

DECEMBER 2022

December 1 – World Aids Day (UN)

December 2 – International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (UN)

December 3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities (UN)

December 6 – National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

December 10 – Human Rights Day (UN)

December 18 – Hanukkah (to Dec. 26) (Judaism); International Migrants Day (UN)

December 20 – International Human Solidarity Day (UN)

Dec 21 - December Solstice

December 24 – Christmas Eve

December 25 – Christmas Day (Christian)

December 26 – Kwanzaa (first day); Boxing Day

December 31 – New Year's Eve



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM HSH

Home Suite Hope's Board of Directors and Staff celebrated the holiday season with a dinner at JAC's Bistro in Kerr Village. After an awesome Empty Bowls event Nov. 6 at St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School in Oakville, HSH has been working on its annual Hope 4 Holidays campaign.

From everyone at HSH, Happy Holidays!



THE FACES OF HOME
SUITE HOPE:
2022 Staff Edition

HOME SUITE
HOPE

FACES OF HSH

HSH has been releasing its popular **FACES of HSH** publication throughout November.

The publication is a four-part series that looks behind the scenes at the people who together make up the HSH community - the Participants, Board of Directors, Staff and Mentors & Industry Council representatives.

See inside for more.

HSH BOARD NEWS

WELCOME TO THE BOARD



RACHAEL PULIS

Home Suite Hope's Board of Directors welcomes **Rachael Pulis**, a Burlington lawyer, as one of the newest members to join the Board.

Rachael commenced practising law in 2008 after she was called to the bar. She has been practising exclusively in the area of family law.

Rachael is an experienced negotiator and litigator in all areas of family law, including custody and access, property division, child and spousal support. She is committed to obtaining the best possible result for her clients in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

Rachael is also a member and past president (2015-2017) of the Halton County Law Association, which represents approximately 300 lawyers in Milton, Oakville, Burlington and Georgetown.

MELANI BASTIANS

Home Suite Hope's Board of Directors welcomes **Chef Melani Bastians**.

Chef Melani offers lived experience as well as business acumen as she once called upon HSH services when life became challenging for her and her daughters. She is not shy to say "Home Suite Hope saved my life."

A chef by trade, Melani owns The Green Eatery, a vegan café, and Caribbean Vibes, a full-service restaurant, both in Milton – and along the way saw the birth of non-profit No One Goes Hungry (known as @hungerfreehalton). Melani has provided soups for HSH's Empty Bowls in 2021 and 2022 and has been a member of HSH's Housing Committee.



EMPTY BOWLS DRAWS A CROWD



IN PERSON AT ST. MILDRED'S-LIGHTBOURN SCHOOL

Empy Bowls 2022, presented by **The Taylor Group**, drew a crowd **Sunday, Nov. 6.** to **St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School** in Oakville.

This event that replicates the soup kitchen experience is Home Suite Hope's annual signature fundraising event with all proceeds going to HSH's wraparound supports.

The event sold 250 tickets and raised \$52,295 - and we are still accepting donations to help us reach our \$70,000 goal. We express our sincere appreciation to everyone who purchased a ticket, attended and sponsored the event or soups and desserts. A special shout-out to **HSH Events & Community Outreach Assistant Katelyn Zaoral** who made it all come together!

HSH also thanks the many **volunteers** who gave of their time and energy and who, under HSH participant and **Volunteer Coordinator Melissa Filice**, worked as a team to manage set up, take down and the event.

A note of gratitude to **COBS Bread Lakeshore** for serving up the bread for the day and **Crack Pot Studio** for helping with painting parties and bowl donations - and to **Canada's Minister of Defence, Oakville MP Anita Anand** for scheduling our event into her itinerary.

Donate at CanadaHelps:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/home-suite-hope-shared-living-corp/>



ST. MILDRED'S-LIGHTBOURN SCHOOL
INSPIRED GIRLS. EMPOWERED WOMEN.

EMPTY BOWLS - THANK YOU



EVENT SPONSORS

Empty Bowls is back and we are grateful to those who have stepped up as sponsors:

The Taylor Group - Presenting Sponsor
Bell - Gold

Cogeco Connexion, Fiera Capital - Silver
Detail Guys, Capstick McCollum & Associates, Rina DiRisio Team, Royal LePage Real Estate Services Ltd., Schiavone Diamond - Bronze



SOUP SPONSORS



KERR ST CAFE
CAFE & CATERING



CRACK POT
STUDIO



COBS BREAD
LAKESHORE

EMPTY BOWLS 2022

EVENT DAY

HSH Events & Community Outreach Assistant Katelyn Zaoral backed by **Volunteer Coordinator Melissa Filice**. Hundreds of bowls were available for selection with event tickets. Volunteers helped make it all come together.

