

2023



# ANNUAL REPORT

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TERRITORIES**

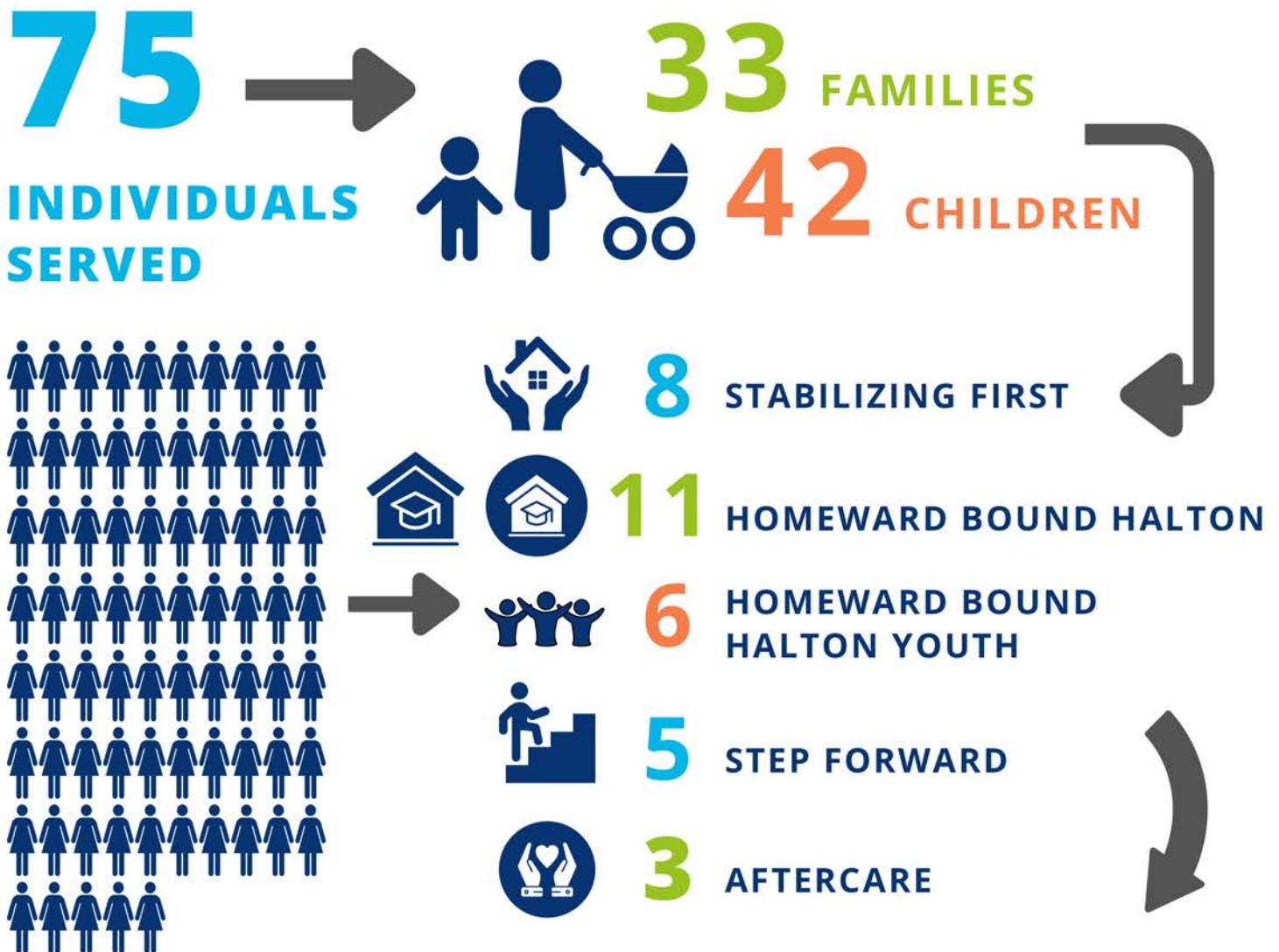
Halton, as we know it today, is rich in the history and modern traditions of many First Nations and the Métis. From the lands of the Anishinabe to the Attawandaron, the Haudenosaunee and the Métis, these lands surrounding the Great Lakes are steeped in Indigenous history. We acknowledge and thank the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation for being stewards of the traditional territory upon which this research and programming took place. We are in solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters to honour and respect the four directions, lands, waters, plants, animals and ancestors that walked before us and all the wonderful elements of creation that exist.

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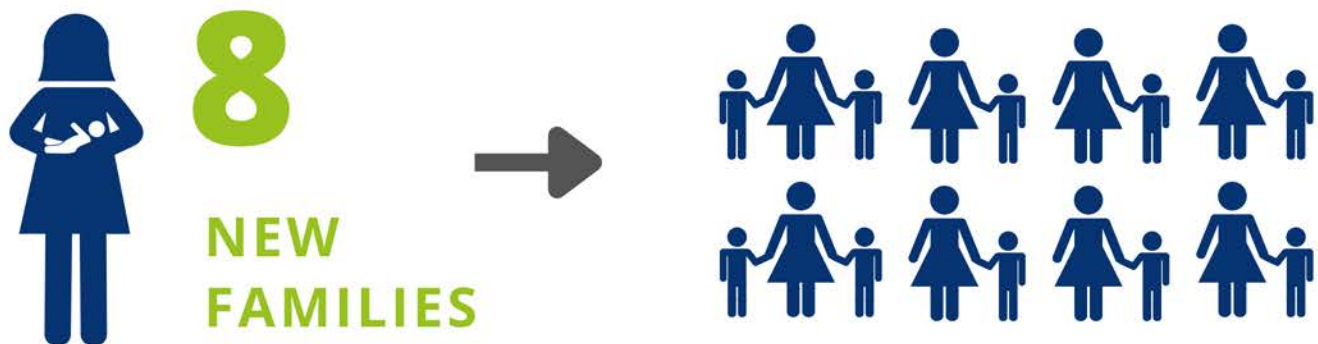
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# HOW MANY FAMILIES DID WE SERVE?



