

JULY 2024

July 1 – Canada Day
July 18 – Nelson Mandela
International Day (UN)
July 21 – Asalha Puja Day
(Buddhism)

911!

If you have rental units, in-law suites, are a property manager or contemplating building with a not-for-profit partner, contact Catherine Villasenor at cvillasenor@homesuitehope.org.
See inside.

JULY 2024

Creating lasting change, one family at a time

APPRECIATION BBQ: GRADS & VOLUNTEERS



HSH hosted a rooftop **Appreciation BBQ & 20th Anniversary Celebration** June 13 to celebrate HSH participants who graduated from Sheridan College and the many volunteers and supporters who helped them achieve the milestone.

*Pictured, from left **HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming, 2024 Valedictorian Shannon, HSH Board Chair France Fournier and Oakville North-Burlington MPP Effie Triantafilopoulos.***

See more inside.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023!

Check out our [HSH Annual Report 2023](#)
View our [Audited Financial Statement 2023](#)
Visit www.HomeSuiteHope.org

More inside.





AGM & APPRECIATION BBQ

On Thursday, June 13, HSH hosted its **AGM and an Appreciation BBQ** on the rooftop of its partner Kerr Street Mission. The gathering celebrated HSH's 20th anniversary and 2023 - the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement 2023 were released and a record of six HSH single parents graduating from their post-secondary programs at **Sheridan College**. While last year's graduation class was sizable, it celebrated grads from across the COVID-19 years. This celebration was just for this year's grads!

HSH supports its participants through the four-year **Homeward Bound Halton** program - stabilization, two years of post-secondary education and up to a year of employment search support.

Over this time, the program participants move from homelessness or precarious housing and poverty to stability - thanks to the wraparound support provided by HSH through the generosity of its supporters.

The celebration was also an opportunity to **thank our donors**, who support us unwaveringly across the years, like long-time donors Glen and Ann Herring who attended the gathering, and to express appreciation for those who assist us in our work: four volunteers received **Appreciation plaques**.

"With great appreciation, Home Suite Hope acknowledges the invaluable time and effort that the community selflessly dedicates to supporting us and the single parent families we serve. Twenty years of Home Suite Hope would not have been possible without your commitment," said **HSH Fundraising & Events Coordinator Katelyn Zaoral**.

"When times of hardship hit Home Suite Hope, the organization remains dedicated to pivot and adapt in order to continue providing support and assistance to single parent families in our programming," said **HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming**.

A shout-out goes to **Familafood Club** which donated meats for the barbecue. We extend our deepest gratitude for all the unwavering support, kindness, and dedication to our cause. Together, we can continue to catalyze positive change and bring hope to those in need.

GRADUATION &...



THE 2024 GRADS

Congratulations to Daliah, Angelika, Shannon, Yojhana, Syeda and Tayler.

Hats off to Shannon, who delivered a heartfelt Valedictory address.



...APPRECIATION BBQ

AWARDS

The celebration was an opportunity to recognize numerous outstanding volunteers with **Appreciation plaques.**

Industry Council representative Mark McLaughlin was chef at the grill for the barbecue and picked up an appreciation plaque and certificate as he is very active on the **HSH Industry Council** and is a **Partner in Change**. **Lindsay Anderson** was celebrated for her work as a mentor and a life skills workshop leader. Outgoing **HSH Board Chair France Fournier** received a plaque in honour of her long-term commitment to serving on the HSH Board, her roles as vice-chair and chair, and her ongoing support. **Audrey Bailey**, an **Industry Council representative** who helps connect our graduates with networking and throughout their job search was also recognized.



NEWS FROM OUR PARENTS

GRADUATION & JOBS

We officially recognized HSH graduates this month. **Six participants graduated** from their college program. Of the six, four have successfully completed the Office Administration Executive program at Sheridan College. Another has studied dental hygiene and another received a Bachelor's degree in Creative Writing. Congratulations!



Two of HSH's first-year participants have also accepted offers to study in their first choice of programs at Sheridan. Program graduates are currently involved in interviews and one has started a job.



