

## FLIGHT 4 HOPE

### MAY 2023

#### Asian Heritage Month

May 1 – May Day/  
International Worker’s Day  
May 5 – National Day of  
Awareness for Missing and  
Murdered Indigenous Women  
and Girls (Red Dress Day)  
May 5 – Visakha Puja –  
Buddha Day (Buddhism)  
May 14 – Mother’s Day  
May 17 – International  
Day against Homophobia,  
Transphobia and Biphobia  
May 21 – World Day for  
Cultural Diversity for  
Dialogue and Development  
(UN)  
May 23 – Declaration of the  
Bab (Baha’i)  
May 22 – Victoria Day  
May 28 – Pentecost (Christian)  
May 29 – Ascension of  
Baha’u’llah (Baha’i)



**Oakville’s Callum Wallace** is preparing to fly a single-engine airplane around the globe later this year.

Callum’s goal is to raise awareness about affordable housing - and to raise \$1

million in support of Home Suite Hope and its ongoing campaign to bring more affordable housing to Halton.

Both Callum and HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming were recently featured on a CityNews Toronto segment.

*Please see inside for more.*

## VOLUNTEER IN OUR GARDEN

As Volunteer Appreciation month was celebrated in April, **Home Suite Hope**, reminds interested volunteers that, in conjunction with the **Upper Oakville Shopping Centre**, HSH operates a community garden, **Blueberry Fields**, every growing season. Founded and managed by Ken Stockstill of the shopping centre, the garden is a great place to volunteer with HSH. Its harvest is made available to HSH families and the wider community through Kerr Street Mission. Anyone interested can email [volunteers@homesuitehope.org](mailto:volunteers@homesuitehope.org) and we’ll connect you with the garden’s Volunteer Coordinator Ruth.



# HSH ALUMNI ON DISNEY TRIP



**T**hree children from two lucky Home Suite Hope alumni families are heading to **Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida** May 1-3.

They are part of the **Dreams Take Flight Toronto 2023** trip of a lifetime thanks to Disney Sweepstakes. On May 2, Dreams Take Flight Toronto will be celebrating its 31st flight from Toronto to **Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom** and the HSH participants' children and their parents, along with HSH Program Manager Nikkian Hanson, will be there.

Dreams Take Flight is dedicated to providing unforgettable memories to thousands of deserving children across Canada every year. The national, not-for-profit, volunteer organization began in 1989, when a small group of Air Canada employees in Toronto founded 'Dreams Come True' and took 70 deserving children to Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom. The effort has grown exponentially.

Today, there are eight Dreams Take Flight Chapters across Canada and over 30,000 children have visited Walt Disney World or Disneyland on this one amazing life-changing day!

Through the tireless efforts of volunteers, the Air Canada Foundation, the community, social agencies and private businesses, Dreams Take Flight accommodates over 1,000 children annually across Canada to embark on a one-day trip of a lifetime! The goal is to ensure that each child receives a day that is just for them, and a lifetime of special memories to follow.

To follow the fun:

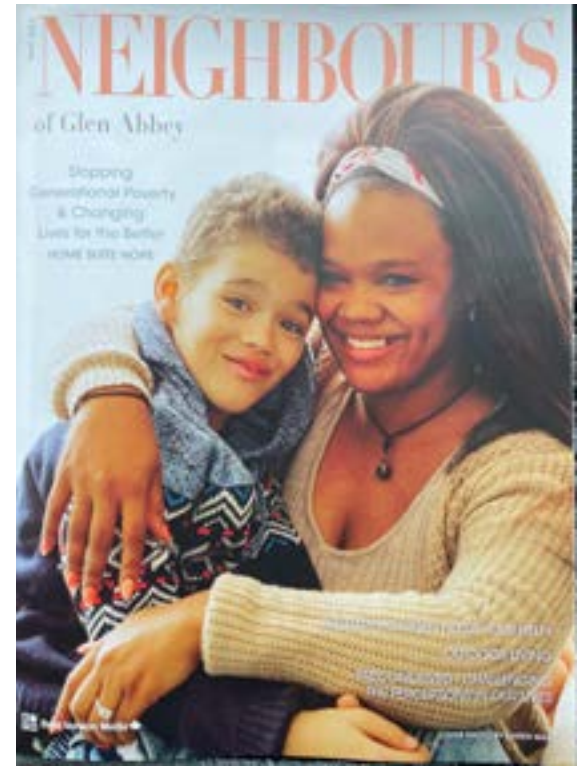
DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT TORONTO

WEBSITE: <https://yyz.dreamstakeflight.ca/>

IG: [www.instagram.com/dreamsyyz](http://www.instagram.com/dreamsyyz)

FB: [www.facebook.com/dreamstakeflighttoronto/](http://www.facebook.com/dreamstakeflighttoronto/)

# HSH FEATURED THIS MONTH IN NEIGHBOURS MAGAZINE



**H**ome Suite Hope was the Resident Feature story in the May 2023 *NEIGHBOURS of Glen Abbey*, *NEIGHBOURS of Olde Oakville* and *NEIGHBOURS of Joshua Creek* magazines, published by Best Version Media.