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



# ACADEMIC JOURNEY



**5** PARTICIPANTS BEGAN THEIR ACADEMIC JOURNEY



**5** PARTICIPANTS COMPLETED ACADEMIC UPGRADING



**7** PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED IN 1ST YEAR OF POST-SECONDARY



**4** PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED IN 2ND/ FINAL YEAR OF POST-SECONDARY

**3**

PARTICIPANTS OBTAINED THEIR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION THROUGH THE HBH PROGRAM



**1**

GRADUATED FROM THE COMPUTER SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN PROGRAM



**1**

GRADUATED FROM THE COMPUTER PROGRAMMER PROGRAM



**1**

GRADUATED FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (HEALTH) PROGRAM



**\$51,676**

IS THE AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME OF GRADUATES FROM 2023

## HOW MANY PARTICIPANTS HAVE COMPLETED THE HBH PROGRAM?

**2**

PARTICIPANTS COMPLETED



**100%**

EXITED WITH FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

**100%**

ARE WORKING IN THEIR FIELD OF EDUCATION

**50%**

CAN AFFORD MARKET RENT INDEPENDENTLY





# A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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This will mark my fifth annual report as the Executive Director of Home Suite Hope. I am incredibly proud of this organization, the women who pour their whole selves into their different roles in the organization – whether it be my employees or the resilient participants who continue to persevere despite what perpetually feels like an uphill battle in this current environment. Life was exceedingly hard for many in 2023 and Home Suite Hope 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.’

**2023 will be remembered as the year of ‘turbulence and tenacity’.**

I am proud of the culture that exists at Home Suite Hope, one where the staff feels valued and heard and the participants feel safe and supported. Many of the staff at Home Suite Hope had started here as student interns before I even arrived six years ago and stayed with the organization as their first career position. It was time for some of the young women to spread their wings and grow into their careers and into their personal lives (changing their roles to wives, homeowners and, in some cases, first time parents). While each of these staff was wished nothing but the best and most stayed incredibly involved in Home Suite Hope, staff changeover is hard in a small organization and was felt not just by management but also by the participants.



The staff said goodbye to Leah Burton-Saliba, Krystal Valencia, Nancie Wismayer and Sasha McCartney-Stevens who left to pursue new opportunities, however welcomed Catherine Villasenor back from parental leave, and Temisha Jaques and Haley Weber as caseworkers.



Our whole community continued to feel the impact of the housing crisis, inflated grocery bills and record high fuel costs. This, however, is felt even more acutely by our participants who live on less than \$30,000 per year. A low vacancy rate (0.2%), high interest rates and inflation has created an untenable housing situation for our low-income community members – One that Home Suite Hope has felt acutely. In addition, as organizations continued to recalibrate from online delivery models, new barriers presented themselves. Courses that could previously be taken online or at multiple schools were streamlined to one campus and in-person, while childcare spaces were next to nonexistent throughout Halton.

The increased barriers to success felt by our participants resulted in a high level of mental health issues including extreme anxiety and panic disorders. Wait lists for publicly funded mental health support were in some cases years long, while private care was far too costly for our participants. As a result, Home Suite Hope employed an in-house psychotherapist to work one-on-one with our participants and their children to ensure they could continue to move forward in their lives.

We continued to witness a Halton wide reduction in corporate sponsorships and

donations and granting agencies offering reduced funds. Corporations continued to seek out hands-on experiences with not for profits, while granting agencies asked for applications for “new” programming. On the flip side of this, you – our individual donors – stepped up to the plate and made it possible for us to get through the unexpected losses of income from other funding avenues.

Hence, the year of turbulence and tenacity. Despite experiencing bigger hurdles in every realm, Home Suite Hope and the community that surrounds us continued to show amazing resilience and persistence. We continue to recognize that one of our biggest strengths as an organization is our community partnerships. The Region continued to be responsive to the changing housing climate, helping us to ensure that our graduates remained in stable housing. Sheridan College continued to support our participants, both with their tuition and in providing incredible mentors. The Oakville Community Foundation continued to facilitate donations from their fundholders and awarded us the Gender Equality Fund through the Government of Canada. First Canadian Title once again supported one of our participants by providing them with a \$5000 scholarship for their first year of school. Kerr Street Mission, Food ForLife, Bridging the Gap and the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton answered each call for collaboration throughout the year.



Several local businesses partnered with Home Suite Hope to strengthen our outreach. We joined forces with the indelible Kimberly Calderbank's Yellow Robot to create a strategic marketing plan and to throw the biggest event of Home Suite Hope's history (more about that later). Hilary Borndahl's Miix Analytics, teamed up once more with Home Suite Hope to help us better understand the ebbs and flows of our donation history. As a result, we embarked on a strengthened outreach strategy. We also continued our partnership with Sharp Storytelling to create an outreach commercial that now plays on Cogeco and Bob Fleck's Fleck Productions created a series of videos documenting the journey of our participants. We hope that all this work will help us to cast our net wider, ensuring that more struggling families know that help is here, and that more Halton residents are aware of the amazing transformations that happen here.

Our original Partners in Change campaign continued to build momentum attracting new donors who sponsored families by filling the annual gap of \$9534 in funding to provide full wrap around services. Our volunteer pool continued to grow as more corporations came forward to give back. Partnering with Kits for a Cause, corporates such as CIBC Mellon, Aviva and EUCA Solutions filled backpacks with much needed supplies for our families and many other groups volunteered at our local community garden, Blueberry Fields. We had several organizations throw third party events in honour of Home Suite Hope, and others provided Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and Christmas gifts for each of our single mothers in programming. Although virtual this year, the community came together once again to support our 15th Empty Bowls fundraising initiative.

Home Suite Hope also experienced several firsts this year. One of our Partners in Change took the term partner to a whole new level! Joining forces with a participant and Home Suite Hope they actively worked to raise enough funds to purchase a fully accessible vehicle for the family. Dreams Take Flight partnered with Home Suite Hope offering three of the children in our program a once in a lifetime trip to Disney World's Magic Kingdom. Through a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, we purchased our first vehicle. Owning a truck will help us to increase our service and delivery capacity, getting more donations to our families at a lower cost and in a timelier fashion. We also held our first ever large graduation of our participants, bringing together the community, MPs, MPPs, the Mayor of Oakville, Sheridan College's president, our mentors, Industry Council and Board of Directors to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of ten of our participants.



Early into 2023, we recognized that Home Suite Hope was about to experience an unprecedented challenge to our programming. Inflation rates continued to push housing costs up with the rental market becoming increasingly challenging for everyone. For the first-time in Home Suite Hope's history, we could not increase the number of women in programming due specifically to the inability to secure and pay for housing. We work from a 'Housing-First' approach, an approach that recognizes that individuals need safe and secure housing before they can start to address any other barrier in their lives.



If we cannot house single parent-led families experiencing homelessness, we cannot offer any other element of our programming. We began to speak about this in the community and to donors at every opportunity and launched our first ever Affordable Housing Campaign. This campaign seeks to raise money – in addition to the money we already need to raise for programming– to be specifically earmarked for securing housing in the community.

