



Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025

Black History Month

February 1 - Black History Month begins

February 2 - Groundhog Day

February 13 - Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day) Jewish holiday

February 14 - Valentine's Day

February 15 - National Flag of Canada Day

February 17 - Family Day

FEBRUARY 2025

Lives permanently changed for the better



GALENTINE'S PAINT & SIP

Unleash your creativity while supporting a great cause! Join us for our **Paint & Sip** fundraiser, where fun, camaraderie, and support for Home Suite Hope's heartfelt mission will intertwine.

At Home Suite Hope, our mission is to empower single-parent families on their journey from poverty to stability. No painting experience is required! **You & I Paint's** skilled instructors will guide participants in creating their own masterpiece on a cute and functional tote bag!

All proceeds from the event will directly contribute to Home Suite Hope's important work. Your support allows us to continue offering vital resources, programs, and support services that empower these single parents to build a brighter future.

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

WAYS OF GIVING 2025

We invite you to get to know Home Suite Hope with our annual **Ways of Giving** with Home Suite Hope 2025 that highlights how you can support us - and why.

[WAYS OF GIVING WITH HOME SUITE HOPE 2025](#)



PARTICIPANT NEWS:

GRADUATES SECURE EMPLOYMENT

We are thrilled to announce that **Home Suite Hope's Board Vice Chair Nazeera Khan** recently played a pivotal role in connecting two of our participants with valuable opportunities through her extensive network at **FamiliFood** and **Crystal Ladder Learning Centre Oakville**.

Thanks to Nazeera's thoughtful introductions and guidance, both participants were able to land impressive job offers following successful interviews. One of the participants secured a full-time position, while the other received an offer for part-time work.

Yojhana, one of these incredible participants, was fortunate to secure the part-time position at FamiliFood.

Yojhana is truly grateful for this meaningful connection, and she's enjoying her new role immensely.

This job not only provides her with valuable work experience, but also a sense of fulfillment and purpose.

We are so excited to see these incredible opportunities come to life and are beyond grateful for Nazeera's dedication and support in making these connections possible.

Nazeera's commitment to empowering others is making a real difference in the lives of the participants we serve and we couldn't be more thankful for her continued involvement.



PARTICIPANT NEWS: CAKES2CONNECT DELIVERS

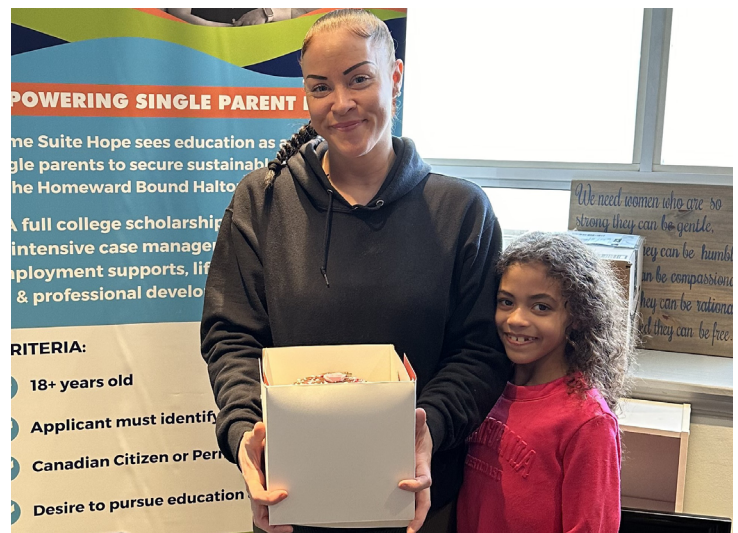
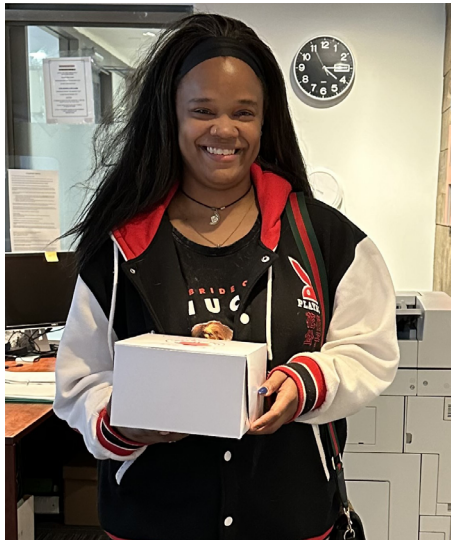
Throughout 2024, **Cakes2Connect** volunteers were regular visitors to our office delivering birthday cakes for our single parents.



