successfully brought holiday cheer to its participant families in 2024. Community members, individuals and local groups sponsored family wish lists, while others donated much needed personal hygiene, household cleaning products, and gift cards. The joy of children unwrapping gifts would not have been possible without the many hours our community supporters spent gift wrapping.





# Words from a few of our 2024 College Graduates

We celebrate the success of all the college graduates for the 2024 class. The hard work these families endured to make this astounding milestone is one that took sacrifice, determination, and discipline. We are so proud of the seven participant that walks across the stage and received their diplomas - a moment that was once only a dream became a reality!



**Angelika**

It feels so rewarding to finally achieve the goal of post-secondary graduation and dip my toe into the real world. I've reached the point where I can begin building a better financial situation for myself and my daughter — where I can provide a better life for us and obtain financial freedom. I remind myself I'm juggling everything that I am right now for my daughter — for this ray of sunshine right in front of my eyes. My accomplishments in school have helped me become more knowledgeable and professional. Even though there were some bumps along the road, I wouldn't be here without those learning lessons and curveballs. They made me stronger, more independent, and more resilient. Here's to my daughter's and I's futures!

HSH's support has been a true beacon of hope in my life as a single mother facing overwhelming challenges. They not only provided vital housing assistance but also generously covered my tuition at Sheridan College, enabling me to complete the Office Administration program — a significant milestone I am incredibly proud of. Thanks to HSH, I have achieved so many important goals, and I am now filled with excitement about building a new life for myself and my child. The opportunities and encouragement I received have empowered me to thrive and to create a brighter, more hopeful future. I am profoundly grateful for HSH's unwavering kindness and support, which have made all the difference in my journey.

**Yojhana**





As I move into the next chapter of my life, I can say with great pride that I have accomplished so much over the past few years. Graduating from the Sheridan College Executive Office Administration program is something I once thought impossible, but with the unwavering support of Home Suite Hope every step of the way, I achieved my goals. I am incredibly proud to show my children that it is never too late to go back to school and further your education, no matter the circumstances.

## Shannon



## Tayler

Graduation was something akin to the calm after the storm. Throughout the past five years working towards my Honours Bachelor of Creative Writing and Publishing while balancing motherhood, I often felt like a sailor caught in a storm, unsure if I would make it out. But I did, and the only proper adjective to describe it would be surreal. As the deans handed me my degrees, I knew I had done it. My culmination of late nights, silent tears, and hard work had come to fruition. Rather than dreaming of my daughter beaming at me while I walked across the stage, I was finally living in that moment. I grabbed that piece of paper that meant so much more to me than academic qualification, but rather a step forward into that better life I was promised. I breathed for the first time in a long time.

I graduated from Oxford College and completed the Dental Assistant program. It was one heck of a roller coaster, balancing school, being a single mom, and managing finances. It was definitely challenging, but the support from HSH made all the difference. Now, as I dive into the working world and prepare for Dental Hygiene school next year, I'm excited for the new adventures and grateful for the journey so far.

## Daliah



# **THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS**

Thank you to all our donors, friends, ambassadors and networks that have given so generously this past fiscal year. Your continual commitment to our participants and their families through donations, grants, in-kind support and fundraisers helps our families in changing their trajectories from homelessness to self-sufficiency. Every participant who comes to Home Suite Hope works hard to disrupt cycles of poverty — a quest that is only made possible through your generosity.



## Our Partners



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## Donors \$50K +



## Donors \$20K - 49,999K



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\*HSH would like to acknowledge all our other incredible donors who have requested to stay anonymous. Please know that we are deeply grateful for all that you continue to do for our organization.





# Letter from a Participant

When I came to HSH two years ago, there was something I severely lacked: hope. I was three years deep into school with already thirty thousand dollars of school debt on my back and stuck in a relationship I so desperately wanted to leave but couldn't due to financials. As I finished putting my daughter to bed, cleaning the dishes, and folding the laundry, I sat down heavy-eyed at my desk for another night of endless homework. I logged onto Sheridan Slate to find an email from one of my professors in my inbox. It told me about a program for single moms in school, one that not only supported mothers financially but also united a network of people to help you and your children create a life of stability. For the first time in what felt like forever, I felt a glimmer of hope.

