



Newsletter

AUGUST 2025

August 1 – Emancipation Day

August 4 – Civic Holiday

August 9 – International Day of
World's Indigenous People (UN)

August 12 – International Youth
Day(UN)

August 13 – Obon (Shinto-
Buddhism)

August 16 – Krishna
Janmashtami (Hindu)

August 19 – World
Humanitarian Day (UN)

August 21 – Paryushana Parva
(Jain)

August 23 – International Day
for Remembrance of Slave
Trade and its Abolition

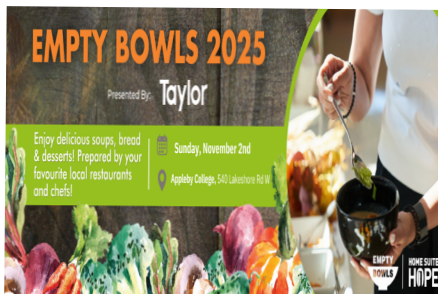
AUGUST 2025

Lives permanently changed for the better



ON THE WORLD STAGE

HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming represented not only **Sheridan College** but also the values we uphold at Home Suite Hope on the international stage. Sara travelled to **Rabat, Morocco** to present at the **International Sociology Association (ISA) Forum**, leading a session titled '**Clinical Sociology and the Anthropocene: Community Engaged Approaches to Solving Real-World Issues.**' *See inside for more!*



PREPPING FOR EMPTY BOWLS 2025

We are preparing for our **Empty Bowls 2025** set for **November 2** at **Appleby College**. We are seeking sponsors and soup vendors. If you can step up, please contact Marketing Coordinator Katelyn Zaoral at KatelynZ@homesuitehope.org. *See inside for more!*

PARTICIPANT NEWS:

BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK PROJECT

POWERED BY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community partners, **The Village Realty Group** and **Cogeco**, Home Suite Hope is preparing to send our program participants and their children back to school fully equipped and confident.

Funds raised through The Village's July **Yoga in the Park** event, and the generous support of Cogeco, are helping us provide the backpacks filled with essential school supplies to families in need.

We're also thrilled to share that Audrey Bailey, founder of The Village Realty Group, along with her children, will be joining HSH staff to help pack the backpacks—making this a true community-driven effort from start to finish.

While our **Canada Summer Jobs intern Nicole** has been busy compiling back to school shopping lists and bargains, the backpack shopping will be done this month by the **Leaders in Training (LITs) at Kerr Street Mission**.

Thank you to our sponsors and volunteers for helping ensure every child starts the school year with the tools and support they need to succeed!



THE VILLAGE
REALTY GROUP

 **COGECO**



PARTICIPANT UPDATE: SUMMER SOCIAL FOR KIDS



PLAY, CREATIVITY & COMMUNITY

HSH facilitated a **Kids' Sports Day & Mood Board Social** just in time for the summer break.

The gym was full of energy and laughter as the kids enjoyed fun-filled games and sports activities, while parents relaxed, connected, and created beautiful mood boards over refreshments.

It was a wonderful day of play, creativity, and community.

HSH Program Manager Nikkian Hanson-Daley's stepdaughter Breyanna loaned a hand for the day and helped make it special.



BOARD NEWS

FAREWELL



& THANK YOU!

Everyone at HSH owes a debt of gratitude to four long-time Board members who gave of their time over numerous years as a volunteer member of our Board of Directors.

France Fournier was not only a Board member, but also served as Vice Chair, Chair and Past Chair while juggling her role as President of the Oakville Chamber of Commerce.

Ted Ecclestone, who joined HSH while a senior financial executive at Fiera Capital, subsequently retired and continued to play a vital role at HSH as its Vice Chair and member of its Finance Committee.

Elizabeth Young was a long-time HSH Board member who provided HSH with great advantage in sharing her professional communications skills. HSH appreciated having Liz on its Board.

Val Del Hierro, a marketing vice president in her professional life, brought her skill set to HSH and we couldn't be more grateful for her sharing her experience as well as personal commitment to our fundraising, particularly over the recent past.

HSH's Board of Directors is a volunteer Board that oversees our organization. Board members not only attend regular Board meetings but also serve on Board committees that include finance, fundraising and governance.

Should you be interested in volunteering for our Board, please visit our website at HomeSuiteHope.org/Board to learn more and access an application.

NEXT UP: ROTARY ON THE GREENS

HSH TO BENEFIT FROM GOLF TO GIVE



Home Suite Hope has been selected as one of the beneficiaries of the **Annual Oakville Rotary 'Golf to Give' Tournament**.

This fantastic event supports both **Rotary's Educational Bursary Program** and **Home Suite Hope's** mission to help single-parent families in Halton move from homelessness to stability.

The tournament is **Monday, September 15** at **Piper's Heath Golf Club**, 5501 Trafalgar Road, Milton.