Many exciting events were held under the umbrella of our Affordable Housing Campaign. Callum Wallace, a local real-estate agent, held the largest third-party fundraiser we've experienced called Flight for Hope. Callum raised funds and brought awareness to the plight of single mother-led families by flying his single engine plane solo around the world. During the lead up to the campaign he held the Wardrobe, Watches and Whisky event at Burrows in Oakville and we held Women, Wine and Wellness at the Oakville Club. All of these events culminated into our first ever Home for Good Gala—a night to celebrate the amazing feat of Callum, but also to bring awareness to the effects of this housing crisis on our most vulnerable in the community. There remains a profound need for the community to be collaborative and innovative to address this housing crisis in the coming years.

Each year that I have authored the annual report I have ended my letter with a call to action. It has been my experience that people like to know exactly what they can do to get involved and to give back to their community. In the pages that will follow you will see many different ideas of how you or your organization can get involved with Home Suite Hope. Please reach out to us if you have an idea or want to get involved with something that we already do! We are always happy to hear from the community. Our most imminent need is for 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 bring Home Suite Hope into the conversation. We will continue to be tenacious and are committed to riding out this turbulence.



**Sara J. Cumming, PhD**

Executive Director







# ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

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During 2023, Home Suite Hope supports evolved to better support participant's mental health needs and education pathways diversified to increase employability options. We welcomed our first ever in-house psychotherapist that offered online and in person mental health support, with an average of 16 counselling sessions occurring each month. Participants enrolled in alternative education pathways in property management, the dental field and pursuing post-secondary degrees.

**Stabilizing First Halton:** a 1-year stabilizing program to prepare participants to pursue a pathway towards employment, education, and/or training. Includes, life skills training, intensive case management, goal-oriented service plans, a housing rental subsidy, and wrap-around supports and referrals.



A SFH participant stabilized in less than 3 months and completed her programming in record time. She is excited to be the first welding participant to attend Sheridan.

**Homeward Bound Halton (HBH):** an up to 3-year program obtainable after completing Stabilizing First Halton, that includes a housing rental subsidy, life skills training, college tuition, books, professional development, mentorship and employment support. The HBH program sees education as a pathway to gainful employment and seeks to support participants throughout their academic journey and in finding full-time employment.



For the first time in HSH history, we have had 2 participants successfully graduate from the highly competitive IT program. Go, graduates, go!!



**Homeward Bound Halton Youth (Pilot):** The HBH youth program ended in June 2023 as it was pilot program and the participants of this program have graduated or transitioned into HSH core program Homeward Bound Halton. This program was designed to help young parents (ages 17 – 24) finish their secondary school, attend post-secondary, learn life skills, and access mentorship and employment support. Participants are also provided with intensive case management, goal-oriented service plans, a housing rental subsidy, and wrap-around supports and referrals.



After 4 years, the piloted HBH youth program has been incorporated into the traditional HBH programming.

**Step Forward Halton:** An up to two-year program that provides individuals housed through the Rapid Housing Initiative with intensive case management, life skill programming, community connections, and goal-oriented service plans to maintain housing and increase one's quality of life and community engagement.



Step Forward has become part of the solution to support graduates in accessing affordable market rent

**Life Skills Workshops:** Life Skills programming that covers important life skills topics such as budgeting, healthy eating, conflict resolution and more. The program includes online, self-paced learning components, as well as in-person group workshops.



In 2023, Home Suite Hope collaborated with various community partners in the Halton Region to ensure our Life Skills workshops were interactive, inclusive, and EDI-informed.

**Aftercare:** A transitional program that supports HSH program participants as they move into 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 transition into their new chapter.



In 2023, HSH partnered with a Stabilizing First Graduate, Vanessa D, to increase access to childcare as she purchased a home and now operates an at-home childcare facility for Halton parents.





# BUILDING COMMUNITY

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ATION OF HAL



Fill their Carts to Fuel their Future  
#FullCartFebruary



## Black History Month with CCAH

Home Suite Hope Executive Director Sara Cumming and Interim Program Manager Nikkian Hanson-Daley attended the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CAAH) Black History Month Celebration kickoff at the Oakville Centre. They were among 400 attendees celebrating CCAH's 45th anniversary as Black History Month celebrations began.

## Full Cart February

To help combat inflation and the ever-increasing cost of groceries, HSH launched its Full Cart February campaign to help purchase grocery gift cards for single parent families in HSH's programming. Thank you to the community who stepped in to help fill their carts.

## Rotherglen Hygiene Products Drive

The Rotherglen Oakville Elementary School community – and the Grade 8 Leadership Project led by Deanna Colgan – hosted a drive to collect hygiene product donations for HSH.

## Valentine's Day

Thank you to Burlington Central School's Baking Club for baking and sharing their sweet creations with Home Suite Hope single parent families for Valentine's Day. The club wanted "to support charities and organizations by providing baked goods to people who may not have the privilege and/or time to indulge in something many consider a simple, sweet pleasure." HSH participants enjoyed the cookies and cupcakes the club provided.

## YWCA Women of Distinction Awards

Home Suite Hope Executive Director Sara Cumming was nominated for the YWCA Hamilton's 2023 Women of Distinction Award. The awards shine a light on the women and girls who built Hamilton & Halton and the awards gala, attended by HSH staff and Board members, was held March 2 at the Hamilton Convention Centre.

## International Women's Day: Miix Analytics event

Executive Director, Dr. Sara Cumming and Home Suite Hope staff attended Miix Analytics Embrace Equity learning event for International Women's Day. Sara shared her story at the event, alongside other feminists, all paving paths to lift other women up. Thank you to Miix Analytics for choosing Home Suite Hope as a beneficiary of funds raised through the event.



## Women, Wellness and Wine

In support of International Women’s Day and HSH’s affordable housing campaign, Home Suite Hope hosted its Women, Wellness and Wine event in March of 2023. Over 50 attendees gathered to sip, reflect, relax and help spread awareness of how integral housing is to women’s wellness. Over \$1,000 was raised for HSH’s Affordable Housing Campaign.

## Mother’s Day

Thank you to Whole Foods Market Oakville and its employees, Denise MacEachern and Melissa Sims for providing lovely hydrangeas, and an assortment of chocolates – as well as vitamin products – for HSH’s single mom participants for Mother’s Day. The pair delivered more than 20 floral arrangements to HSH’s office and spent some time chatting with HSH participants.

## The Purse Project Network

Home Suite Hope thanks the Purse Project Network and its co-directors, Gayla Matos and Jill MacKellar, who delivered more than two dozen purses to HSH’s single mothers for Mother’s Day—and for supplying personal hygiene items, including those suitable for racialized women. Did you know 60% of HSH participants identify as women of the BIPOC community?

## Dreams Take Flight

In early May, Program Manager, Nikkian Hanson-Daley and three very excited children of HSH participants took flight on a one-day trip of a lifetime to Walt Disney World’s Magic Kingdom.