SHERIDAN GRADS

HSH graduates were attending **Sheridan College's graduation ceremonies** in June - days to celebrate their hard-won accomplishments. Pictured here are Tayler, Yojhana and Syeda.



IN OTHER NEWS



ALUMNA ON THE JOB

In the spirit of celebration, HSH graduate **Robin** shared a word of encouragement to participants.

After completing her computer systems tech-software engineering diploma in October of last year, Robin landed her first job at Softchoice, a technology consulting company.

“With prayer, hard work and the support of HSH, this dream was made a reality. Nothing is impossible!” said Robin.

Congratulations, Robin!



SHERIDAN GRADUATION

Sara joined Sheridan College President Janet Morrison, who is also an HSH Mentor, on the podium as a sociology professor and member of Sheridan’s Board of Governors... but the really special moment arrived as Sara’s daughter Kennedy graduated with a Bachelor of Community Safety. Kennedy is now working at Halton Women’s Place while Sara’s family awaits the arrival any day of her daughter Maddy and her partner Ben’s baby boy - Sara’s first grandchild!

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Life was exceedingly hard for many in 2023 and HSH and our participants were not immune to these difficulties but we all worked extremely hard to move through the year as thoughtfully as we could. The year 2023 will be remembered as the year of 'turbulence and tenacity.'

- Sara

[HSH 2023 Annual Report](#)

CHECK OUT OUR AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023

On behalf of Home Suite Hope, we invite you to check out our Audited Financial Statement 2023 released at our AGM June 13.

[Audited Financial Statement 2023](#)



PRESENTATION TO AGM

HSH Executive Director Dr. Sara Cumming presented the 2023 Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement to the Annual General Meeting on June 13.

Please take some time to view her presentation:

[2023 Report to AGM](#)



Dr. Sara Cumming
Executive Director,
Home Suite Hope

BOARD NEWS



NEW CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR ANNOUNCED

Home Suite Hope's Executive Director and Staff want to send our deepest gratitude to our outgoing Chair of the Board, **France Fournier**. France was the vice-chair through the difficulties of COVID-19 and took the helm as Chair as the organization continued to face incredible challenges due to inflation. We are grateful to France for her leadership and for her eagerness to mentor our incoming Chair Emma Jarratt. Likewise, we are grateful to our **Vice-Chair Ted Ecclestone** for his balanced and poised mentorship.

We are delighted to announce our **incoming Chair and Vice Chair**. **Emma Jarratt** has been on the Board for the past two years and has been serving as the Chair of the Fundraising Committee. Emma has been voted into the Board Chair role for a two-year term. **Nazeera Khan** started with Home Suite Hope on our Industry Council helping our participants enter into employment. Nazeera joined the Board of Directors last year and has been serving as the Chair of Governance Committee. Nazeera was voted on as Vice-Chair for one term (to start).

Valerie Del Hierro will assume chairmanship of the HSH Fundraising Committee while Rose Sharifi will step into the role of HSH Governance Committee Chair. We thank them both for stepping up. Nazeera and Emma will continue their involvement as members of their respective committees.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OVER THE SUMMER

Two weeks ago I had the pleasure of announcing our graduates and thanking all of our volunteers after our AGM. We called 2023 our year of Turbulence and Tenacity due to the continuing economic challenges facing our most vulnerable community members, our single mother participants. I continue to be in awe of all of the amazing people that surround us and keep us safe during these turbulent times.

Many of you know that I first came to Home Suite Hope in 2018 on a short-term contract to help with Program Evaluation while continuing with my full-time professor position at Sheridan College. In 2019, I took on the role of Executive Director and am celebrating my sixth year in dual roles tomorrow (July 2). I love having the support of two amazing workplaces as I navigated these two demanding roles.



I am about to take on a brand new role in my personal life. My daughter, Maddy, and her partner, Ben, are blessing me with my first grandchild any moment.

July and August are my vacation months from my academic position and as such, the Board and my amazing staff here at HSH have agreed to take on pieces of my role to allow me to take the summer off to take a mental break from work, and throw myself into helping my daughter navigate motherhood.