The Oakville-based nonprofit provides homemade birthday cakes to women who deserve to be celebrated on their special day - senior women who are on their own in the community or single mothers facing challenges as they work to improve their lives. HSH's partnership with the new organization is one to celebrate.

Lori Harris was inspired to form Cakes2Connect based on the delivery of a surprise birthday cake she received from caring Aunts (Evelyn Harris and Laura Bond) when she was just eight years old. The memory of that surprise stayed with her and was the inspiration for Cakes2Connect.

For more information about [Cakes2Connect](#) read our [blog post](#).



PAINT & SIP WITH HSH

Get ready to unleash your creativity while supporting a great cause! Join Home Suite Hope (HSH) for our **Paint & Sip** fundraiser on February 12. At Home Suite Hope, our mission is to empower single-parent families on their journey from poverty to stability.

No painting experience is required! **You & I Paint**'s skilled instructors will guide participants in creating their own masterpiece on a cute and functional tote bag!



All proceeds from the event will directly contribute to HSH's continued ability to offer vital resources, programs, and support services that empower these single parents to build a brighter future.

PURCHASE TICKETS

Single admission costs \$85 and includes a tote bag, paint and paint brushes, a guided group paint lesson from **You & I Paint**, one glass of wine and a \$30 tax receipt. Tables for seven are available for \$550.

Food and additional drinks will also be available for purchase.

The fun will be on Wednesday, February 12 from 6:30-9 p.m. in the Private Event Room at **Mo's Family Restaurant**, 467 Speers Road, Oakville.

YOU & I
PAINT

There is free parking on-site and a separate entrance along the east side of the building. Choice of seating is first come, first served, unless you have purchased a table.

In the spirit of women supporting women at this Galentine's event, attendees are encouraged to bring donations of women's hygiene products to the event. These supplies are essential for maintaining personal hygiene and well-being, and your contribution will make a significant impact on the lives of those who may not have access to these essential items. Items such as sanitary pads, tampons, menstrual cups, and personal care products are greatly appreciated

Invite your family, friends and colleagues for an evening of painting, sipping and making a difference! Spots are limited, so purchase tickets early to avoid disappointment.

PURCHASE TICKETS

JOIN OUR INDUSTRY COUNCIL

HOME SUITE HOPE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Home Suite Hope provides wraparound support to single-parent families in the Halton Region experiencing homelessness and/or precarious housing. Through Home Suite Hope's award winning Homeward Bound Halton program, women are empowered to obtain their post-secondary education and establish a career.

The Industry Council plays a critical role in the development and success of the Homeward Bound Halton program.

The Industry Council is a group of volunteers from private sector businesses, non-profit and public sector employers, community influencers, and employment services from local colleges or community organizations who support the professional advancement of participants in the Homeward Bound Halton program through mentorship and offering employment opportunities. We rely on the Industry Council to inform and guide graduates with the appropriate strategies, networking opportunities, and approaches to become a leading candidate in their industry.



Fields of Study

If you work in one of the following fields, please consider joining our Industry Council to help us continue to ensure program success.