The trip was Dreams Take Flight 31st flight from Toronto, with a goal of ensuring that each child received a day just for them, and a lifetime of special memories.

## MUDGIRL Hamilton 2023

For the second year in a row, the HSH team took part to support the fight against breast cancer. In honor of all those brave warriors, including our own Izabel Radar, the HSH Heroines, comprised of staff, participants, and community supporters, stood shoulder-to-shoulder and ran the muddy 17-obstacle course. Thank you to those who cheered us on, and for supporting our fundraising efforts.

## Making Transportation Accessible

In 2023, thanks to the support of HSH, Robin’s Partners in Change sponsor Mark M, March of Dimes, Easter Seals Ontario, a group from Robin’s church, the community and some of her own savings—a more accessible life was made possible through the purchase of an accessible van for Robin’s daughter, Leanne, who is quadriplegic.







### **Craig Kielburger Hygiene Drive**

Diella Sulemani, a Grade 12 student at Craig Kielburger Secondary School in Milton, dedicated her Social Justice and Equity course final project to HSH. With the goal of taking social action to address the issue of poverty and homelessness, Diella successfully spread the word about Home Suite Hope’s work to her school community, and collected donations of personal hygiene supplies, cleaning supplies and some fun summer activities for the children of our participants.

### **Graduation**

The combined graduation in June of 2023 marked a momentous accomplishment for many of the single mothers in Home Suite Hope’s programming. Home Suite Hope welcomed the graduates (from 2020-2023) and community members to Sheridan College’s Convention Centre for an evening of celebration of the ten graduates and their accomplishments. A heartfelt congratulations to Hongmei, Diamond, Nicole, Churchill, Asha, Shenees, Candice, Jasmine, Shawna and this year’s valedictorian Melissa.

### **William G. Davis Scholarship, Awarded by FCT**

For numerous years, FCT has presented the William G. Davis Scholarship in partnership with Home Suite Hope (HSH). HSH reviewed numerous applications this year, but one stood out—Daliah, who is currently studying to become a dental assistant. Daliah was proud

to accept the 2023 FCT Scholarship from company executives August 23.

### **Back-to-School Backpacks**

Home Suite Hope single-parents and their children headed back to classes for the 2023/24 school year well stocked with back-to-school basics thanks to CIBC Mellon (Toronto) and Bargains Group. While Bargains Group delivered supplies, CIBC Mellon employees packed and delivered the backpacks to HSH families.

### **Robertson Kadwell Drive to Survive**

The Robertson Kadwell Realty team hosted their Drive to Survive event in support of Home Suite Hope at Hagerty’s Garage and Social on October 19th. HSH Executive Director and staff members attended the event, in awe of not only the fun game simulators and beautiful cars, but more importantly the RK team’s drive to support our charity and introduce us to the community. Thank you RK team for raising over \$2,000 for HSH through your event.

### **St. Andrew’s Christmas House Tour**

Home Suite Hope was thrilled to be one of the beneficiaries of ticket sales from the St. Andrew’s Christmas House Tour, on December 1 and 2. The tour of eight beautifully decorated Oakville homes was the perfect Christmas season event. HSH is grateful to Frances, Lori, Sheila and the entire St. Andrew’s Christmas House Tour Committee and volunteers for organizing the great event.



## Hope 4 Holidays

Home Suite Hope is grateful to everyone who supported its Hope 4 Holidays 2023 campaign. This campaign connects HSH's single parents and their children with the community through the spirit of giving.

Thanks to the overwhelming community support, HSH successfully brought holiday cheer to 19 families in 2023. Many sponsored family wish lists, while others donated much needed personal hygiene and 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.

## Hope 4 Holidays Dinner

Home Suite Hope participants and their children gathered for the annual Hope 4 Holidays Dinner at Oakville Trafalgar Community Centre. HSH Board members, staff, mentors, Industry Council representatives and supporters attended the year-end celebration, and even Santa stopped by with the Oakville Firefighters' elves to distribute toys donated through the Firefighters' Annual Toy Drive. The evening was filled with laughter and cheer, and a festive, nutritious food table thanks to the Whole Foods Market's Community Giving program.

## HSH Purchases a Truck

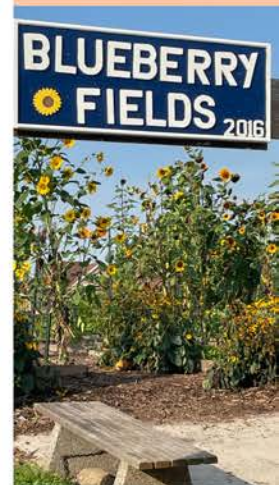
Home Suite Hope is on the road in 2024 thanks to an Ontario Trillium Foundation capital grant. The \$58,500 capital grant addresses a community need as it helped HSH purchase a truck to offer enhanced program and service capacity and delivery, specifically to homeless single parent families.

## Blueberry Fields

Home Suite Hope's Community Garden, Blueberry Fields had another successful season in partnership with the Upper Oakville Shopping Centre. The garden flourished for another year, although it was not the same without Garden Founder and Manager, Ken Stockstill, who left us too soon. Volunteer Coordinator Ruth Borst carried on with volunteers at the garden with the heavy lifting for the season, from planting to harvesting, done by volunteers (individuals from the community and also corporate groups). Produce from the garden was distributed to people in need, including HSH families, through Kerr Street Mission.

## Socials

In 2023 HSH held six socials for HSH participant to gather, learn about culture and connect with their peers. They enjoyed activities from cooking, to painting, to gardening, to making visions boards to empower their future ahead. Socials create a space for our participants to socialize and build a support system outside of HSH programming.





# **SCHOOL GRADUATES & SUCCESS STORIES**

Home Suite Hope has the privilege of working with hardworking, determined single parents and witnessing their journey to self-sufficiency. Each milestone, big or small, is a moment for celebration and excitement. We could not be more proud or happier about the success of our participants.





## Diamond

Diamond is one of the recent graduates of HSH, who hit the ground running after completing the PSW program at Sheridan College. She secured part-time employment upon graduating, and now has been moved to full-time employment at Sunrise Senior Living. Diamond continues to stay involved with the HSH community, sharing her gratitude to HSH for supporting her with her journey, and offering stability for her and her son.

## Churchill

Churchill completed the Homeward Bound Halton program in 2023, shortly after securing employment.

Today, she works with Canada Cartage in the Recruitment and Talent Acquisition Department, a perfect fit after she was able to obtain her diploma in Human Resources during her time with Home Suite Hope.