HSH graduate Diamond Bailey and her son Dion were featured on the cover of the Glen Abbey edition, in a photo by Karen Mak, and Diamond and HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming were interviewed for the feature story written by the publication's Content Coordinator Deborah Everest-Hill and sponsored by Sue Heddle of Century 21.

Stopping Generational Poverty & Changing Lives for the Better: Home Suite Hope outlined Diamond's journey in HSH's Homeward Bound Halton program.

It also saw Sara outline the new challenges HSH participants and graduates are facing due to skyrocketing inflation and housing costs and explain how HSH's programs assist single parent families break the cycle of poverty and the many community partners it works with, and relies on, to reach successful outcomes for its participants.



# FLIGHT 4 HOPE

## PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY

**Callum Wallace** of Oakville loves flying, has a plane and plans to fly that single-engine plane around the globe later this year.



Callum is flying solo around the world in his single-engine plane to bring awareness to the issues single mothers face globally.

He also has the goal of raising \$1 million towards HSH affordable housing efforts to secure more affordable housing across Halton - a place where poverty is often unseen and which is one of the most expensive places to live in Ontario.

Callum was recently featured on **CityNews Toronto** as he was interviewed by reporter **David Zura** about the challenges facing his effort.

**HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming** was also interviewed about Home Suite Hope, how it helps single-parent families and the importance of affordable housing.

[Watch the news clip](#)

[Home Suite Hope's Affordable Housing efforts](#)

[Flight for Hope](#)



# CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS

## MELISSA, SYDNEY & MANY MORE

**A**pril was a time to recognize volunteers across Canada and the important contribution volunteers make to others and to their communities by giving of their time and talents. Volunteers are particularly valuable to the work of charities such as Home Suite Hope.

Home Suite Hope volunteers give so much to our single-parent families, the work of HSH and to the community. Volunteers assist HSH by sponsoring families at the holidays, responding to call outs for emergency items such as groceries and cleaning supplies, helping out at fundraisers, working in the community garden, taking on driving when it's needed, working on the HSH Board, acting as mentors to HSH single parents, working on our Industry Council... and so much more.

Here we highlight two of the many volunteers we so appreciate.

## MELISSA FILICE

**Melissa Filice** is a graduate of Home Suite Hope's Homeward Bound Halton program.

As part of that Melissa graduated with Honours in April 2022 from Sheridan College's Human Resources program. While qualifying to write the CHRP exam and looking for full-time work, Melissa stepped up as an HSH volunteer and holds the position of Home Suite Hope's Volunteer Coordinator.

Melissa worked tirelessly to coordinate volunteers for HSH events such as the HSH Empty Bowls fundraiser held in the fall of 2022 and Hope 4 Holidays Holiday Dinner, and holiday gift deliveries. Her invaluable assistance and skill set were more than welcome at our busiest times of the year.



Melissa has joined the HSH Alumni Committee for the 2023 year to support active participants in HSH's programming through peer mentorship and also acts as an advocate for the needs of single-parent families in HSH programs.

# CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS



## SYDNEY WESTON

**Sydney Weston** is an employee of **Raise**. While Sydney began taking an interest in HSH's community garden Blueberry Fields – organizing corporate work days in the garden, Sydney also developed a personal interest in HSH.

Soon she was leading Raise's sponsorship efforts and working with Kits for a Cause, to pack and deliver summer survival kits to our participants and organizing packing parties with her team for Back to School (fall) and Winter Holiday Kits - work done through **Raise's Meaningful Work Foundation**.

Her team also did painting parties for Empty Bowls and volunteered as drivers to deliver soups for our annual fundraiser in 2021 as well assisting with the set up and break down of our on-site HSH's Empty Bowls fundraiser in 2022 and our Hope 4 Holidays 2022 social event.

Sydney has also been a member of HSH's Industry Council for several years, providing one-on-one employment mentorship by providing guidance during participants' job search and professional development. Sydney works with **Raise** to develop potential employment opportunities for HSH graduates.

# THANK YOU!

# STAFF NEWS

## NIKKIAN OFFICIALLY PROMOTED

**Nikkian Hanson** was a Case Worker with HSH and stepped up as Interim Program Manager last summer when Catherine Villasenor went on maternity leave. Nikkian has now been officially promoted to the role of HSH Program Manager. Congratulations, Nikkian!



## SASHA STEPS IN

**HSH** was pleased when **Sasha McCartney-Stevens** stepped in to lead its Life Skills programming recently as she works on contract as HSH's Interim Project Coordinator.

*"I am excited to work alongside many talented individuals at Home Suite Hope. I am currently returning back to work from Maternity leave. My daughter, Journei, is not quite one years old and growing. I am also an Occasional Teacher with the Peel District School Board. During my downtime, when I am not a wife and a mom to Journei, I enjoy self-care, relaxing, reading a good book, journaling or meditating."*

## THANKS & GOOD LUCK HSH INTERNS!

**HSH** staff wishes all the very best for its 2022/23 student interns as they wrapped up a year of placement work at HSH and embark on new journeys.