- Advertising & Marketing
- Business Accounting
- Finance
- Computer Engineering Technician
- Computer Programmer
- Computer Systems Technologies
- Early Childhood Education
- Office Administration (Medical)
- Practical Nursing
- Pre-Apprentice Trades Programs
- Electrical Engineering Technician
- Mechanical Engineering Technician - Tool Making, Welding

Commitment

As an Industry Council Member, your crucial role requests a commitment that includes:

- Attending quarterly meetings
- Supporting HSH participants with employment readiness and 1:1 support
- Leading or attending a professional development day workshop
- Supporting with employment opportunities whenever possible*
- Supporting with developing relationships with future employers to aid in opening pathways for employment for participants*

*Commitment for IC Members with part-time volunteer capacity

Contact Us

-  [HomeSuiteHope.org](https://www.HomeSuiteHope.org)
-  Info@HomeSuiteHope.org
-  905.339.2370

JOIN OUR
INDUSTRY
COUNCIL

Follow Us

-  [Facebook.com/HomeSuiteHope](https://www.facebook.com/HomeSuiteHope)
-  [@HomeSuiteHope](https://twitter.com/HomeSuiteHope)
-  Home Suite Hope Shared Living Corp.

HSH OFFICE TOUR

FOUNDATION CO-FOUNDER TOURS HSH

Home Suite Hope is thankful for the support of the **Paul Barber Foundation**. **HSH Director of Operations Catherine Villaseñor** recently hosted **Adrian Barber** for an on-site tour and discussion about HSH and its ongoing work to support single parent families move from poverty and homelessness to stability.

The Foundation has supported HSH with a 2024 Female Leadership and Empowerment Grant to help HSH promote gender equality for women in settings where they are underrepresented, such as STEM and the trades.



It also recently stepped in to assist with transportation challenges faced by one of our moms who was trying to juggle public transportation and start times that were not compatible.

Established in 2021, the **Paul Barber Foundation (PBF)** is a GTA-based, family-run organization dedicated to improving the lives of Canadians by supporting transformational life-changing programs, Canada-wide.

HSH is grateful to be a recipient of this Foundation's support and welcomed Adrian's visit! As the economy suffers uncertainty, HSH is experiencing the resulting challenges as it works to help single parents and their families. HSH is seeking to connect with support, from foundations, corporations, individuals, community groups and anyone else interested in making a difference in the lives of families from our community.

If you can help, please reach out to CVillaseñor@homesuitehope.org.



STAFF IN THE COMMUNITY

AT APPLEBY COLLEGE

On January 28, at the invitation of the **United Way Halton & Hamilton** (UWHH), HSH took part in a **Volunteer Community Partner Fair** at Appleby College.

HSH Program Coordinator Jovelle Reid and HSH Student Intern Gem represented HSH alongside other local community agencies from the Halton Region.

The event provided Appleby students with the opportunity to learn more about the organizations taking part and explore various volunteer opportunities.

HSH shared several volunteer opportunities with the students, including volunteer roles for our annual Empty Bowls event, bowl painting, packing back-to-school backpacks for our families, and assisting with gift wrapping for our Hope 4 Holiday's campaign.

The event was an amazing opportunity to connect with students eager to get involved in meaningful work and support social service agencies, while also networking and learning about the wide range of services and support systems available in Halton!



United Way
Halton & Hamilton



STAFF NEWS: MEET GEM

A STUDENT'S POINT OF VIEW: SSW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IN CANADA

This year marks significant milestones for me as an international student in Canada. My name is **Gem**, and I am an intern at Home Suite Hope (HSH) while pursuing the Social Services Worker Program at Sheridan College. Being an international student has been both challenging and fulfilling, and my journey so far has been a whirlwind of emotions and experiences.

Arriving in Canada during the winter was a stark contrast to the tropical climate of my home country, the Philippines. Adjusting to the cold weather, navigating a new environment, and integrating into a diverse society brought a mix of excitement and anxiety. From learning to communicate effectively in English to understanding a new community and societal system, and adapting to an unfamiliar academic setup, every step has tested and shaped me.



Learning and Challenges

Coming to Canada was one of the hardest decisions I've ever made. Like many other international students, I arrived with a degree from my home country—a bachelor's in social work from the Philippines. One of the most exciting aspects of this journey has been the opportunity to blend my previous academic knowledge and professional experience with new learnings, fostering both personal and professional growth.