Churchill also reports that her son Gabby, one of the youth recipients of the FCT scholarship, is doing great in his post-secondary program at Sheridan College and is on track to graduate in 2024!



## Kathleen

HSH participant Kathleen obtained full-time employment in her field of study before graduating. She is on track to graduate in April 2025 from her Condominium Management Program at Humber College. She is one of three HSH participants to obtain employment in their chosen field before graduation.

Kathleen also recently obtained her license and was able to purchase a car, which will greatly help with transportation to her new place of employment. This will reduce her commute time, allowing more time with her daughter. It will allow her to be able to access more community resources with efficiency.





# LIFE ON THE OTHERSIDE

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## A LETTER FROM A PARTICIPANT

To think of where I started to where I am now, I cannot help but be filled with gratitude. My journey was not an easy ride. It was filled with moments of hopelessness, uncertainty, and every now and then, times I thought about giving up. After feeling like I would never get out of the cycle of struggling, I am proud to be where I am at this point in life.

At the beginning of the four years with Home Suite Hope, it felt like the end was a lifetime away, but now it feels like it has blown by in the blink of an eye. Today, shortly after transitioning out of the Homeward Bound Halton program, I am happy to report that I have accomplished so much. I am a proud Sheridan College graduate and now employed by such an amazing company, OMERS.

**“The guidance, scholarship, support, and programming launched me into this pathway towards a future that my son could be proud of and that I could continue to build upon.”**



I am so fortunate to have been given this opportunity to better myself and be able to pursue a career that will not only provide for my family but be in an industry that I thoroughly love and enjoy.

Navigating becoming a working mom took some trial and error, but the hybrid, flexible schedule my employment offers me has been great for my son and I.

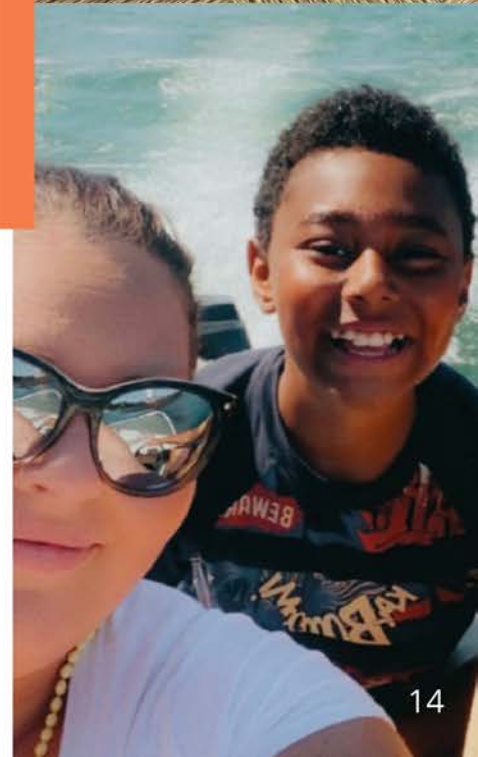
Again, I cannot help but think about where I am now and be filled with gratitude. I am super proud of my journey with Home Suite Hope because it led me to exactly where I am today. The guidance, scholarship, support, and programming launched me into this pathway towards a future that my son could be proud of and that I could continue to build upon.

I hope that one day I can purchase my first home and, most importantly, be a model for my son and encourage him to create determination and drive to pursue his dreams. I want him to know that no matter what life throws your way, if you have perseverance, determination, and hope, you can get through anything.

I am excited to continue building my career and see what is in store for my future. I am so grateful to Home Suite Hope for everything they have done, for not only me, but my son also.

*Nicole*

**Nicole**  
2023 HSH Graduate





# OUR FINANCES

Home Suite Hope had another good year financially in 2023. We increased our donations year over year. It is important for HSH to continue to secure donations from corporations and individuals so that we are not as reliant upon grants. Having a more reliant income stream enables us to assist more families end the cycle of poverty. Our revenues were up year over year which was mainly due to an increase in sponsorships and donations offset by lower fundraising and grants from our partners at Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Oakville Community Foundation and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Our expenses increased by just over 7%. This increase can be explained by increases in fundraising costs for our first ever gala, and professional fees to adopt an ONCA compliant by law. HSH will be building on our success in the past few years to continue implementing our strategic plan with an emphasis on housing.

## Statement of Financial Position

	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	225,907	354,277
Short-term investments	454,517	262,231
Accounts Receivable	48,568	24,097
Prepaid expenses	15,810	15,201
	744,802	655,806
Property, plant and equipment	58,246	8,946
<b>Investments</b>		
Oakville Community Funds	415,856	399,495
Long-term investments	-	127,080
	415,856	526,575
	1,218,904	1,191,327
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	27,707	40,314
Deferred revenue	68,773	108,592
	96,480	148,906
Deferred contributions - PP&E	47,894	-
	144,374	148,906
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Internally restricted	980,527	872,859
Invested in property, plant and equipment	10,352	8,946
Unrestricted	83,651	160,616
	1,074,530	1,042,421
	1,218,904	1,191,327



# Statement of Operations

	2023	2022
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Donations	378,592	233,122
Fundraising	23,016	35,310
Grants	537,307	710,213
Other	42,517	(15,252)
Sponsorship	68,500	26,500
	<b>1,049,932</b>	<b>989,893</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Amortization	6,922	11,491
Fundraising	123,242	22,772
Insurance	7,220	5,374
Non-recoverable sales tax	10,406	3,592
Office and general	68,586	63,661
Participant Support	599,079	614,625
Professional fees	67,790	40,834
Volunteer program	588	1,384
Wages and benefits	133,990	186,400
	<b>1,017,823</b>	<b>950,133</b>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenditure (expenditure over revenue) for year</b>	<b>32,109</b>	<b>39,760</b>

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





# **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



Sheridan



## Donors \$50K +



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



## Donors \$10K - 19,999K





## Donors over \$500

Acorda, Denia  
AI For Good  
Angela Bruce Chapter IODE  
Asnafi, Paula  
Bailey, Nancy  
Barr, Mark & Vanessa  
Bell Canada  
Borndahl, Mark  
Bowick, Michael & Peters,  
Joanne  
Bowman, Ann  
Buckley, Sean & Jennifer  
Burlington Welsh Male Chorus  
Caldwell, Joyce  
Canada Life  
Canadian National Railway  
Celernus Investment Partners  
Inc.  
Chalmer, Tessa  
Chilcott, Richard  
Cockwell, Ian & June  
Cogeco Connexion  
Cohen, Ken  
Costello, Lori  
CTI Working Environments  
Cumming, Sara  
Curran, Peter  
DC Restoration  
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Dragan, Maciej  
Dunnigan, Frank & Mary-Beth  
Ecclestone, Ted  
Farrell, Kevin  
FCT  
Fiera Capital Foundation  
Floren, John  
Fortis Construction Group Inc.  
Garland, Lisa  
Greater Toronto Apartment  
Association  
Greenberg, Alan  
Grunwald, Mark  
Hallford, Ian  
Hampton-Davis, Blake &  
Daniela  
Helsdon, James & Lisa  
Herring, Glen & Ann  
Hira, Amardeep  
Jarratt, Christopher  
Knights of Columbus  
Kodama, Tracy  
Kolisnyk, Peter  
Kutnjak, Bernadette  
Leaders for Change  
Lewis, Eve  
Livermore, Harrison  
Mackey, Anita & Shaen,  
Michael  
MCAP