Thank you to **La Rose Bakery Milton** for its generous gift basket donation and congratulations to the winner - **John Aitken**! Thank you to **DaleyGlam Decor Inc.** for the Gift Basket won by **Karla Coutinho**!



EMPTY BOWLS 2022



At top, Volunteer Coordinator Melissa Filice, HSH Director of Development Krystal Valencia and HSH Events & Community Outreach Assistant Katelyn Zaoral. Above, HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming speaks to the crowd. Sara's daughters, Talor, Maddy, Kennedy and Ryleigh do some babysitting while volunteering at the event.

STAFF NEWS



THE FACES OF HOME SUITE HOPE: 2022 Staff Edition

HOME SUITE
HOPE



FACES of HSH LAUNCHED WITH STAFF EDITION

HSH'S popular **FACES of Home Suite Hope**, a four-part look at the people behind HSH, from the Board and Participants to Staff and Mentors and Industry Council, launched in November with the **Staff Edition** https://a2a3adb7-4456-445d-bcfb-54b14e903552.usrfiles.com/ugd/a2a3ad_aa4e216c1aa84583a12bcb266b7e026c.pdf

It was followed by the **Board Edition** https://a2a3adb7-4456-445d-bcfb-54b14e903552.usrfiles.com/ugd/a2a3ad_077891bb631b4ab6bad03ee608984315.pdf

To see all the editions, stay tuned to www.homesuitehope.org and Click on Publications.

HOPE 4 HOLIDAYS

Hope 4 Holidays

Connecting Home Suite Hope's single parents and their children with the community, through the spirit of giving.

- 1 Sponsor a Family**
Support a family by purchasing and donating items on their wish lists - view the lists at www.homesuitehope.org
- 2 Household & General Donations**
Donate much-needed household and general items such as household cleaning products and personal hygiene products, which can be dropped off at our office.
- 3 Gift Cards**
Please consider donating funds for our most-used gift cards for gas, groceries or Walmart. Drop off at our office or donate through CanadaHelps

For more information, please contact Angela at angelab@homesuitehope.org

HOPE 4 HOLIDAYS

Home Suite Hope's annual holiday campaign is well underway. All families have been sponsored and the **Oakville Firefighters Annual Toy Drive** is including HSH in their donations. A Holiday Dinner will be held mid-month at Sheridan College - complete with a visit by the firefighters and Santa.

We are currently still collecting household and personal hygiene items, which are packaged in a holiday sack and given to our families along with the holiday gifts. These items are most expensive at the grocery store. In addition, we are asking for donations of grocery, gas and Walmart gift cards, also being used to support our families._

<https://www.homesuitehope.org/event-details/hope-4-holidays-2022>

For more information, contact angelab@homesuitehope.org.

HOPE 4 HOLIDAYS 2022

SHARING SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

HSH sends a shout-out to those who are sponsoring our families' Holiday Wish Lists.

Karen and Ray Spence, right, were early dropping off their gifts.

Stacey and Joe Bean sponsored two families...



thanks to the craft sale Stacey, her mom and family hold annually and whose proceeds go to sponsoring our families! These folks sponsored two families after doing the same last year, too! Thank you!

Kate and Kris Fudge and their sons Keegan and Kieran also participated again sponsoring a family, as did **Karla Coutinho and her daughters Elena and Ava**.



HOPE 4 HOLIDAYS 2022



#GIVINGTUESDAY

HSH saw #GivingTuesday in action this year as 18 employees from **Mondelez Canada Inc.** arrived at our office to help wrap gifts for our annual Hope 4 Holidays campaign.

The wrapping team was organized by Mondelez GTA Halton employee Jessica Deogracias and was attended by Mondelez managers Mike and Sarah. It was Team GTA and some members came from as far away as Barrie and Alliston to participate.



