



THE FACES OF HOME SUITE HOPE

2022 Board Edition

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Part Two: The Board

The Faces of HSH series launched in 2020 to give the community a glimpse of the faces behind Home Suite Hope. It is a four-part series, in which you will be introduced to: the staff, the Board, participants, and mentors and industry council members.

In this booklet, you will meet our current Home Suite Hope Board members, along with some of our volunteer Board committee members. The Board of Directors at Home Suite Hope is a volunteer panel of up to 11 members of the broader Halton community. As with any Board in the charitable sector, our members also act as ambassadors and advocates for Home Suite Hope and are important resources for the organization in multiple ways. We at Home Suite Hope are very lucky to have an invested, genuine, and caring volunteer Board of Directors who bring a fountain of knowledge, networks and resources to the organization. Additionally, we are more than fortunate to have our Board committee volunteers without whom our organization could not thrive.

If you are interested in a Board position, or in supporting one of the Home Suite Hope committees, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at francef@homesuitehope.org.

~ France Fournier, Chair of the Board of Directors





FRANCE FOURNIER

Chair of the Board of Directors

I have been an Oakville resident since 1995! I currently have the best job on earth as the President & CEO of the Oakville Chamber of Commerce. It is so amazing to be able to work alongside businesses and not-for-profit communities and invest in a vibrant and sustainable economy.

I envision Home Suite Hope to be a strong, financially stable contributor to the community, offering life changing programming to single parent families in Halton. I believe in their work and have been involved with Home Suite Hope as a funder and a volunteer for many years. In 2018, I couldn't give up the opportunity to join the Board of Directors and in 2020 I took on the role as Vice Chair. It has been such an honour to work with the Board and staff and see participant's progress through the program. I have now officially stepped up into the Board Chair position, and I couldn't be happier.

What are some successes you have witnessed, whether big or small, at Home Suite Hope?

I was attending a community event and one of the speakers happened to be a graduate of Home Suite Hope. Her story of adversity and resilience really resonated with me and was a perfect example of the importance of the mission and values at Home Suite Hope.

What are some of Home Suite Hope's strengths?

It is so hard to pick, as our success depends on so much and there is so much strength throughout the organization. To name a few — the remarkable resilience of our moms, the support of our community partners in providing housing and programming that allows our moms to change their lives for the better, our staff who seem to tackle every obstacle with grace and empathy, and an engaged Board that works to ensure the success of the program continues to evolve with the needs of the community.

In what way(s) do you wish the community got more involved?

The Oakville community is extremely supportive. However, the need for affordable housing and the rising cost of food, transportation, etc. means our financial needs continue to grow at a rapid rate. It is our job to ensure we provide the right communication and opportunity to earn the financial support of our donors. Because I truly believe once you understand the work and successes at Home Suite Hope, it's an easy yes to say "I will support your cause" (i.e. fight for affordable housing, providing funding/donations, etc.)



FUN FACT

An avid sports fan, I love cheering for the Raptors, Jays and Argonauts but in hockey, my heart belongs to the Montreal Canadians. A perfect Saturday night is a Habs-Leafs game, with the Habs winning of course.

TED ECCLESTONE

Chair of the Board of Directors

I have lived in Oakville for 25 years with my wife, three adult children, a dog and puppy. I have recently retired from 16 years at Fiera and its predecessor companies.

My parents have always been an influence in my life, both being active and oriented to helping others. There are many who start out disadvantaged, where their futures seem tenuous. I wanted to work with Home Suite Hope to help participants in the program and started off as a member of the Industry Council, offering support with professional guidance and connections. In 2021, I joined the Board of Directors.

Why is the work done at Home Suite Hope so important?

The work done at Home Suite Hope is so important because it provides the opportunity for some exceptional people in Halton Region, people who have found themselves in some very unfortunate situations, to stabilize their situations and their families. Overall providing an opportunity for positive futures.

Where would you like to see Home Suite Hope in 5 years?

I would like to see Home Suite Hope delivering their program to more participants, because there are many more people in Halton Region that could benefit from their supports and services.