Thank you **Emma Abramowitz**, who was completing her Bachelor of Social Work Degree at **Toronto Metropolitan University** (formerly Ryerson).

Thank you **Andjela Poljak**, a third-year social work student at **McMaster University**.

Thank you **Temisha Jacques**, a **Sheridan College Social Service Work (SSW)** student has a Support Worker (PSW) certificate and Child and Youth Care (CYC) Diploma and more than five years' experience working with the vulnerable populations.



# MUDGIRL

## JOIN HOME SUITE HOPE HEROINES



**S**upport Home Suite Hope and our **MUDGIRL** team, the **Home Suite Hope Heroines**, as we face the mud, obstacles and inflatables in an amazing atmosphere surrounded by women of all ages on Sunday, June 11 at Binbrook Conservation Area in Hamilton.

No one should face breast cancer alone - we fight for and support our mothers, sisters, daughters, grandmothers, aunts, friends and everyone in between who may encounter breast cancer in their lifetime. Home Suite Hope supports MUDGIRL and the fight against breast cancer because women must work together to empower each other to be strong and resilient through all of life's obstacles.

This year we are asking you to join us in offering your support and well wishes to one of our own warriors - Izabel Rader. Izabel has been busy conquering her own diagnosis of cancer over the past couple of months making this year's MUDGIRL especially important to our staff and participants.

Come out and join us.

Breast cancer is a form of cancer that most often affects the heart and soul of families - women. It threatens mothers, who would do anything to see their child smile... [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)

**[Support Home Suite Hope Heroines](#)**



# SAVE THE DATE: AGM & GRADUATION

JUNE 15, 2023 AT SHERIDAN COLLEGE

**H**SH will hold its **Annual General Meeting & Graduation June 15**. Celebrate at **Sheridan College** with the graduates from this year and those who had only virtual celebrations during the pandemic. HSH staff will be joined by Board members, Industry Council representatives, mentors

## AGM & *Graduation*



HOME SUITE  
**HOPE**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
a special celebration of the

---

GRADUATES OF  
2020-2023

---

June  
*15th*  
4:45pm-7:45pm

Sheridan Conference  
Centre  
1400 Trafalgar Rd  
Oakville, ON

---

RSVP by May 22nd to  
[events@homesuitehope.org](mailto:events@homesuitehope.org)

# INSPIRING ALLIES: NIKKIAN

Halton Region's April edition of its *Housing and Homelessness Bulletin* featured HSH Program Manager Nikkian Hanson. The following is the article.

Reflecting on her time with Home Suite Hope, Nikkian Hanson shares that she began her tenure as a Case Worker with the agency that serves single-parent families.

At Home Suite Hope, participants are supported from homelessness to stability through the pursuit of educational and employment goals, whilst gaining important life skills.

Today, Nikkian is the Interim Program Manager where she holds many responsibilities including, supporting the Case Worker team, overseeing the program operations, and building community partnerships.

Nikkian has an impressive educational background including a Community and Justice Services Diploma from Humber College, Law and Society Degree from York University, and Human Rights and Equity Studies Degree from York University.

As Nikkian reflects on her own life, she shares that her Mom was a single parent, raising five children. Nikkian also shares as a woman of colour in a professional setting, "I am able to empower Black women by helping them develop healthy tools to navigate through challenges such as secure housing".



2

Leading by example, Nikkian exudes determination in all aspects of her life, including through the launch of her business, Daley Glam Décor, which offers gorgeous candles for purchase as well as decorating services. To learn more visit [www.daleyglamdecor.com](http://www.daleyglamdecor.com).

Nikkian shares that she donates her time to non-profit organizations who seek out her services, as a way to support the community.

On the personal side, Nikkian keeps busy while playing the Tenor Saxophone, and on the field playing Rugby. Nikkian also shares that she is getting married this July. Congratulations Nikkian!

# UPCOMING INFO SESSION

**H**ome Suite Hope's 2023 intake is OPEN!

HSH will be hosting an **Information Session on Monday, May 15, 2023.**

Rescheduled from April to allow for greater attendance, our information session will give everyone an opportunity to get to know all about Home Suite Hope.

The session is for everyone - from community workers within Halton Region to those interested in applying to our program - or those who already have.

**[Learn more about HSH Programs:](#)**

## HOME SUITE HOPE Information Session

Home Suite Hope is a housing first provider and wrap-around service for single-parent families in the Halton Region

Join us for an in-person information session to learn more about the organization, Sheridan College scholarship, program eligibility, housing and community supports and more.

**Who: Applicants, Case Workers, Community Members**

**Date: Monday, May 15, 2023**

**Time: 5-7 pm**

**RSVP by April 28th, 2023**

Please RSVP to Interim Program Manager Nikkian Hanson at **[NikkianH@HomeSuiteHope.org](mailto:NikkianH@HomeSuiteHope.org)**

*Light refreshments and drinks will be served*



Sheridan  
HOME SUITE  
HOPE



Sheridan



SAGEN™

*CHANGING THE PATTERNS OF POVERTY TO A LEGACY OF PROSPERITY*