HOPE 4 HOLIDAYS 2022

#GIVINGTUESDAY

The team included: **Sarah, Mike, Tom, Gillian, Jash, Chris, Jennifer, Alice, Tom, Usama, Hashim, Brittney, Jamie, Lindsay, Craig and Jessica.**

“We loved it! And hope to come back again,” said Jessica. The group was large so it participated over two days with ‘wrapping parties’ held at the HSH office the mornings of Nov. 28 and Nov. 29 (GivingTuesday).

Altogether nearly two dozen hours of time was donated to wrapping the gifts for our 25 sponsored families. In addition, each participating employee brought with them donations of toiletries and household cleaning products – which are also packaged and given to each of HSH participant families to help reduce costly grocery bills.



Mondelez first learned of HSH in connection to Empty Bowls and stepped up to help with the Hope 4 Holidays campaign. Thank you so much!

Mondelez Canada Inc. is headquartered at 277 Gladstone Avenue, Toronto.

www.mondelezinternational.com



Watch the wrapping party thanks to Sharp Storytelling:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CIlx0mjAXpc/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

DONORS

GIVEOAKVILLE & GIVINGTUESDAY

HSH is part of the **Oakville Community Foundation's (OCF) GIVEOakville** campaign.

That means that as of Nov. 10 through Dec. 12, we at HSH, will be part of GIVEOakville - an online crowd-funding platform that with the help of your generous support, will help us and many other charities achieve our fundraising goal. Help us to get over the finish line and donate today: https://ocf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/grant?grant_id=10345

The OCF has two goals for its #GIVEOakville campaign this year: to help raise funds locally for charities supporting Oakville and its residents and to spread the word about the important work local organizations like Home Suite Hope are doing.

#GIVEOakville allows people like you to give comfortably this holiday season with GIVEOakville knowing 100% of your donation goes directly to the charities of your choice. The Oakville Community Foundation covers 100% of the transaction fees, meaning we get the full value of your donation. Home Suite Hope has been certified for local impact and when you support our community's charities, you are providing a better Oakville for everyone.

The GIVEOakville Guide showcases our charity, along with many others, who are serving your community. In fact, think of GIVEOakville as a 'Shopping Mall for Charities' and the Oakville Community Foundation as a personal shopper - your source for knowledge about local charities.

GIVEOakville also has some added bonuses, like the fact that 100% of your donation goes directly to us and other charities you want to support; your donation will receive a tax receipt; and, the Oakville Community Foundation is covering all administration costs!

As a donor, a gift of \$20, \$50, \$100, \$1000 or more can truly help local charities, like us, and help our entire community become stronger. In addition, Home Suite Hope is eligible for The Foundation's 'Top-Up Program.' The Foundation is providing an additional \$187,000 which will be directed and prorated when the campaign is closed.

Please consider donating to HSH through the #GIVEOakville campaign.

https://ocf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/grant?grant_id=10345

HOME SUITE
HOPE



**GIVEOakville ensures
your donation is certified
for local impact!**

November 10 - December 12

www.GIVEOakville.com



DONORS

100 WOMEN WHO CARE BURLINGTON

HSH is grateful to **100 Women Who Care Burlington** for selecting Home Suite Hope as its charity of choice at its recent November meeting.

HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming was invited to speak to the group and then members began donating through CanadaHelps.



PARTNER IN CHANGE

HSH thanks **Joyce Caldwell** for becoming its latest **Partner in Change** - donating the annual \$10,000 shortfall in the approximate \$48,000 it costs to support a single-parent and their family as they journey from poverty to stability in the four-year Homeward Bound Halton program.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT STUDENT

Thank you to the **Greater Toronto Apartment Association Charitable Foundation** led by Daryl Chong for its \$15,000 in support of Home Suite Hope's **Property Management Student**. One of HSH's single-parent participants is studying property management - with an eye to employment in an affordable housing complex that serves single parent families where the student could apply not only her education, but lived experience, to work.



GOLF TOURNAMENT

HSH is grateful to the **MacLeod Green Family Foundation** and its recent donation of \$4,000, proceeds of a golf tournament hosted at **Rattlesnake Golf Club**.

MAIL-OUT CAMPAIGN

ROBIN'S STORY

Home Suite Hope has embarked on its \$125,000 fundraising campaign to boost its ability to help our families find affordable housing and transportation.

HSH participant **Robin** is helping us put the campaign in the spotlight by telling her story.