McLaughlin, Mark  
Mellon, Jim  
Mix Analytics Inc.  
Moez & Marissa Kassam  
Foundation  
Oakville Lions Club  
Ontario Realtors Care  
Foundation  
Podivinsky, Edward  
Richardson, Graham  
Robertson Kaldwell Real Estate  
Team  
Sagen  
Sato, Naomi  
Shores Inc.  
Smart Stop Self Storage  
Dufferein Toronto LLC  
Smith, Greg  
Somers, Lisa & Paul  
Spadafora, Peggy  
St. Judes Anglican Church  
The Taylor Group  
Think In  
Verlinden, Mark  
Voermann, Nils  
Wallace, Julie  
Whole Foods  
Willis, Peter & Eve  
Your Self Storage  
Zonta Club

## Foundations (over \$500)

**Aqueduct Foundation -**  
Gloria Micallef & Bruno Diesner  
Foundation, Peter & Eve Willis,  
Wilson Family Foundation

**Charities Aid Foundation**

**Cidel -**  
Cheesewright Family Foundation

**Fleck Foundation**

**Gift Funds Canada -** Foundation  
Grant - Emily Jarratt

**JP Bickell**

**JTC Heersink Foundation**

**Oakville Community  
Foundation -**  
Adrian and Mary Coote Family  
Trust, Bayfair Fund, Gender  
Equality, OCF Vital Community  
Fund, Larry & Gerry Wilson Family  
Foundation, Rotherglen Children's  
REACH Foundation, MacDonald  
Family Foundations, Frank & Azniv  
Lochan Family Foundation,

Latham Family Fund, Frances and  
Len Pace of AMPed for Life, Public  
donations

**Starbucks Foundation  
Charitable Fund**

**WPCD Foundation -** Vince and  
Elizabeth Molinaro Foundation



# In-Kind Donors

Angelini, Josephine  
Ann's Flower Boutique  
Aviva Canada  
Balanced Path  
Bean, Stacey  
Bell  
Bob Fleck Creative  
Brock Doors and Windows  
Buck Productions  
Burlington Central School  
Canadian Caribbean  
Association of Halton  
Canadian Warplane Heritage  
Museum  
Carrier, Hana  
Chamber, Jennifer & Family  
Claraderma  
Clarity Recruitment  
Cobbs Bread Lakesure  
Cohen, Ken  
Cornerstone Building Brands  
and North Star Windows and  
Doors  
Costco Burlington  
Crackpot Studios  
Craig Kielburger Secondary  
School  
Cumming, Gerry

Cumming, Tammy  
Cumming, Taylor & Cathy  
Daley Glam Decor  
Dan Cooper Group  
Digital Vinyl Dj  
Euna Solutions  
Fin, Alex of Finding Clarity  
Food for Life  
Fresh Kitchen  
Fudge, Kate & Family  
Gargoyle  
Garratt, Leanne & Family  
Gibson, Tari  
Halton Shoebox Project  
Heathstone by the Lake  
Herritt, Taryn  
Holmwood, Matt & Tracy  
Howard, Tony & Traci  
Jarratt, Emma  
Kaizen Food Service Planning  
and Design  
Karens, Kristi & Family  
La Rose Bakery  
Lepage, Taylor  
Longos Oakville  
LQ, Corinne  
Lucy's Boutique  
Mondelez Canada Inc  
Montfort Mediterranean  
Cuisine Oakville

Next Gen Aviation  
Nothing Bundt Cakes  
Burlington  
Oakville Golf Club  
Oakville Hornets Girls Hockey  
Association  
Oakville Hornets Under 11A  
Girls  
Oakville Professional  
Firefighters Toy Drive  
Pointon, Rebecca & Family  
Queen of Hearts Tea House &  
Gift Shop  
Radiant Beauty Supplies  
Richardson, Blair and Sharon  
Rockstar Coaching & Clearing  
Ruby Wow Designs  
Snell, Liz  
Sofina Foods/Sofina Foundation  
Spence, Karen & Ray  
SpinCO Oakville  
The Purse Project Network of  
Hamilton, Halton & Waterdown  
Thompson, Lisa & Cumpstey,  
Paul  
TJX  
Tracey, Lisa  
Tres Amici Wines  
Whole Foods Market Oakville  
Yellow Robot

\*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.





# EMPTY BOWLS AT HOME 2023

In its 15th year, Empty Bowls has grown to become a gathering that our community knows and loves. We know how much our families and friends throughout the community anticipate attending this event every fall.

Every year, Halton comes together to support Home Suite Hope's Empty Bowls, presented by Taylor Inc. An annual fundraiser that brings the entire community around the table.

With ticket sales that provide you with delicious soups, bread, and desserts donated by local restaurants and businesses, each purchase shares the delectable tastes that Halton has to offer while supporting Home Suite Hope to make a great change in our communities.

The at home format made its return on Sunday, October 15, 2023. Home Suite Hope raised \$37,125 through Empty Bowls at Home 2023.

Over **150** attendees received:



5 soups from local chefs



Delicious Bundt Cake from Nothing Bundt Cakes



COBS Bread for dipping



A ceramic bowl



ALL DELIVERED





**Presenting (\$12,500)**



**Silver (\$2,500)**



**Bronze (\$2,000)**



**Soup Vendors**



HEARTHSTONE

by the Lake



**Bread**



**Dessert**



**In-Kind**



**Packing Facility & Van Sponsor**



**Ceramic Bowls**



crack pot studio





# PILLARS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

---

There's no one-size-fits-all solution to the affordability problem. Instead, Home Suite Hope takes a three-pillar approach to address housing needs:

## First Pillar



### Renter

Pre-purchase affordable rent in existing buildings to prevent visible homelessness.

## Second Pillar



### Partner

Secure long-term units in new builds.

## Third Pillar



### Owner

Own safe, affordable builds with long-term funding.

---

Housing is an urgent issue. For single mothers receiving social assistance, their monthly social assistance includes only \$642 for shelter costs. Halton's housing costs are among the highest in Canada, making it nearly impossible for families to escape homelessness, even with our subsidies.