What is your favorite aspect of Home Suite Hope?

While there are many exceptional aspects of the organization as a whole, I think the access to education, which provides better future job prospects, is one of my favorites.



FUN FACT

I walk everyday with my wife and dogs to get a coffee



BARRIE CARLYLE

Chair of Human Resources Committee,
Past Board Chair

I've been living in Oakville for the past 17 years with my wife and two daughters. Moving here was one of the best decisions for my family, as we have found ourselves in a wonderful community that has offered us so much. In return, we have always felt the need to give back.

I am currently the Regional Vice President for Right Management in Canada, am the Past Chair of the Board of Directors at Home Suite Hope and I am currently Chair of the HR Committee. I joined Home Suite Hope to be able to provide direct impact to the single parent families in our community struggling with poverty. The program offers such high quality and successful programs and I wanted to be a part of not only the change, but also shedding the light on homelessness within Halton Region.

What is the biggest lesson you have learned about poverty while working with Home Suite Hope?

There are many different faces of poverty and many different paths that can lead someone into economic distress. Poverty is not concentrated in any one area or neighbourhood within Halton which sometimes makes it more difficult to acknowledge, so we must be diligent in acknowledging poverty and taking responsibility as a community to address it when we see it.

What are some of Home Suite Hope's immediate needs?

Affordable, stable housing is the starting point for anyone on a journey out of poverty. With double-digit rent increases in Halton for the second consecutive year, we are severely limited in our ability to get our participants into housing. More long-term, permanent solutions are complex and costly which is why Home Suite Hope is in need of multi-year funding commitments. Consistent, reliable funding would allow Home Suite Hope to make more strategic decisions regarding permanent housing for our participants.

What is one of the biggest HR issues for not for profits like HSH?

Not for profits by their very nature tend to be lean organizations as they strive to minimize administrative costs in the delivery of their services. This creates two challenges: first, it tends to contribute to longer hours of work than other sectors as there is more work for fewer people, and second; there can be limited career mobility for employees as there are fewer places to move internally within a lean organization. In a period of low unemployment and rising compensation pressures, this leaves smaller not for profits vulnerable to high attrition and longer hiring cycle times when trying to bring on new team members. We attempt to address these issues through creative job structures that allow growth opportunities, having early and transparent succession planning discussions and providing opportunities for outside learning and certifications. This will continue to be a focus for Home Suite Hope in 2023.



FUN FACT

I am the saxophone player on an old CityNews TV Promo

KEVIN FARRELL

CPA, Treasurer & Chair of Finance Committee

I've lived in Oakville since 2010 with my wife and three adult children. I recently retired, however, remain active in the community as a member of St. Jude's Anglican Church and volunteering in other Oakville-based charities, such as Kerr St. Mission.

I had first come across Home Suite Hope a few years back while I was helping a participant of KSM's Neighbour Care Network who was looking for accommodations. I am now a Board volunteer as a member of the Finance Committee and the committee is responsible for investing funds that Home Suite Hope has on hand and financial governance.

What compelled you to get involved with Home Suite Hope?

I have always been impressed by the work and support that Home Suite Hope has given to its clients.

Can you provide any insight about homelessness & low income/is there anything you wish the community knew about homelessness & low income?

I have had direct involvement in trying to find suitable housing for families in distress and know that the social housing in Halton has very long waiting lists and the private market has no rented housing under \$2,300 per month.



FUN FACT

We have been white water rafting as a family on the Ottawa river and we have bruises and broken bones to prove it.



MARY SHERIDAN

Chair of Fundraising & Outreach Committee

My passion has always been working with a variety of clients and helping them find unique and innovated ways to market their business. In the same way, I have developed a passion for Home Suite Hope, an organization that takes on innovative approaches and initiatives resulting in a transformed program for participants.