While classroom learning has been invaluable, my field placement has been a pivotal aspect of my education. It allows me to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings, enhancing my skills in navigating resources, functioning effectively in the Canadian context, and building professional networks. Working with diverse populations through my placement at HSH has broadened my understanding of community work and helped me develop the practical skills necessary to succeed in my field.

Success as an international student comes with hurdles. Adapting to a new environment, managing homesickness, and meeting financial responsibilities have been particularly demanding. Despite my aunt's sponsorship for my studies, I must cover my personal expenses. High rent, costly groceries, and tuition fees — three times higher for international students compared to domestic students — pose significant challenges.

STAFF NEWS

AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S POINT OF VIEW



During my first three months in Canada, I struggled to find a job. Eventually, I secured part-time work, but irregular hours made it difficult to balance finances. Many international students face exploitation, accepting undocumented, underpaid, and insecure jobs out of desperation. This highlights the importance of support from relatives, peers, and school faculty in helping us navigate these difficulties.

Professional Growth at Home Suite Hope

My internship at HSH has been instrumental in bridging my previous community development experience with individual case management skills. In the Philippines, I worked with government initiatives to provide sustainable and affordable social housing for impoverished communities. At HSH, I aim to integrate this knowledge into my work with diverse populations, enhancing my professional capacity upon graduating with my Social Service Worker diploma.

Over the past eight months, I've observed alarming societal trends. Many individuals in the labor force, despite having average incomes and single jobs, are at risk of homelessness due to inflation and high living costs. These challenges are even

more pronounced for single parents with dependents. While numerous organizations provide support, many still struggle to meet societal demands. These issues resonate with the challenges faced by international students, underscoring the need for systemic changes.

Future Aspirations

My ultimate goal is to become a competent professional equipped to support marginalized populations through advocacy, resource navigation, and addressing social injustices. By merging my knowledge and experience from the Philippines with my Canadian education, I hope to make meaningful contributions to the communities I serve.

Reflecting on my journey, I am deeply grateful to be part of HSH. This experience has provided me with firsthand exposure to working with individuals experiencing homelessness and the opportunity to contribute to an organization that empowers single-parent families through housing, education, and holistic support. I look forward to continued learning, collaboration, and growth as I work toward building stronger, more inclusive communities.

Read Gem's [blog post](https://www.HomeSuiteHope.org) at [HomeSuiteHope.org](https://www.HomeSuiteHope.org)

HSH'S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

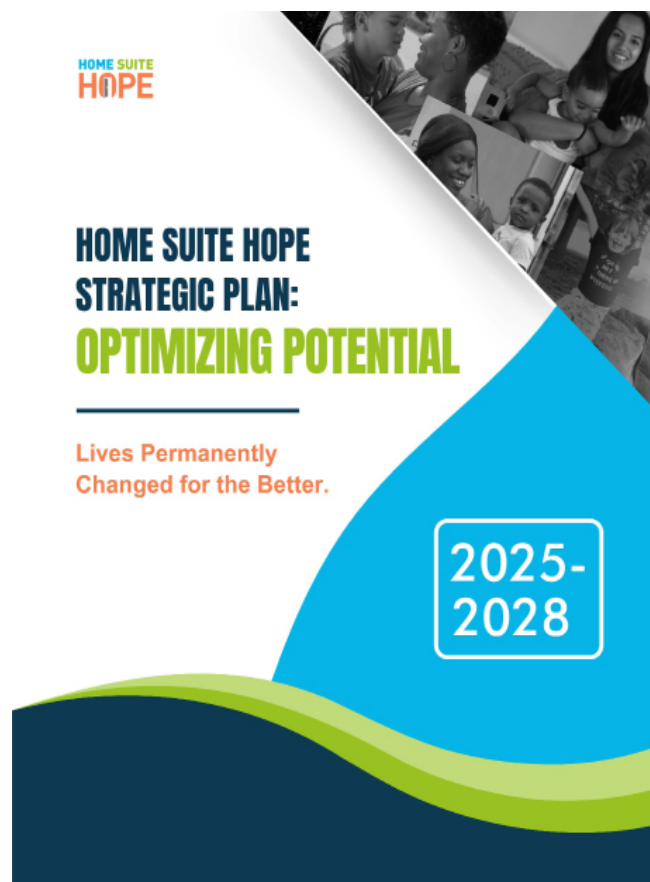
Home Suite Hope's 2025-2028 Strategic Plan