Over the past year, Home Suite Hope has worked tirelessly to bring awareness and funds to this critical issue. The public discussions of our need for more access to affordable housing really began when Callum Wallace launched Flight For Hope – a solo flight around the world in his single engine plane to bring both awareness and funds to this housing crisis. His return marked the official launch of Home Suite Hope's affordable housing campaign, at the bi-annual Home for Good Gala.

HSH is in desperate need for affordable housing options and cannot sit idly and wait. Too much is at stake; too many futures hang in the balance.





# FLIGHT FOR HOPE

On August 1st, 2023, Callum Wallace set off on Flight for Hope, a 74-day solo journey around the world in a single engine aircraft that raised nearly \$400,000 for Home Suite Hope.

Over the eight week mission, he made stops in Wales, Spain, Rome, Athens, Egypt, Dubai, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Kuala Lumpur, Bali, Australia, Fiji, American Samoa, Kiribati, Honolulu, and California.

Home Suite Hope is grateful, not only for Wallace's substantial contribution, but for dedicating months of his time to this mission, ultimately helping Home Suite Hope to house more single parent families.



In the **solo 'round the world flight**, raising awareness of the need of affordable housing and assisting **Home Suite Hope** on its mission to create more **Affordable Housing in Halton.**



# HOME FOR GOOD GALA



On November 10th, Home Suite Hope hosted its 2023 Home for Good Gala, a black-tie Cocktail Dinner Celebration. The Gala, a first for HSH, celebrated the launch of HSH's affordable housing campaign and the return of Flight for Hope's awe-inspiring around the world flight in support of the campaign. Hosted at the Pearle Hotel and Spa, guests dazzled in their gowns and suits, and enjoyed the cocktail style dinner with food stations, an open bar, DJ, and various fundraising games and complimentary activities

throughout the evening. Gala attendees championed the cause of housing affordability, and HSH's Executive Director, Sara Cumming thanked them saying "Thanks to your support, we are one step closer to turning dreams of stable and affordable housing into a reality for more single parent families facing adversity in Halton".

The gala raised **\$70,379.36** for Home Suite Hope and its Affordable Housing Campaign.

## Platinum (\$15,000)



## Bronze (\$5,000)



## Dessert (\$7,500) | Silver (\$7,500)



## Corporate (\$2,500)





## DJ, Photobooth & AV



## Floral



## Media



## Video-Production



## Participant Dresses



## Front Door Prize



**NORTH STAR**  
WINDOWS & DOORS



**Brock**  
Windows & Doors



## Take Home Item



## Gift Basket



## Wine



Thank you to the anonymous donor who matched any sponsors willing to come forward at the last minute. And to the sponsors below for jumping in to make their donation go further:

**ClaraDerma** - \$500

**Ann Bowman** - \$1,000

**Moez and Marissa Kassam Foundation** - \$5,000

**John Robertson (Your Self Storage)** - \$1,500

**Lisa and Paul Somers (KPMG LLP)** - \$1,000



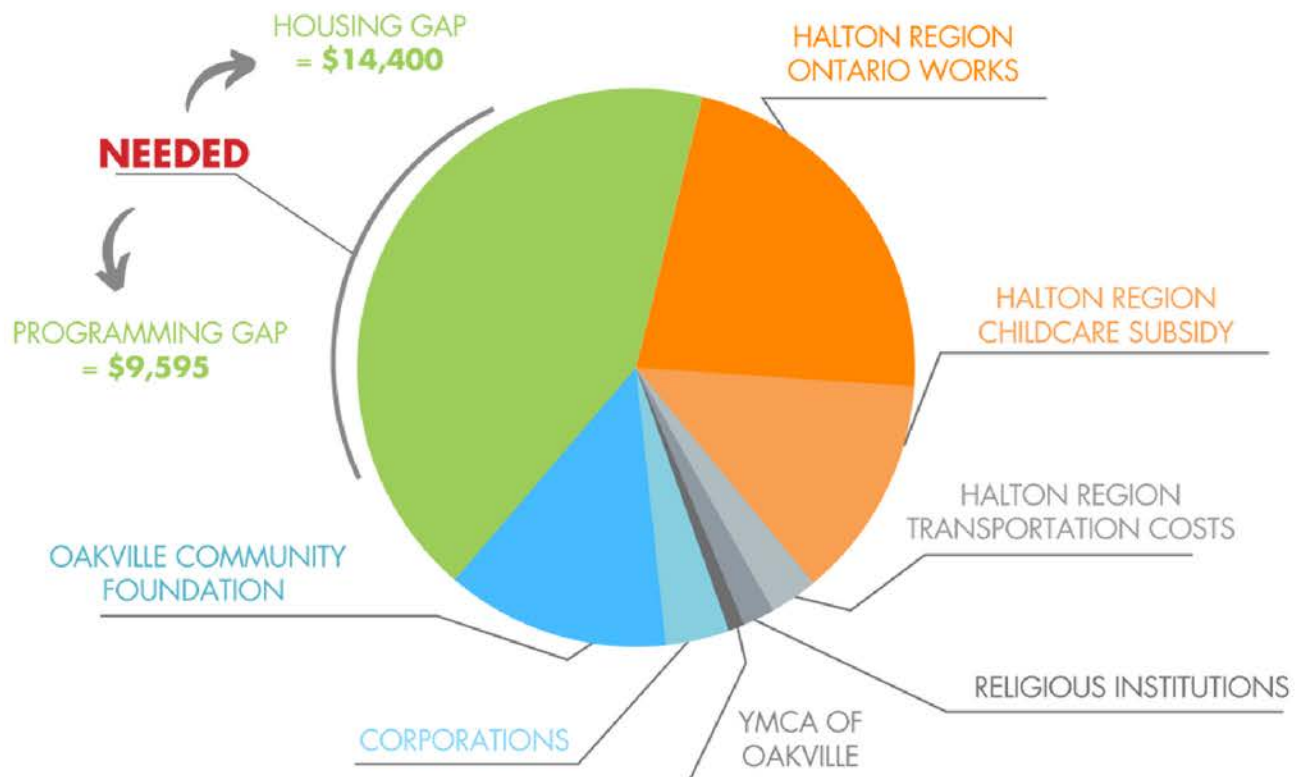
# THE PARTNERS IN CHANGE CAMPAIGN

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.