As my journey went on, that flicker of hope turned brighter. With the rental subsidy, I was able to live on my own with my daughter and become the mom I so desperately wanted to be for her. I no longer had to fear if I would have a home after graduation or be homeless. I was able to get out of my relationship, and for the first time in years, I felt like that dark cloud had finally lifted. I lost 50 lbs. I was happier, and my body knew it. With HSH's support, I got my daughter into swimming lessons; she now knows how to swim. With the family Christmas

donations, I watched my daughter glow as she watched her mom open a present on Christmas morning that she hadn't wrapped herself for the first time. I was able to feed my daughter healthy food with grocery gift cards despite the overbearing weight of inflation. I was part of a community that rooted for me and provided me with tools for success. I had hope that I was going to be okay, that we were going to be okay.

Fast forward to graduation. Graduation was something akin to the calm after the storm. Throughout the past five years of working towards my Honours Bachelor of Creative Writing and Publishing while balancing motherhood, I often felt like a sailor caught in a storm, unsure if I would make it out. But I had hope, I had drive, and I had HSH on my side.





Walking across that stage was surreal; a strange mix of fact and fantasy. As the deans handed me my degrees, I knew I had done it, but I had been fantasizing and longing for the moment for so long that it felt like nothing short of a dream. My culmination of late nights, silent tears, and hard work had come to fruition. Rather than dreaming of my daughter beaming at me while I walked across the stage, I was finally living in that moment, a moment I knew I made not just myself proud but the little baby girl I held in my arms at seventeen, whom I had promised to give the life she deserved. So, as I grabbed that piece of paper that meant so much more to me than academic qualification but a step forward into that better life I promised, I breathed for the first time in a long time, and my hope shined brighter.



Fast forward to now. I have hope for my future. With my academic qualifications, combined with all of the vital tools I have acquired in my time at HSH, I feel confident about what the future holds, and I feel confident that I can take on whatever life throws at me. Currently, I am working in my field. I am an editor at Inimitable Book, Rising Action, and my own company. I am a publishing assistant with Fflat books, I handle the social media for At Home Author, and I write blogs for Momo Street Press. It is such a privilege to love what I do and still have the blessing of picking up my daughter from school every day. I am nothing but full of gratitude and hope for our future. One day, I hope to be able to buy my daughter and I our own little home with a yard where we can spend our time together gardening, baking, and enjoying the outside. I hope to continue

to grow in my career and inspire people. I hope to travel the world and show my daughter all life has to offer. I have hope for the future, and I have confidence and skills in it too, and that is because of HSH and their donors.

~ **Tayler**

(2025 HBH Graduate)



# OUR FINANCES

Home Suite Hope had a challenging year financially in 2024. Our income decreased 19% year over year due to falls in most of our major classes of income – Grants, Donations and Sponsorship. This was due to 2023 being a particularly successful year because of the Affordable Housing campaign that boosted prior year income. This emphasizes that HSH needs to continue securing donations from corporations and individuals so that we are not as reliant upon grants. Establishing a more reliable income stream enables us to assist more families end the cycle of poverty. Our expenses decreased by 9%. This decrease is explained by a drop in fundraising costs when compared to 2023 – when we held our first ever gala. HSH will be building on our success of the past few years to continue implementing our strategic plan with an emphasis on housing.

## Statement of Financial Position

2024

2023

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents

675,366

225,907

Short-term investments

66,342

454,517

Accounts Receivable

32,604

48,568

Prepaid expenses

16,659

15,810

790,971

744,802

Property, plant and equipment

41,561

58,246

#### Investments

Oakville Community Funds

444,841

415,856

1,277,373

1,218,904

### LIABILITIES

#### Current liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

25,582

27,707

Deferred revenue

219,321

68,773

244,903

96,480

Deferred contributions - property, plant & equipment

33,525

47,894

278,428

144,374

#### Net Assets

Internally restricted

860,383

980,527

Invested in property, plant and equipment

8,036

10,352

Unrestricted

130,526

83,651

998,945

1,074,530

1,277,373

1,218,904

# Statement of Operations

	2024	2023
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Donations	208,945	378,592
Fundraising	42,990	23,016
Grants	495,521	537,307
Other	61,542	42,517
Sponsorship	41,500	68,500
	850,498	1,049,932
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Amortization	19,486	6,922
Fundraising	16,880	123,242
Insurance	9,509	7,220
Non-recoverable sales tax	5,307	10,406
Office and general	68,187	68,586
Participant Support	624,967	599,079
Professional fees	71,740	67,790
Volunteer program	-	588
Wages and benefits	110,007	133,990
	926,083	1,017,823
<b>Excess of expenditure over revenue (revenue over expenditure) for year</b>	<b>(75,585)</b>	<b>32,109</b>

\*To reduce our environmental footprint and paper consumption, we have made our audited financial statements available on our website.