The cost of \$275 per golfer includes: 18 holes of golf, barbecue lunch, dinner, auction, prizes, and more!

Whether you're an avid golfer or just looking for a great day out for a great cause, this is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference. Please consider registering a foursome, sponsoring the event, or simply helping spread the word. Your support means so much — and helps us continue building brighter futures for local families. Hope to see you on the green!

To register or learn more, visit: OakvilleRotaryEvents.com



2025 Oakville Rotary Centennial Golf to Give Tournament

Rotary Oakville is 100 years old this year.

Join us: [Monday September 15, 2025](#)

Pipers Heath Golf Course – Milton, On

For golf and celebration of Rotary's 100 years of supporting the charitable community

SARA IN MOROCCO

REFLECTIONS FROM HSH ED SARA

This July, I had the privilege of representing not only Sheridan College but also the values we uphold at Home Suite Hope on the international stage.

I travelled to **Rabat, Morocco** to present at the **International Sociology Association (ISA) Forum**, where I led a session titled '**Clinical Sociology and the Anthropocene: Community Engaged Approaches to Solving Real-World Issues**' and spoke on a panel of Certified Clinical Sociologists exploring how research can be used outside of academia to drive real social change. In my session, I presented on three major applied research projects I've been leading at Sheridan that align closely with our mission at HSH:

- **The Life Skills Project** – A collaborative effort that brought together multiple faculties and partners to support vulnerable populations across the GTHA in building transferable life skills essential for economic self-sufficiency.

- **Africa at Work** – A CiCan-funded initiative connecting Sheridan and Niagara College with 26 institutions in Kenya. This project focused on mentoring educators and administrators—especially women—as they work toward gender equity in education and leadership.



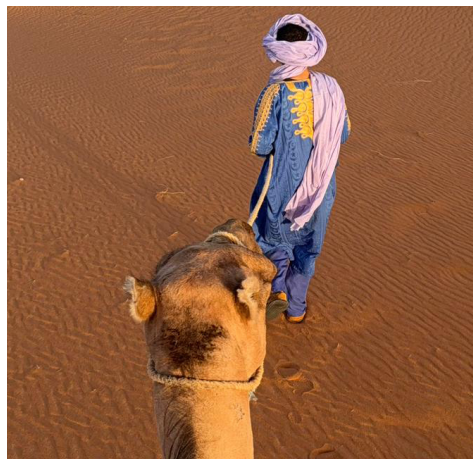
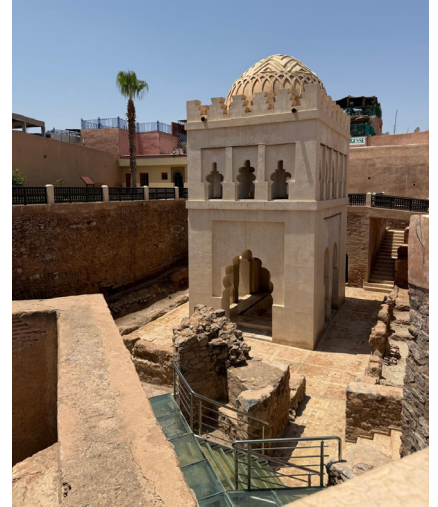
BRINGING COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS TO THE WORLD STAGE

- **Pathways to Potential** – Our newest Community Ideas Factory initiative, which builds innovative, community-driven solutions to reduce barriers and foster socio-economic inclusion.

All three projects are grounded in Community Engaged Research, a powerful approach that listens to and works with communities—not for them—to create sustainable, locally informed change. The parallels to our work at Home Suite Hope are strong: we know that meaningful solutions are built with the people they're meant to support.

Beyond the conference, I had the chance to explore 11 incredible regions across Morocco. The scenery was breathtaking, the food unforgettable, and the people endlessly generous and kind.

One of the most powerful takeaways was witnessing the juxtaposition between rural life and the presence of modern technology. In small villages, you'll see donkeys and motorbikes sharing the roads, while smartphones are used for education, small business, and staying connected to the world. It was a strong reminder that innovation takes many forms, and that solutions must be grounded in local context—a principle that guides both our research and our work at Home Suite Hope every day.



CELEBRATING PARTNERS

LIGHT A CANDLE, LIGHT THE WAY

HSH has formed a partnership with **Koa and Kind**, which will be donating \$1 from every candle sold to HSH.



Koa & Kind is a local small business specializing in handcrafted home fragrances. It's deeply passionate about creating products that not only bring warmth and comfort to their customers' homes, but also give back in meaningful ways to the community around us.