As a single mom, I moved to Oakville in the Bronte Village and lived there for 13 years. Halton is a close-knit community with a big heart. I know Home Suite Hope continues to contribute to our Halton community by providing functional solutions and supports. I felt strongly that this approach was the most effective way to make organic and lasting change in the lives of children and single parents. So, it was such a pleasure to join the Home Suite Hope Board of Directions in March 2020. Working alongside the amazing members of the Fundraising Committee, I am also so appreciative of the Empty Bowls Committee members. These are my change makers! They are the backbone of creative solutions to help ensure we can provide our participants and their families with the necessary supports to succeed.

Why is HSH programming innovative?

HSH programming has a structure like no other. In having the participants become part of a unique agreement, whereby participants are given the respect and responsibility to follow the steppingstones set up to lead them down the path of success, participants have control over their future. The success of graduates from the program is proof this works.

What are some of HSH's strengths?

The leadership of the staff really sets HSH apart from other charities. There is no lack of innovative ideas from the staff who work in the field daily to make the programming work.

What are some ways the community can help HSH continue providing supports and services to the community?

When a community gets involved in any way, it makes a huge impact, even on one parent's life. Some ways could be:

- 1) Help sell out our various events, especially Empty Bowls;
- 2) Consider the Social factor in a corporations' ESG. It can be accomplished by becoming a Partner In Change - partnering for the 4 year journey is absolutely paramount to the success of HSH;
- 3) And, of course, generous donations from individuals and estates leave a legacy that is revered

FUN FACT
I love downhill skiing, but I am excited to test out a new skill and hit the trails for cross country skiing this year!

ELIZABETH YOUNG

Member of Governance Committee

When I first learned about Home Suite Hope, I was instantly impressed with how innovative and effective the program was. It really aims to address the root problems of homelessness and poverty, ultimately offering an opportunity to break the intergenerational cycle.

As an Oakville resident of 20 years, I am always looking for opportunities to learn more about my community and get involved as much as I can. Continued support from the community is what sustains programs like those offered at Home Suite Hope. So, I was extremely delighted to join the Board of Directors for Home Suite Hope in June 2019 and have also joined the Governance sub-committee.

Why did you get involved with HSH?

I first learned about HSH about a decade ago. I was immediately impressed with how innovative and effective the program is, aiming to address the root problems of homelessness and poverty and offering an opportunity to break the intergenerational cycle. I am always looking for opportunities to learn more about my community and get involved as much as I can.

What type of community involvement is needed most?

Organizations like HSH thrive when support comes in many shapes and forms, whether from individual donations for specific campaigns like Hope 4 Holidays, corporate giving programs, local advocacy efforts, or volunteering time — each are incredibly valuable to help families in need and to end the cycle of poverty.

What is your hope for Home Suite Hope?

Home Suite Hope is a brilliant model that I'd like to see replicated in communities across Canada.



FUN FACT
I'm almost embarrassed to say this but I have a ridiculous encyclopedic knowledge of sitcoms from the 60s, 70s, and early 80s.



JOIN US

AND BECOME A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOIN US

AND BECOME A DONOR OR COMMUNITY PARTNER

JOIN US

AND BECOME A PARTNER IN CHANGE

JOIN US

AND BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR INDUSTRY COUNCIL



BLAKE J. HAMPTON-DAVIES

Member of Finance Committee

My family and I reside in Oakville and have always contributed to building up the community to ensure it remains vibrant and welcoming. I have been very fortunate in my life and so have always wanted to ensure I was investing into my community and genuinely giving back.

As a Capital Markets Executive at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, driving continual improvements that will allow for increased revenue, reduced costs and generating bottom line growth is in my wheelhouse. It was only fitting to join the HSH Board of Directors in 2018 and sit on the Finance committee, as it brought giving back to the community and my expertise together.

Why do you think the work at Home Suite Hope is important?

While we are all so fortunate to be living in a vibrant community like the city of Oakville, I think we often miss that there is a need right outside our doors. We, as the community, should address these issues and get involved. Home Suite Hope programs work to end the cycle of poverty for those families in our communities struggling. They equip these vulnerable families with the tools they need to be successful in their lives.

What are some challenges Home Suite Hope faces?