Achieving our **\$125,000** fundraising goal means HSH can join Ontario March of Dimes in helping Robin to retrofit a vehicle to make it accessible. We thank the March of Dimes for extending its funding deadline to make this possible. Home Suite Hope is grateful to those helping many more single parents like Robin by supporting our campaign. Together we will change lives for the better as we create affordable housing and transportation solutions for those in need in Halton.

CanadaHelps link:
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/home-suite-hope-shared-living-corp/campaign/running-on-empty/>



HOME SUITE
HOPE

Dear

My name is Robin. I'm a 34-year-old, single parent in Home Suite Hope's (HSH) Homeward Bound Halton program. I'd like to share my story to show how your support of HSH changes the lives of local families.

My daughter, Leanne, is 12 years old. She has a radiant smile and loves being around others. At 3-months old, Leanne was diagnosed with Hirschsprung's Disease which required surgery, during surgery she flatlined which resulted in brain injury, and she was subsequently diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. As a result, Leanne is quadriplegic and requires fulltime, total care.

Our life has been a rollercoaster. In 2014, we moved to Canada from Antigua. When Leanne was born, I had no network of support to help with her special needs. It was just us.

There's nothing I wouldn't do for my daughter, but the challenges in our daily life seemed insurmountable and we started to slip further and further through the social safety net cracks.

For her entire life, I've carried Leanne up and down the stairs to our basement apartment — even as she aged to a tween. There was no other option. This was our reality.

In 2020 at the beginning of COVID, Leanne and I were accepted into Home Suite Hope and our lives began to change. They helped us find accessible housing, allowed Leanne and I to have separate rooms for the first time ever, and secured the proper lifts to transport Leanne into and out of bed and the shower.

My dream is to provide for my family by finding a full-time IT job. Through HSH, I'm now taking a Computer Systems Technician – Software Engineering program at Sheridan College. Soon, full-time employment will be within my grasp.

HSH, despite the complexity of our needs, is giving Leanne and I a real chance in life.

Housing and transportation costs strain everyone, but you can imagine the additional burden for parents like myself when everything must be fully accessible. HSH is determined to help us secure a better future. Case and point: while funding is available to retrofit a vehicle to make it accessible, I must first have the vehicle. So, HSH is helping me save towards a used pre-converted van.

LIVES PERMANENTLY CHANGED FOR THE BETTER.



YES, I PLEDGE TO PERMANENTLY CHANGE LIVES FOR THE BETTER TODAY!

HOME SUITE
HOPE

Here is my one time gift of: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other \$ _____

An example of what your one time gift can provide:

\$50: A household utilities top up

\$100: Transportation expense for a monthly youth pass on a presto card

\$500: A month worth of groceries and baby essentials

\$1000: Help to subsidize rent costs for new families moving into new households

☐ I am enclosing a cheque made out to Home Suite Hope

☐ I prefer to use my: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

Card # _____ Expiry Date ____/____/____

Cardholder's Name _____ Signature _____

Mobile/Phone # _____ Date Signed _____

Address: _____

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

COMMUNITY GARDEN

As the weather turned frosty, HSH's community garden **Blueberry Fields** is officially closed. Here's a message from **Volunteer Coordinator Ruth Borst**:



Hi everyone

The garden has been put to rest for the year (though there will still be lots of garlic growing over the winter). Blueberry Fields produced approximately 300 kg of vegetables for Home Suite Hope and Kerr Street Mission this year, so it was a super successful year with a wide variety of produce and several double plantings. A huge thank-you to all of you, both corporate and individual volunteers. We could not keep producing so many vegetables without your hours of labour. You won't hear from me again until spring of 2023 when Blueberry Fields will come to life again. At that time, I'll be in touch to see if you want to continue volunteering next year. I hope you do. It has been such a pleasure working alongside you. Please encourage your friends to join too! Let me know if you change your email address, and in the meantime, have a good winter.

Ruth



OAKVILLE FIREFIGHTERS TOY DRIVE

HSH is grateful to have the children of its single parent participants included as a beneficiary of **The Oakville Professional Firefighters Association's 30th Annual Toy Drive**. The goal is giving every local child an opportunity to enjoy a gift of their own this holiday season. The drive continues through Sunday, Dec. 18. All donations will be distributed directly to local families, institutions and community agencies supporting children and youth. There are many ways to donate including as Drive-Thru Toy Drive Event at Coronation Park Friday, Dec. 9 from 5-9 p.m. For all details visit www.oakville.ca/residents/firefighters-toy-drive.html or visit oakvillepffa.com.



Sheridan



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