Catherine Villasenor our Director of Operations will be helping the ship while I am away. Catherine and I will be meeting weekly to ensure continuity in strategy and programming. If you need to connect with me during my time away please contact Catherine cvillasenor@homesuitehope.org and she will connect us.

Have a lovely summer.
Look forward to seeing you all at Empty Bowls!

- Sara

STAFF NEWS



NIKKIAN'S A MOM

Congratulations Nikkian! Home Suite Hope's **Program Manager Nikkian and her husband Oshane** welcomed their daughter, **Nova Dream Daley**, on Friday, June 28. Nova was born 8 days late after 58 hours of labour. Nova is a transient astronomical event that causes the sudden appearance of a bright, new star in the sky and releases powerful energy.

Nikkian and Oshane cannot wait for everyone to meet Nova!

While Nikkian is on maternity leave, here's who to contact in her absence:

Intake/Program Eligibility:

Jovelle at joveller@homesuitehope.org or programs@homesuitehope.org

Case Management Inquires:

Temisha at TemishaJ@homesuitehope.org or Haley at Haleyw@homesuitehope.org

In-Kind Donations:

Temisha at Temishaj@homesuitehope.org

Community Relations and Programming:

Catherine at CVillasenor@homesuitehope.org

Events and Volunteer Inquires:

Katelyn at KatelynZ@homesuitehope.org

Management-Related Inquires:

Sara at sarac@homesuitehope.org or Catherine at CVillasenor@homesuitehope.org

STAFF CELEBRATION



NIKKIAN'S SHOWER

HSH staff, **Executive Director Sara Cumming** and **Board Member Emma Jarratt** hosted a Royal Tea-themed baby shower for Nikkian and sent all their very best wishes to Nikkian and her husband Oshane Congratulations, Nikkian as you get to know your baby princess!



SHARING SUPPORT

HSH Director of Operations Catherine Villasenor, husband Danier, and son Caidan along with family and friends participated in the **2024 Halton Walk for Down Syndrome** hosted by the **Halton Down Syndrome Association** at the Milton Fairgrounds on June 8th. In her HSH [blog](#), Catherine announced the arrival of Caidan but also shared he was born with Down Syndrome. It is thanks to her village and also being able to access crucial resources available through various organizations and programs in Halton Region, including The Halton Region, Erin Oak Kids Centre for Treatment and Development, and Community Living North Halton to name a few, that she is able raise Caidan and provide for his unique needs.



The walk through Downtown Milton raised awareness about Down Syndrome and invited everyone to join in creating a community that is inclusive and welcoming of individuals with Down Syndrome. After the walk, the event space was filled with kid-friendly activities and a BBQ for families to share and enjoy the sunny Saturday weather.

“I am so thankful for such a supportive community working to fill in the gaps of vulnerable populations. And I recognize I have a unique place where I not only witness how amazing the community wraps around my son and his needs, but also when I’m at work at HSH, I see how everyone is eager to help and support the single parents experiencing homelessness that we serve,” says Catherine.

HSH can share the same testament of support the Halton community shares with the organization. Over the years, HSH has had the privilege of partnering with amazing organizations and community members to fill the gaps and serve single parent families experiencing homelessness. We are thankful for the kindness and generosity that is always shared.



FUNDING NEWS



SUPPORT FROM A NEW FAMILY FUND

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

The PBF's grant and donation initiatives are divided into the three main pillars: **Women Enablement**: Leaders, thinkers, care-givers, mothers; women are the carriers of society. Through the funding of support and enablement programs for women, we can elevate society as a whole; **Youth Assistance**: The youth are our future. We aim to help level the playing field so youth from all walks of life can find their pathway to success. This may include programs that address education, mental health, and promote stability in children's every day life; and, **Support for the Arts**: Support for the Arts. Art can be a power vehicle for change. We sponsor arts-based programs that take an active role in bettering the lives of their participants through empowerment, education, and community.

"We believe every great society is centred on the enablement of each person to reach their potential" is the Paul Barber Foundation's mission.

HSH is one of the recipients for the 2024 Female Leadership and Empowerment Grant through the Paul Barber Foundation.

The grant will help HSH promote gender equality for women in settings where they are underrepresented, such as STEM and the trades.