# GET INVOLVED

## Industry Council

The Industry Council is a group of senior executives from a variety of fields with decision-making authority who meet throughout the Homeward Bound Halton program to support the professional advancement of participants in the program. If interested or would like more information please contact Nikkian at [NikkianH@HomeSuiteHope.org](mailto:NikkianH@HomeSuiteHope.org)

## Board Committees

Do you have a skillset that can help us improve services? Are you an expert at IT, fundraising, governance or accounting? How about marketing and branding? Home Suite Hope welcomes all insight onto special subcommittees that meet quarterly. Email France our Board chair at [FranceF@HomeSuiteHope.org](mailto:FranceF@HomeSuiteHope.org)

## Special Events

Do you enjoy event planning? Home Suite Hope cannot survive without fundraising events. We have been so fortunate to have a dynamic Empty Bowls volunteer committee to help steer this successful event annually. We are hoping to expand the types of events we do and are looking for volunteers to help plan and organize! Email Katelyn at [KatelynZ@HomeSuiteHope.org](mailto:KatelynZ@HomeSuiteHope.org) for more information.

## Blueberry Fields

Do you like to be outdoors and working with your hands? Upper Oakville Shopping Centre envisioned the creation of a community garden for the residents of Oakville, Blueberry Fields. Each year volunteers from the community plant, grow and harvest fruits and vegetables, endowing HSH participants with the harvest. Email [Volunteers@HomeSuiteHope.org](mailto:Volunteers@HomeSuiteHope.org) for more information or to get involved.

## Community Mentors

It is crucial for marginalized populations to have access to role models. Our mentoring program connects our eager single parents with community members who want to see them succeed. We believe mentoring – professional or informal – would help empower people by providing positive models and networking opportunities. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Nikkian at [NikkianH@HomeSuiteHope.org](mailto:NikkianH@HomeSuiteHope.org)

## Third Party Events

Every contribution makes a huge difference, and all proceeds raised in your community will directly support the programs and services at Home Suite Hope. Email [KatelynZ@HomeSuiteHope.org](mailto:KatelynZ@HomeSuiteHope.org)

## Hope for Holidays

Our annual Hope 4 Holiday's campaign needs your help to support HSH families by purchasing and donating items on their wish lists. The wish lists are posted on our website leading up to the holiday season. Volunteer gift wrappers then wrap the gifts for distribution to HSH families at a holiday dinner to be held in mid-December. Email Nikkian at [NikkianH@HomeSuiteHope.org](mailto:NikkianH@HomeSuiteHope.org) for more details.





# MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners, donors, volunteers, and staff who work to ensure Home Suite Hope's services are available at a moment's notice to provide for homeless single-parent families in Halton. This shared effort through generous donations, volunteer work, and advocacy have helped us make a meaningful impact in the lives of our moms.

While the challenges faced during the pandemic have receded from our minds, the inflated cost of living and a lack of affordable housing have become two of our most immediate challenges. Our mission to break the cycle of poverty remain a focal point, however the high cost of housing has meant that our graduating moms with secure employment struggle to find affordable housing. Inflation and a housing shortage have worked to lengthen the poverty cycle we work so hard to break.



I am encouraged that these challenges can be met with the unwavering support of the community. The success of the past year's fundraising efforts, our first ever Gala, Flight for Hope, Partners in Change, Hope 4 Holidays and Empty Bowls are true indicators of the community's desire to ensure Home Suite Hope is a well funded organization. Together, Home Suite Hope's unique wrap around services have brought hope, relief, and lasting change to our families.

I have been proud to serve as the Chair of the Board for the past two years alongside Vice-Chair Ted Ecclestone and will continue on as Past-Chair for 2024-2025. This year we said goodbye to Melani Bastians and Rachel Pulis, and welcomed Valerie Del Hierro to the Board of Directors

We embark on a new year with optimism and determination to continue our mission with even greater passion and commitment. Your continued support is instrumental in helping us reach new heights and expand our reach to more individuals in need.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. We could not have achieved all that we have without your compassion and dedication to our cause.



*France*  
**France Fournier**  
HSH Board Chair





# STAFF & BOARD TEAM

## STAFF OF 2023



**Sara Cumming**  
Executive Director



**Catherine Villasenor**  
Director of  
Operations



**Nikkian Hanson-  
Daley**  
Program Manager



**Katelyn Zaoral**  
Marketing & Events  
Coordinator



**Angela Blackburn**  
Administrative  
Assistant



**Izabel Rader**  
Bookkeeper

### New 2024 Members

### Past 2023 Staff



**Temisha Jacques**  
Caseworker



**Haley Weber**  
Caseworker



**Jovelle Reid**  
Program Coordinator



**Caidan Villasenor**  
Chief Happiness  
Officer

**Krystal Valencia**  
Director of Development

**Leah Burton-Saliba**  
Case Manager

**Nancie Wismayer**  
Caseworker

**Sasha McCartney-Stevens**  
Life-Skills Coordinator

HSH welcomed back Catherine Villasenor from maternity leave in July 2023 and Catherine stepped into the role of Director of Operations. Nikkian Hanson-Daley, who had been Interim Program Manager, became Program Manager. In 2023, HSH welcomed to the team two new Caseworkers, Haley Weber and Temisha Jacques. Sasha McCartney-Stevens was also onboarded as the Life Skills Coordinator, who wrapped up her role in late 2023, just in time for HSH to welcome Jovelle Reid as Program Coordinator.



## BOARD OF 2023



**France Fournier**  
Chair of the Board and  
Chair of the  
Governance  
Committee (outgoing)



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



**Kevin Farrell**  
Treasurer, Chair of  
the Finance  
Committee



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



**Elizabeth Young**  
Member of  
Governance  
Committee



**Mary Sheridan**  
Chair of Events and  
Outreach Committee  
(retired June 2023)



**Emma Jarratt**  
Member of  
Governance  
Committee



**Burhana Bello-  
Ayorinde**  
Member of  
Governance  
(retired June 2023)



**Rachael Pulis**  
Member of  
Governance  
Committee (retired  
December 2023)



**Melani Bastians**  
Member of Housing  
Committee (retired  
December 2023)



**Rose Sharifi**  
Member of  
Governance



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



**Nazeera Khan**  
Chair of Governance  
Committee (incoming)

### Non-Director Members 2023

- Lisa Tracey, Board Secretary
- Chuck Scott, Member of Affordable Housing Sub-Committee
- Rebecca Sprague, Member of HR Committee
- Cindy Perras, Empty Bowls Committee
- Joy Scott, Home for Good Gala Committee
- Debbie Marks, Home for Good Gala Committee
- Vanessa Barr, Home for Good Gala Committee
- Jennifer Buckley, Home for Good Gala Committee
- Kimberly Calderbank, Home for Good Gala Committee

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





## **In loving memory of Robert Iain Fleck**

Founder of Bob Fleck Creative, and a  
dear friend and supporter of  
Home Suite Hope

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**