For every candle you purchase, Koa & Kind will donate \$1 to Home Suite Hope, an organization supporting single-parent families in our community. Together, we can help bring light, stability, and hope to someone's life, one candle at a time. [Purchase candles here](#)

At Koa & Kind, the candles that are crafted are high-quality, safe, and eco-friendly home fragrances that use non-toxic ingredients. Their mission is to enhance your well-being and create scents that truly feel like home. They're dedicated to constant improvement, ensuring their products are safe for your family and the planet.

Koa & Kind, meaning "have courage and be kind," beautifully reflects the journey of Home Suite Hope's program participants—single parents who demonstrate incredible courage as they rebuild their lives, and who are met with compassion and support from a community that believes in kindness, dignity, and second chances.

Through this partnership, every candle sold lights more than a home—it lights the way for a brighter, more stable future for families overcoming homelessness. Together, Koa & Kind and Home Suite Hope are creating a ripple effect of courage, kindness, and hope. Visit koaandkind.ca

THANK YOU!

HSH sends a shout out to **Christ Embassy Church Oakville** for its most recent donation of personal hygiene items and clothing for our single parents. We are always in need of household cleaning supplies and personal hygiene products. These donations, accepted by **Program Manager Nikkian Hanson-Daley**, from the church that has become a familiar name at HSH, came just at the right time. Thank you!



Christ Embassy
Giving your life a meaning...

EMPTY BOWLS 2025



CALL FOR SPONSORS & SOUP VENDORS

We're excited to announce that planning is underway for Home Suite Hope's signature fundraiser — **Empty Bowls** — and we need your help to make this year's event the most impactful yet!

Empty Bowls brings our community together to raise awareness and funds for the families we serve — single parents and their children facing homelessness. Guests enjoy delicious soups from local restaurants and chefs, served in handcrafted bowls — a powerful symbol of nourishment, care, and community.

How You Can Support:

- **Become a Sponsor**

Sponsorship is our greatest need right now. As a sponsor, your business or organization will receive meaningful recognition, connect with a compassionate audience, and directly support our mission of housing, empowering, and uplifting vulnerable families.

- **Be a Soup Vendor**

Are you a local chef, restaurant, or caterer? We're looking for passionate culinary partners to donate a delicious soup for the event. It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase your cuisine, support a vital cause, and connect with a community that truly cares.

Sunday, November 2, 2025
Appleby College

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring or providing a soup, please reach out to Katelyn at KatelynZ@HomeSuiteHope.org

Together, we can fill more than bowls — we can fill hearts and build futures.

STAFF UPDATES

WELCOME KENNEDY

The HSH team welcomes **Kennedy Apold** as HSH's new **Case Worker**. Kennedy graduated with a **Bachelor's degree in Community Safety** from **Sheridan College** in 2023.

She brings valuable experience to the role, having worked at **Halton Women's Place** where she supported women and children in crisis.

Starting as a Crisis Intervention Worker during her placement, Kennedy's compassion and strong work ethic led to her being hired full-time. She later transitioned into a Case Worker role and continues to support HWP in an on-call capacity.

Kennedy is known for her outgoing personality, empathetic approach, and strong sense of teamwork. She spent ten years playing and captaining a travel volleyball team, which sharpened her leadership skills and ability to collaborate under pressure. Growing up in a large family of all girls further strengthened her communication skills and adaptability—traits she brings to every team environment.

Raised in a family of generational single mothers, Kennedy developed a deep understanding of the importance of empowering vulnerable women. This lived experience fuels her passion for supporting individuals in crisis and advocating for those navigating complex life circumstances. She works from a trauma-informed and client-centered approach.

Outside of work, Kennedy is a music lover who enjoys all genres, loves attending live concerts, and who's known to belt out a song or two!

Welcome to the team, Kennedy!



STAFF UPDATES

FAREWELL JOVELLE



In mid-July we said goodbye to our incredible **Program Coordinator Jovelle Reid** as she wrapped up her time at HSH. Her compassion, dedication and energy have left a lasting impact on our team and the families we serve. We'll miss her, but we're excited to see what her next chapter holds. Wishing you all the best in your future endeavours Jovelle – your HSH family will always be cheering you on.

Jovelle is pictured holding two handcrafted metal flowers, a heartfelt gift from HSH participant **Brittany** who recently graduated from the **Welding & Fabrication Technician program** at **Sheridan College**. Brittany created and gifted the flowers as a thank you for Jovelle's unwavering support throughout her journey.

CONGRATULATIONS, MADDY!

Everyone at HSH was excited to hear Sara's daughter **Maddy** got engaged when her fiance **Ben** popped the question during a recent family trip to Spain.

Congratulations Maddy & Ben!



STAFF UPDATES

HAPPY 3RD BIRTHDAY CAIDAN



Director of Operations **Catherine Villasenor** and her husband **Danier** celebrated the third birthday of their son **Caidan** in July.

Happy Birthday, Caidan!