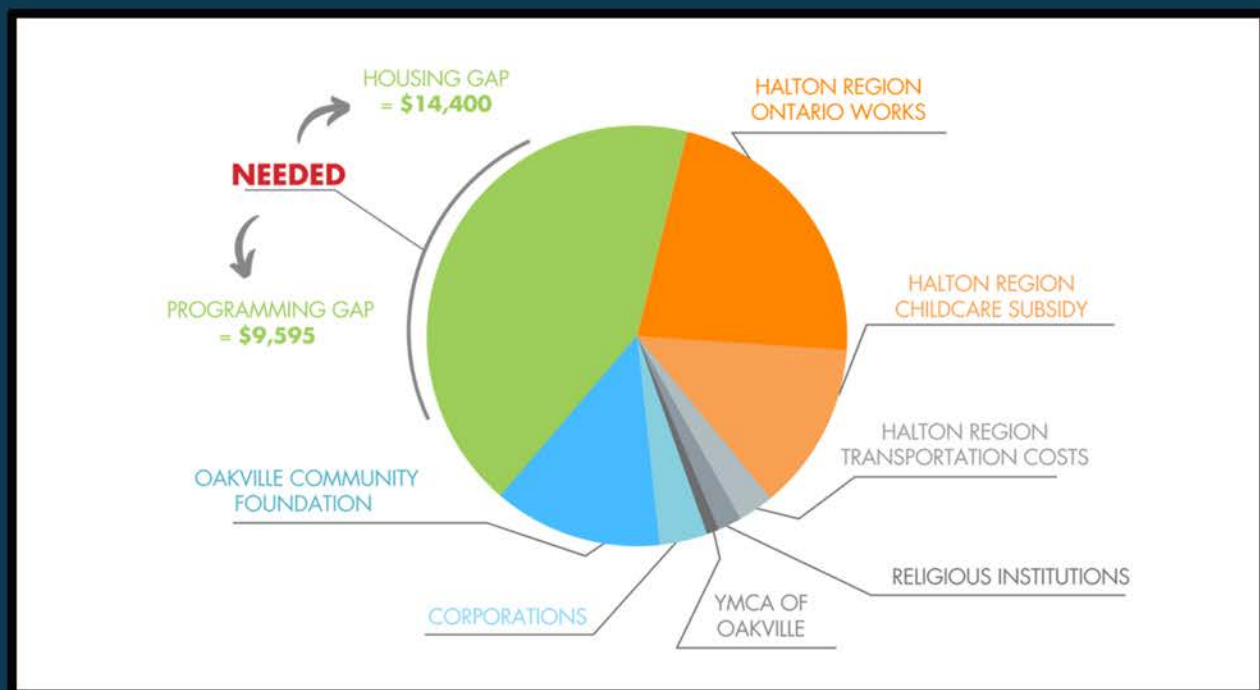
# Partners In Change

Since 2019, the Partners in Change campaign has called out for willing community partners who would close the funding gaps for HSH participants. Nine families have been successfully matched with a Partner in Change, securing the funding needed to provide essential programming and supports so they could work towards self-sufficiency.

We are so thankful to all our Partners in Change, who time and time again go beyond their commitment by attending Home Suite Hope events, advocating, sharing expertise, and supporting participants beyond funding dollars.

## WHAT WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH TODAY

The post-pandemic era has resulted in harsh inflation and unrelenting rental prices, which has put HSH families in more vulnerable positions. At the Home for Good Gala, the Partners in Change campaign was relaunched, seeking partners to help address the annual funding gap per family, per year of \$9,595 for programming and \$14,400 for housing.



**UNITING A  
NETWORK  
OF VITAL  
SUPPORT  
SERVICES FOR  
OUR  
FAMILIES.**



# EMPTY BOWLS 2024

**EMPTY  
BOWLS**

In its 16th year, Empty Bowls brought the community back together once again at Appleby College to visit the various soup vendors from across Halton, handing them their new soup bowl to fill. This tangibly represents the soup-bowl experience that many homeless families face prior to entering Home Suite Hope. This is Home Suite Hope's signature fundraising event with all proceeds going to our wraparound supports.

The event, presented by Taylor, brought the entire community around the table. Both seasoned and first-time attendees had a SOUP-er day trying out the delicious soups, bread, and desserts donated by local restaurants and businesses.