is a blueprint for the impactful and compassionate work that lies ahead. This plan, completed near the end of 2024, reflects the collective efforts of our team, partners, and community, and serves as a testament to the resilience and determination of the families we serve.

HSH's mission has always been about more than just providing shelter - it's about creating pathways to independence and self-sufficiency. With this strategic plan, we recommit to our vision of lives permanently changed for the better. Rooted in our belief in optimizing potential, we will focus on sustainable growth, expanding our reach, fostering diversity and tackling the pressing issue of affordable housing.

This document is not just a plan; it's a call to action.

[Read the HSH Strategic Plan 2025-2028](#)



911: URGENT NEED FOR HOUSING



HSH has an urgent need for housing - affordable housing - and we really want to hear from local landlords and property managers.

We urgently want to partner with affordable housing providers as we move our single parent participants from poverty to stability through a four-year program that provides support and post-secondary education to result in employment and stability.

If you know someone who has rental units, in-law suites, is a property manager or contemplating building with a not-for-profit partner, we ask that you consider connecting with us. Contact **HSH Director of Operations Catherine Villasenor** at CVillasenor@homesuitehope.org

BE AN HSH SPONSOR

HomeSuiteHope.org

Corporate Engagement

Are you searching for a meaningful way to engage your team in volunteer opportunities, foster social responsibility, promote team building, and maybe even ignite some friendly competition at the office? Look no further than our variety of campaigns that YOU can take part in!

Show 'em some Love Campaign

It's the holiday of love, and we want our participants to feel the love and support they deserve... We kindly request donations of self-care items such as candles, makeup, face masks, etc.

Period Poverty Campaign

Feminine hygiene products are an essential and costly necessity for our participants and their daughters. To support them, we collect donations of tampons and pads, which are kept in our office for them to pick up as needed.

Dressed for Success

Help HSH participants make a lasting impression at work by hosting a professional clothing drive at your workplace. Foster confidence, inspire self-belief, and enhance career opportunities for them by gathering high-quality, stylish, and appropriate professional attire.

Cleaning Products Drive

Host a Household Cleaning Supplies drive/contest at your office to help HSH single moms alleviate one of the most expensive parts of a grocery bill. Ex., laundry detergent, fabric softener, toilet bowl cleaners, recycling bags, windex.

Birthday Gifts Campaign

Promote inclusion and allow every child to experience the joy of gift-giving. As a single mom, when birthday invites come home, the stress of finding money for a birthday gift arises. We provide a locker filled with gifts where moms can bring their children to choose a gift for their friend.

Blueberry Fields Garden

Grab your gardening gloves and head to Upper Oakville Shopping Centre's community garden - Blueberry Fields! Each year, volunteers from the community are needed to help plant, grow and harvest fruits and vegetables.

03

2025 Sponsorship Package

LUXURY BINGO

Coming May 2025

B for 'Bits n Bites' Sponsor

- Opportunity to display promotional materials on tables
- Logo featured on bingo game schedule at each place setting
- 4 complimentary tickets
- Prominent logo feature on table signage
- Prominent Logo feature on event ticketing page
- Include video on event ticketing page
- Dedicated posts on HSH social media
- Logo featured in pre and post event email communications
- Feature in post-event recognition post

\$1,500

I for 'I need a Drink' Sponsor

- Opportunity to display promotional materials on tables
- Logo prominently displayed at the venue bar
- 4 complimentary tickets
- Custom coasters with your logo at each place setting
- Prominent Logo feature on event ticketing page
- Include video on event ticketing page
- Dedicated posts on HSH social media
- Logo featured in pre and post event email communications
- Feature in post-event recognition post