Read more about this new foundation in this [Financial Post article by Natalya Anderson](https://canadianfamilyoffices.com/philanthropy/entrepreneurs-familys-race-against-time-to-create-foundation): <https://canadianfamilyoffices.com/philanthropy/entrepreneurs-familys-race-against-time-to-create-foundation>

DONATION DRIVE

THANK YOU

Home Suite Hope would like to send a huge shout-out and thank you to this group of young girls for all of their hard work and support of HSH!

Anjali, Deeya, Kate, Everleigh, Lexi, Zoe, Carly, Emma, and Beatrice. You are all future change makers and we're proud to have been the beneficiary of your initiative.

We thank you for all of the time you dedicated to supporting HSH.

The girls made a fundraising plan, which included making posters, baked goods, lemonade, and handmade bracelets.



After a successful fundraising day on Saturday, June 15, the girls collected a total of \$1,399 in support of HSH.

On top of that, they also collected and dropped off a significant amount personal hygiene products for the single parent families at HSH.

Way to go girls!

HomeSuiteHope.org

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

SPRING CLEAN-UP PAYS OFF FOR HSH PARTICIPANTS

The **Spring Clean-Up Donation FUNDrive** to collect donations of used clothing, shoes, books, children's toys, household linens and household decor was a huge success!

We began appealing for people to donate their spring cleaning goods back in April and collected through most of June - storing the donations at U-Haul Moving & Storage of Oakville, which donated two storage units to our cause.

On June 20, the HSH team and volunteers, like Mark and Sandy, moved the donations from the storage units to Value Village for weigh-in. There, the donations were unloaded and weighed.

Once the goods were on the scales, it showed we collected 2,014 lbs. of soft goods, 817 lbs. of hard goods, 407 lbs. of books and 10 large pieces. HSH received the following for the items we collected: Clothing: 20 cents per pound; Small housewares: 10 cents per pound; Books: 10 cents per pound; Furniture: 5 cents per item; Other large items: 5 cents per item.

All funds generated will directly support HSH's wraparound supports for single-parent families.



THANKS U-HAUL

Thanks again to **U-Haul Moving & Storage of Oakville** for their generous contribution of two storage units for our donation drive! The support meant all donations to our drive were stored in their easily-accessible, climate controlled, spacious units.

WEIGH-IN DAY



SOS: DESPERATE FOR HOUSING

Home Suite Hope's desperate need for housing was recently covered by Inside Halton. Read reporter David Lea's interview with HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming: [Oakville charity says it can't find Halton landlords willing to help women and children facing homelessness](#)

Can you help us find housing? **Home Suite Hope's most immediate need is for housing – affordable housing.** 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 Catherine Villasenor at cvillasenor@homesuitehope.org.

Over the past months, we've diligently worked on negotiating long-term rentals across Halton priced at \$2200 or below per month. Our approach involves offering landlords the assurance HSH will act as the lease guarantor, ensuring full monthly payments. This arrangement eliminates the risk of payment default for the building owner, as we pay the landlord directly and take responsibility for rent collection from the tenants.



Our participants are held to a high standard through a participation agreement, requiring compliance with program requirements to maintain their housing. These requirements include passing a thorough four-step application and interview process, abstaining from active addictions, lacking any serious mental health conditions, having no ongoing court cases or a criminal conviction before or during programming. Additionally, participants are limited to a maximum of three children under 18. These single mothers are committed to improving their financial situations and actively seek out programs like ours. Despite offering what should be an ideal rental scenario for landlords with lower-priced units, we've had extreme difficulty finding the same and often if we do, we've encountered persistent stigma. Unfounded assumptions about the demographics of our program participants have led to repeated denials from landlords who seek "different types of clients."

We urgently seek assistance from anyone connected with apartment owners, whether in large buildings or with in-law suites, to advocate for our participants. Together, we can challenge and dismantle this damaging stigma, opening up opportunities for those striving to better their lives.

Sara Cumming, Executive Director, Home Suite Hope



Sheridan



SAGEN™

CHANGING THE PATTERNS OF POVERTY TO A LEGACY OF PROSPERITY