Empty Bowls 2024 took place on Sunday, October 20th, 2024 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. with two seatings to serve the community.

Over 200 attendees received:

- 🍲 Soups prepared by local chefs
- 🍞 COBS Bread for dipping
- 🍲 A ceramic bowl
- 🍰 Delicious desserts



**\$54,440 Raised**

Empty Bowls 2024 also introduced its first vendor market! Attendees were able to engage in a vibrant community atmosphere and support local businesses by purchasing artisanal goods, crafts, and more! A portion of all sales was donated to Home Suite Hope 🍀



# EVENT SPONSORS

## Presenting Sponsor

**Taylor**

## Diamond Sponsor



## Platinum Sponsor



## Gold Sponsor



Henderson Partners LLP  
CPAs & Advisors

## Bronze Sponsors



## Raffle Sponsors



## Bread Sponsors



## Bowl Sponsor



## Market Vendors



## Popcorn Partner



## Volunteer Gift



## Dessert Sponsors



## Soup Sponsors

O'Connor Catering



HEARTHSTONE  
by the Lake

## Venue Sponsor



## Coffee Sponsor



RISTORANTE  
SOTTO SOTTO  
OAKVILLE

PANE Fresco  
by FORTINOS  
LAKESHORE OAKVILLE

sodexo



## Committee Members

Amalachi Ezeokafor  
Val Del Hierro  
Cindy Perras  
Katelyn Zaoral





# LUXURY BINGO



Wishlist Group hosted a fun night of networking, friendly games, and drinks and appetizers in support of Home Suite Hope on May 28, 2024.

The Luxury Bingo fundraiser took place at Community Resto in the heart of Kerr Village and offered an opportunity to win luxury accessories and experiences while raising funds for HSH programming! The event was the first of its kind for HSH, and ended with had attendees asking when the next one would be.

Over \$5,000 in prizes were offered up for a chance to be won by attendees, including items from popular brands like Coach, Kate Spade, Michael Kors, SPINCO Oakville, Yellow Door Wellness Studio, the Blue Jays Blueprint Club and Bradford Portraits! We thank all those individuals and companies that donated prizes for the special event.







**United Way**  
Halton & Hamilton

# UNITED WAY PLANE PULL



On September 21st, the Homeward Bound Heroes team, an all-female crew, participated in the United Way Halton & Hamilton Campaign Kickoff at Hamilton Airport. In a remarkable display of strength and teamwork, the team pulled a plane to help raise awareness and support for the campaign. The community rallied behind the team, offering enthusiastic support for their incredible efforts.



**\$2,920 Raised**



**United in ACTION**, join us to build a brighter future for all.

SCAN HERE

Take action today!

Show your local love and together, let's create meaningful change and uplift those in need.

DONATE NOW





Our Toronto -  
November 18, 2023

CELEBRATING  
**20 YEARS**  
OF  
**HOME SUITE  
HOPE**

*Thank You*



2024 marked the twentieth anniversary of Home Suite Hope. Since 2004, the community has played a pivotal role in ensuring that our organization can continue to allow our services to grow. The enthusiasm, kindness and generosity the community continues to show up with is a large part of what has brought the organization to this milestone of 20 years.

To thank the community of volunteers and donors who continue to step up to support HSH and the lives of the single-parent families who walk through our doors, Home Suite Hope hosted a Volunteer Appreciation and 20th Anniversary BBQ. The BBQ, hosted at community partner Kerr Street Misson's patio, brought together HSH single-parent participants, staff, board members, donors, and volunteers, including mentors, industry council, and committee members for an evening of evening of food, drinks, and celebration. This event allowed supporters to mingle with fellow volunteers, share experiences, and celebrate collective achievements.



Home Suite Hope is proud to celebrate 20 years of helping to change the trajectory of poverty and homelessness and we send a heartfelt thank you to all those who have supported us throughout the years. We look forward to continuing to serve the community for many years to come.

Thank you to BBQ Sponsors:  
FamiliFood Club – Burgers and Steaks



For every box sold through an affiliate link, \$10 was donated to support Home Suite Hope.



# A Letter from Our Board Chair

Dear Friends,

It is with the utmost pleasure that we present Home Suite Hope's 2024 Annual Report, which showcases a year of incredible achievements by the program's participants, the tireless work of staff and our collective vision for the future. This year was Home Suite Hope's 20th anniversary. It is a milestone that demands a moment of accolades and reflection.