NOVA CELEBRATES FIRST BIRTHDAY

Nova, the daughter of **HSH Program Manager Nikkian Hanson-Daley** and her husband **Oshane**, celebrated her first birthday in July.

Happy Birthday, Nova!



HSH 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

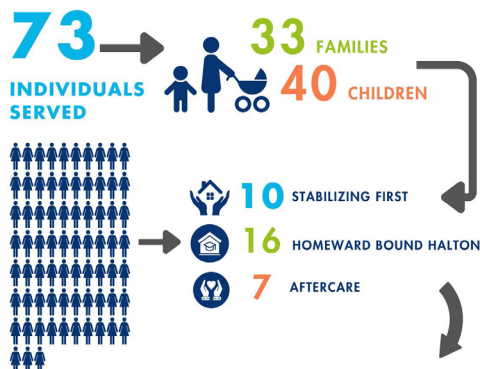


HSH 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

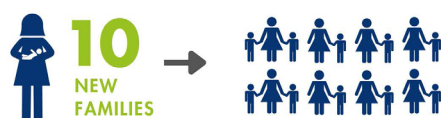
2024 - Home Suite Hope's 20th anniversary year - was marked by many accomplishments and many challenges. Our Annual Report was released in June. We hope you saw it. If not, please catch up with us. 2024 was a year of **Partnerships & Perseverance**. We invite you to watch HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming's [Presentation of the 2024 Annual Report](#).

We also invite you to read the [2024 Annual Report](#) and check out the [2024 Financial Statement](#).

HOW MANY FAMILIES DID WE SERVE?

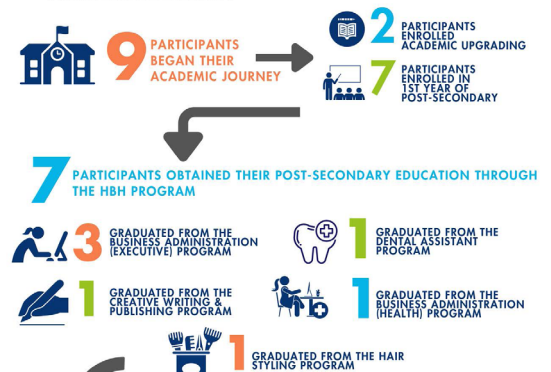


HOW MANY PARTICIPANTS WERE ON-BOARDED INTO PROGRAMMING WITH HOME SUITE HOPE?



Page 4

ACADEMIC JOURNEY



HOW MANY PARTICIPANTS HAVE COMPLETED THE HBH PROGRAM?



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HELP HSH SINGLE PARENTS ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

For the single-parents in Home Suite Hope's programs, reliable transportation isn't a luxury — it's a lifeline.

Each day, they navigate long, unpredictable commutes across town, juggling daycare drop-offs, work shifts, and classes. In communities like Halton, where public transit is limited, a missed bus can mean a missed opportunity — or worse, a lost job.

Research shows that access to reliable transportation is a game-changer. It opens doors to better-paying jobs, education, essential services, and fuller participation in community life. For the single-parents in our programming, owning a car is more than convenience — it's the key to independence.

That's why we've launched the **Drive to Thrive** initiative to help our families gain mobility and freedom. You can help us get there:

- **Donate:** Fund driving lessons, safety inspections, insurance, or a tank of gas.
- **Gift a Vehicle:** Have an underused car? Donate it to transform a family's future.
- **Partner with Us:** Car dealerships and driving schools can offer vehicles or discounted services.
- **Sponsor a Driving Lesson:** Help a single parent gain the skills and confidence to drive.
- **Help buy a transit pass:** Provide the ability for a single parent to purchase a transit pass

When you put a single parent in the driver's seat, you give them more than transportation — you give them a pathway to success, security, and self-reliance. Join us. Let's drive change, together.

SUPPORT DRIVE TO THRIVE

HSH IN THE COMMUNITY

PENALTA CRUISE FOR HSH



Penalta chose Home Suite Hope as its Charity of Choice for the locally-based company's **Annual Boat Cruise**.

Each year, Penalta hosts several events and invites their staff and guests to support a local charity through generous donations.

We're thrilled that this year Penalta chose Home Suite Hope as the beneficiary of its **A Night on the Water** on July 11! Funds raised by the event will go directly toward

supporting the single-parent families in our programs, and will be presented to HSH in the form of a donation cheque. We're so grateful to Penalta for their support and for helping us continue our mission of guiding families from poverty to stability. **HSH Program Manager Nikkian Hanson-Daley, Case Worker Temisha Jacques and Program Coordinator Jovelle Reid** joined the cruise to represent HSH at the event.



Sheridan



CHANGING THE PATTERNS OF POVERTY TO A LEGACY OF PROSPERITY