\$1,500

N for 'Next round's on us' Sponsor

- Logo featured on venue bar
- Announcement at event: "50% off your second drink, sponsored by ____"
- Feature on HSH Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn
- 2 complimentary tickets
- Mention in event email communications
- Feature in post-event recognition post

\$750

G for 'Grab a Dauber' Sponsor

- Logo featured on bingo dauber sticker
- Feature on HSH Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn
- 1 complimentary ticket
- Mention in event email communications
- Feature in post-event recognition post

\$400

O for 'Oh, I want that Prize' Sponsor

- Featured on event materials as "Prize Sponsor"
- Feature on HSH Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn with other prize sponsors
- "This round is sponsored by ____"
- Logo feature on event schedule next to the round you sponsored
- 1 complimentary ticket

\$500 or in kind

Does your company hold season tickets to any teams such as the Leafs, Blue Jays, or Raptors? Think about donating a pair of tickets to the event as a prize!

06

There are many ways to become a Home Suite Hope sponsor. Whether it's sponsoring one of our upcoming fundraising events, one of our special projects (Back to School backpacks), fulfilling a family's wishlist at the holidays or a combination of these, we welcome any interest and will work with you to find the perfect fit for you. Please contact Marketing & Events Coordinator Katelyn Zaoral for our full **2025 Sponsorship Package** for information and to discuss options. KZaoral@homesuitehope.org

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ROTARY OAKVILLE

GOLF GIVE

September 15, 2025

Pipers Heath Golf Course
Milton, Ontario

Price - \$75.00 / Golfer
Includes: Golf / Lunch / Dinner /
Auction / Prizes / Passport

Gold Sponsor \$5,000

Complimentary 4 some at golf event
Company logo on signage at dinner tables, in slideshow at dinner and on the billboard
Company Logo on Registration website, with link to your webpage
Opportunity to provide promotion items

Silver Sponsor \$2,500

Complimentary 4 some at golf event
Company logo on signage at dinner tables, in the slide show at dinner and on the billboard
Company Logo on Registration website, with link to your webpage

Registration Desk Sponsor \$1,500

Company logo on signage at registration desk, in the slide show at dinner and on the billboard
Company Logo on Registration website, with link to your webpage

Prize Table Sponsor \$1,000

Company logo on signage at the prize table, in the slide show at dinner and on the billboard
Company Logo on Registration website, with link to your webpage

Photographer Sponsor \$1,000

Company logo on signage at the prize table, in slide show at dinner and on the billboard
Company Logo on Registration website, with link to your webpage

Dinner Sponsor \$800

Company logo on signage at dinner tables, in the slide show at dinner and on the billboard
Sponsor Recognition on Registration website, with link to your webpage

08

EMPTY BOWLS

Enjoy Delicious Soups, Breads & Desserts

Prepared by your favourite local restaurants and chefs!

Empty Bowls 2025 to offer Dine In and Pickup Option

Home Suite Hope is a wraparound service that helps homeless or precariously housed single parent families in the Halton Region move to self-sufficiency. Through a four year program that provides a housing subsidy, a two year college diploma, intensive case management, life skills training, mentorship, professional development and employment supports, single parents are given the opportunity to build their skills and break the ties of generational poverty once and for all.

In its 17th year, Empty Bowls brings the community back together once again at Appleby College to visit the various soup vendors by handing the chef their new 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.

November 2025

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Appleby College
540 Lakeshore Rd W,
Oakville, ON L6K 3P1

Tickets

- \$60 General Admission - No Ceramic Bowl
- \$75 To Go Soup Kit - Pickup Option
- \$75 General Admission - With Ceramic Bowl

*All purchases are eligible for a \$50 tax receipt.

10

FUNDING NEWS

THANK YOU OAKVILLE LIONS CLUB

Thank you to the **Oakville Lions Club** for its recent donation to Home Suite Hope. The club has generously supported the technology needs of our single parents.