As a not-for-profit organization, Home Suite Hope must work through the always shifting government funding and granting, navigating the housing market with the lack of affordable housing, operating with limited resources, and securing operational costs year after year.

If you could ask the community for any support for participants, what would it be?

It would be support that would help us find a permanently affordable housing solution for our participants so they can have a stable roof above their heads.

FUN FACT
I have four kids from 13-19 and a dog named Ollie.

BURHANA BELLO-AYORINDE

Board Member

I am a corporate/commercial lawyer and arbitrator at Aliquot Law. I am married with three children and we live in Oakville.

I joined the Home Suite Hope Board in early 2021 and serve on the Governance committee. I believe strongly that if each of us strives to give back and be a better version of ourselves we will achieve the world we all dream about when we don our rose-colored glasses.

What are your favourite things about Home Suite Hope?

One of the things I love about Home Suite Hope is the ability to see the effect the organization has on lives, not just that of the participants, but often their dependents as well as they transition through the program.

If you could describe Home Suite Hope with one word, what would it be?

The word that springs to mind when describing Home Suite Hope is empowerment.

Where do you hope to see Home Suite Hope in the next 5 years?

My wish for Home Suite Hope is simple — that more people in the region would know about the organization's transformative work for the family's experiencing homelessness or precarious housing in the region. I think when people talk about homelessness and single parents living in poverty they generally do not think it happens as often as it does in the Halton region and a lot of us will benefit from the statistics.



FUN FACT
I love to read and spend time with family and friends.



EMMA JARRATT

Board Member

I was born and raised in Oakville. After several years living elsewhere in Canada and internationally I returned to my home community to raise my two kids who fill my days with adventures, lots of learning and regular chaos. I've been involved in volunteering with Home Suite Hope since 2021 and joined the Board in 2022.

Why did you get involved with HSH?

Some years ago I escaped from an abusive relationship. The uphill climb to rebuild my and my children's lives (from reestablishing our financial and personal security, to trying to restore our physical and emotional health) remains exhausting and, at times, overwhelming. I'm so fortunate to have an army of support behind me, but I wonder every day: what about the people that don't have that? Home Suite Hope is a beacon in the community — an adoptive army of support for single-parent families that meets them where they are and helps them reach where they want to go. The wraparound approach for participant families and the dedication of everyone involved in the organization is exemplary. It's a privilege to get to be a part of expanding the reach of this critical programming.

What type of community involvement is needed most?

Oakville is a beautiful place to live, but it's no secret that there is an equity issue in the community. Getting involved in Home Suite Hope can be as simple as dropping off regular donations of useful household items for families to advocating at City Hall for more (and better) affordable housing throughout the town — I welcome either of those things and the whole range in between. But the most important community involvement we can have about the issues Home Suite Hope addresses is awareness. The more people know about the gaps in our local systems for vulnerable populations, the more likely it is that someone is going to come up with smart solutions that, as an informed citizenry, we can work together to put into action quickly and efficiently. We should all be educating ourselves about the shoes other people are walking in so that there is a deep, compassionate understanding of the equity issues our community faces and we can envision our part in helping to address them daily.

What is your hope for Home Suite Hope?

I hope that we give and inspire in our participant families "hope" in the true sense of the word. As humans, it's the most valuable thing we can give each other and the most in-demand resource. Surfacing from the crushing weight of poverty, mental health issues, abuse, or other stigmatized issues, raising children alone, feeling behind the eight-ball because you are an adult trying to finish high school — these, as an example, can be isolating and lonely experiences. Having community support behind you and people who believe in you, even when you start to doubt yourself, is critical.



FUN FACT

I am an avid thrifter and antiquer.

LISA TRACEY

Board Secretary & Governance

For over 20 years I have lived in Oakville with my husband and two daughters. We settled here to raise our family on the advice of friends and have always been grateful for that decision. Embracing being part of such a wonderful community, it has only been natural to want to help out those who are facing obstacles.