For 20 years Home Suite Hope has proved the need for and success of its programming in breaking the cycle of poverty in the Halton Region. With our staff, volunteers and donor's support we have provided pathways for hundreds of single parent-led families to lift themselves into positions of independence, stability and prosperity.

This year alone Home Suite Hope had its largest cohort of graduates ever — seven single mothers who deserve all our congratulations for achieving their goals! Sufficed to say this year — and the 19 years preceding it — is a legacy we are exceedingly proud of.

But the simple truth is that the world order has changed. We are at an inflection point as an organization, yes, but also as a community and country. Is Home Suite Hope offering the right services to meet the changing needs of the community? Are there other emerging gaps in the poverty spiral that the organization could fill? What are the updated resources we need to set our participants up for success today and in future?

These are just a few of the existential questions we asked ourselves as an organization over the last 12 months as we — along with many others — struggled to make sense of the sea change that has left grocery bills unaffordable, rent (let alone home ownership) in Halton unattainable and a network of catastrophically eroded social safety nets.

By relying on our community's input, guidance from the Board of Directors and frontline experience and perspectives from staff, Home Suite Hope has crafted a roadmap for the organization's future.

We offer our sincere thanks to everyone who invested their time and ideas to shaping this plan. We could not have done it without you. Your dedication is what makes Home Suite Hope not just a service provider, but a beacon of hope and transformation in the Halton Region.

Especially would like to offer our thanks to our four outgoing board members: France Fournier, Ted Ecclestone, Elizabeth Young and Valerie Del Hierro. Their contributions have guided Home Suite Hope through many years of challenges and ensured the future success of the organization, which I'm delighted to announce will include four incoming new board members: Robyn Pangman, Shalu Bains, Lindsay Anderson and Amanpreet Dhillon.

And, while we can never fully anticipate what challenges lie ahead, we believe our strategic plan is rooted in resilience, while also offering ample opportunities for growth and innovation to better support our community's most vulnerable members.

As we embark on this journey, we invite you to consider how you can contribute to our evolving story. What would you like the ideal Home Suite Hope Annual Report to read in 2045? How and where would you like us to show up to support the community between now and then? Together, let's transform the strategic priorities of today and tomorrow into meaningful change — one family at a time.



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Emma Jarratt". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Emma Jarratt, Board Chair  
Home Suite Hope

**LIVES  
PERMANENTLY  
CHANGED  
FOR THE  
BETTER**



# 2024 STAFF



**Sara Cumming**  
Executive Director



**Catherine Villaseñor**  
Director of Operations



**Nikkian Hanson-Daley**  
Program Manager



**Temisha Jacques**  
Caseworker



**Haley Weber**  
Caseworker



**Jovelle Reid**  
Program Coordinator



**Katelyn Zaoral**  
Marketing & Events Coordinator



**Angela Blackburn**  
Administrative Assistant



**Izabel Rader**  
Bookkeeper

# 2024 BOARD



**Emma Jarratt**  
Chair of the Board



**Nazeera Khan**  
Vice Chair of the Board,  
Member of Governance  
Committee



**France Fournier**  
Past Chair of the Board



**Ted Eccelstone**  
Past Vice Chair of the  
Board, Member of  
Finance Committee



**Kevin Farrell**  
Treasurer, Member of  
Finance Committee



**Blake Hampton-Davies**  
Member of Finance  
Committee, Chair of  
Affordable Housing  
Sub-Committee



**Elizabeth Young**  
Board Member



**Julianna Varpalotai-Xavier**  
Member of Finance  
Committee



**Rose Sharifi**  
Chair of Governance  
Committee



**Valerie Del Hierro**  
Chair of Fundraising  
Committee, Member of  
Governance Committee



**Judi Hesp**  
Member of Governance  
Committee

## **NON-MEMBERS**

**Lisa Tracey**  
Board Secretary

**Rebecca Sprague**  
Member of HR Committee

**Cindy Perras**  
Empty Bowls Committee



For further information, please contact:

Sara Cumming, Executive Director at  
Home Suite Hope

TEL: 905.339.2370

EMAIL: [SaraC@HomeSuiteHope.org](mailto:SaraC@HomeSuiteHope.org)

**Mailing Address:**

1-200 North Service Rd W, #424  
Oakville, ON, L6M 2Y1

[HomeSuiteHope.org](http://HomeSuiteHope.org)

**CHARITABLE REGISTRATION NUMBER:**

85975 5308 RR0001



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**HOME SUITE  
HOPE**