In their journey from poverty to stability, these parents navigate housing, daycare, parenting, budgeting and transportation challenges as they raise their children while attending classes. Their goal is to obtain a post-secondary diploma and employment – stability for their family.

HSH, through its supporters, provides support for our participants. As our single parents attend post-secondary classes in pursuit of a diploma, technology needs are often challenging. Thank you so much Oakville Lions Club for backing us in this endeavor.



Oakville
Lions
Club

HOME SUITE
HOPE

Thank you 

CHRIST EMBASSY DELIVERS



Christ Embassy Oakville's congregation not only supported our Hope 4 Holidays campaign, but was already back with more donations - books, care packages and clothing - in January.

Carol Castello was kind enough to personally deliver the donations and promised to return soon.

We are always grateful for support - either monetary, in-kind or volunteer time and expertise - from our community as we work together to help single parents on their journey from poverty to stability in our community.

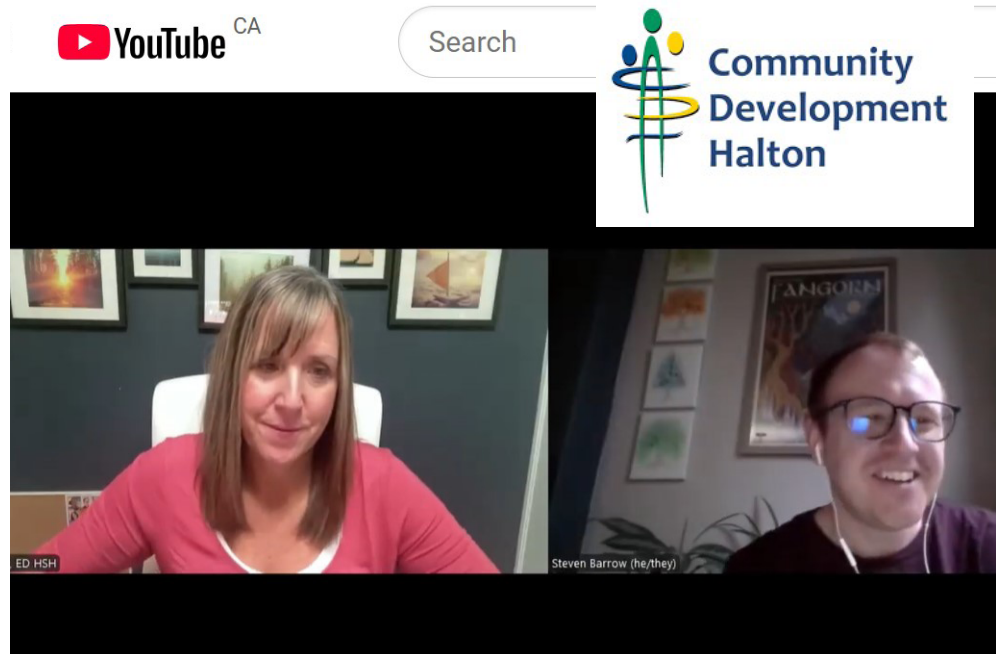
HSH IN THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HALTON

FEATURES SARA ON ITS PODCAST

Home Suite Hope Executive Director **Dr. Sara Cumming** was recently featured on a podcast by **Community Development Halton (CDH)** in its **Community Data Watch** series. This segment is about single mothers and parents in Halton.

The podcast sees host **Steve Barrow** and Sara discuss the barriers faced by single mothers and parents, as well as their inherent strength and resilience through topics including income policy, cost of living, and the meaning and role of community in the lives of single mothers and parents in Halton.



Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NslOYyv9hOw&list=PL84ORHU92--8HLVz2cDuhgz5ThJvyl8sC&index=2>

Here is a link to the CDH research page that includes a full [Community Data Watch on Single Mother Families](#).

Community Development Halton is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the community and promoting social welfare, community engagement, and overall development within the Halton region.



Sheridan



CHANGING THE PATTERNS OF POVERTY TO A LEGACY OF PROSPERITY