I joined the Governance Committee in 2020 and recently took on the role as Secretary to the Board of Directors. I am honoured to work with the dedicated individuals at HSH who are providing invaluable programming to break the cycle of poverty.

Why do you think the work at Home Suite Hope is important?

Our homes give us the foundation that supports us to succeed. I believe that everyone should have access to safe, affordable housing and from there they can create their future. HSH is such an incredible, unique organization. By seeing individuals as individuals and providing housing support and wraparound services, HSH helps to propel participants to sustained self-reliance.

What compelled you to get involved with Home Suite Hope?

It must be 10+ years ago when I first went to Empty Bowls. I have attended almost every year since becoming more familiar with HSH's evolution and successes. It is an organization that I believe serves as an invaluable resource in our community and am honoured to be a part of HSH.

How would you like to see the community getting involved with Home Suite Hope?

Any way they can whether through donations, volunteering, attending Empty Bowls or educating themselves about the incredible housing challenges community members face here in Halton.



FUN FACT

I have been running for years and can frequently be seen running around the neighbourhood with my dog.



LISA GARLAND

Member of Housing Committee

For over 30 years, I have lived in Burlington with my husband and two children (who are now in their mid-20s). I am a recent retiree from my career as a CPA, specializing in tax and estate planning. I worked with various firms, big and small, and even owned my own firm for several years.

I have been on the Board of Directors since January 2015 and served as Treasurer in June 2017. I just recently stepped down from the Board in 2022 and joined the HSH Housing Committee. Home Suite Hope is an organization that is really working to help stabilize the families we serve, moving our participants into new homes and offering them supports like access to education, life skills workshops, and employment supports. The programming is absolutely fabulous and can really aid in breaking the cycle of poverty.

What gaps in funding do you see?

Our biggest funding gaps are for the operational costs of our salaries and admin costs of our fabulous staff. HSH program is wonderful but it is wonderful because of the wraparound service that our staff provide to our participants. We would not have a program if it wasn't for our staff.

What is a favorite memory you have working with HSH?

The Don't Sleep In Your Car Event in 2018. We were not having a great year financially. We held Don't Sleep In Your Car in October and so many donors rallied around us and supported HSH and really showed how much they cared about our organization and what we do. I really feel that was a major turning point in HSH's history. Our programming was adjusted and our finances became more secure after that event.

Where do you see HSH in 5 years?

My biggest dream is to see HSH purchase/build accommodations that our participants can live in. It is such a struggle to find good rental places year after year and now with the housing market so over-saturated and over-priced, it is more difficult than ever to find good and inexpensive rental accommodations for our families. I know that is a lofty dream but with the supporters we have and some political assistance I think we could do it.

FUN FACT
I grew up in a small town in Southwestern Ontario and now have a cottage in that same area. I love to get out of the city and relax at the lake.

REBECCA SPRAGUE

Member of HR Committee

I currently hold the role as Director, HR Services at Mohawk College and have spent 15 years working at colleges throughout Ontario. I am a graduate of Sheridan's Post Graduate Certificate in Human Resources Management, and know first-hand the profound impact education has on shaping lives.

I am a mom of two young children and very much appreciate the balance of work and school with family obligations. It can be complicated and it is critical to have a support network. The participants of Home Suite Hope are working hard to better their future and lives for their children through the power of education. I believe mentorship can help with being a support network, building confidence and always striving for more amidst the hardships. Having been mentored myself, it is such a privilege to be able to help someone in their journey.

Why do you think the work at Home Suite Hope is important?

The work of HSH is changing the lives of not only the participants but also their children. The long-term impact is profound and is shaping the lives of future generations. HSH provides the participants with the tools and support necessary to succeed. It is remarkable what these parents are capable of when they have they right support.

If you could describe Home Suite Hope with one word, what would it be?

Transformational.

How would you describe the work that is done at Home Suite Hope?

HSH provides wrap around support to the participants providing housing, access to education, social, emotional and professional support and a safety net to parents looking to transform their future.



FUN FACT
I love to cook and I love to eat. A dangerous combination.

