

A United Way Supported Agency



Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2025

November 1 – Samhain – Litha (Wicca/Pagan)

November 3 – Holocaust Education Week (to Nov 9)

November 5 – Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)

November 11 – Remembrance Day

November 16 – Louis Riel Day (Métis); International Day for Tolerance (UNESCO)

November 20 – Universal Children's Day (UN); Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 25 – International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women (UN)

NOVEMBER 2025

Lives permanently changed for the better



HOPE 4 HOLIDAYS 2025

Home Suite Hope is proud to launch our annual **Hope 4 Holidays** campaign for the 2025 holiday season!

Whether you've supported us in previous years or are joining us for the first time, we are so grateful for your generosity and compassion.

This year, we are honoured to support 30 single parent families across Halton.

Each family is on a unique journey toward stability and independence, and your kindness helps bring warmth, dignity and a sense of hope to parents and children as they navigate a challenging season.

We're excited to share the different ways you can get involved and make a meaningful difference this holiday season. [Hope 4 Holidays 2025](#)

See inside for more details!

EMPTY BOWLS IS NOVEMBER 2

Empty Bowls returns to **Appleby College Sunday, November 2** for a heartfelt tradition that brings our community together in support of families working toward stability.

See inside for more!

[Purchase Empty Bowls 2025 Tickets](#)



PARTICIPANT NEWS

WAY TO GO...GREAT MID-TERM GRADES

HSH has many participants who are doing exceptionally well at the halfway mark of their academic terms at Sheridan College and the Skilled Trades Centre.

Some of our single parents are earning marks consistently in the mid-80s... and several are maintaining averages in the mid-90s! They are pursuing studies in Police Foundations, Office Administration electrical engineering and social work. Keep up the great work students!!

HSH is fortunate to be able to offer our Homeward Bound Halton participants a two-year bursary to Sheridan College - and through some additional grants tuition to alternative studies.

HSH participants, with the assistance of its Industry Council volunteer representatives - business people in the community who help our participants navigate the job search and networking upon graduation - pursue diplomas in areas known to offer stable employment and income.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HSH remains appreciative of its ongoing partnership that benefits our single parents who are working to move from poverty to stability.

Cakes2Connect volunteers often show up at our office to deliver a birthday cake they have made for one of our single parents. This past month we celebrated Amanda's birthday.

The Oakville-based nonprofit venture sees volunteers provide homemade birthday cakes to women who deserve to be celebrated on their special day!

Happy Birthday Amanda!



EMPTY BOWLS 2025



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU NOVEMBER 2

**Empty Bowls returns to Appleby College
Sunday, November 2**

This is the 17th annual **Empty Bowls** event that has become a local tradition where guests are invited to select a handpainted ceramic bowl and present it to local chefs to be filled with a variety of delicious soups — a powerful and tangible reminder of the empty bowls many families face before finding support through Home Suite Hope.

All New for 2025! Dine-In with Us or Pick Up To-Go at Empty Bowls 2025!

**Sunday, November 2, 2025
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Seating
Soup Kit Pickup Window: 11:20 a.m.–noon**

With your ticket, you'll receive:

- Gourmet soups prepared by talented local chefs
 - Fresh bread for dipping
 - Delicious desserts
- A handcrafted ceramic bowl*

**Included with Single Admission + Bowl, Family Tickets, and Pickup + Bowl purchases.*

**We are collecting period products and household cleaning supply donations on-site.
Donation of 1 product = 1 raffle ticket in exchange**

Sunday, November 2, 2025 Appleby College
Come hungry. Leave hopeful. Be part of the solution.

[Purchase Empty Bowls 2025 Tickets](#)

EMPTY BOWLS 2025 SPONSORS



EMPTY BOWLS 2025



Presenting Sponsor

Diamond Sponsor



Henderson Partners LLP
CPAs & Advisors

Bronze Sponsors



Soup Sponsors

O'Connor Catering



Bread Sponsors



Coffee Sponsor



Dessert Sponsors



Swag Bag Sponsors



Koa & Kind



MARY'S MUFFINS
ONLY GOOD INGREDIENTS

Raffle Sponsors



Bowl Sponsor



Venue Sponsor



HOPE 4 HOLIDAYS 2025

MAKING HOLIDAYS SPECIAL



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This year, we are honoured to support 30 single-parent families across Halton. Each family is on a unique journey toward stability and independence, and your kindness helps bring warmth, dignity, and a sense of hope to parents and children as they navigate a challenging season.

We're excited to share the **different ways you can get involved and make a meaningful difference** this holiday season.

You can **[Sponsor a Family](#)** by purchasing items they've asked for on their Holiday Wish List.

You can also **Donate General Items** such as household cleaning, personal hygiene and general items. You could assemble a kit for the selected purpose to help our families with the items that are essential to their household but expensive to purchase.

Or you could **[Donate Gift Cards](#)**. Our participants make the most use of grocery, gas and Walmart gift cards but we welcome donations of others, too, as these help our single parents do their own shopping for their family and can provide the means for a holiday feast, a special holiday outing and more for parents to give their family.

HOPE 4 HOLIDAYS 2025

SPONSOR A FAMILY

Make the holidays brighter for a single-parent family in our community!

Through our **Holiday Sponsorship Program**, you can support a family by purchasing items from their personalized wish list. Every gift helps bring joy, comfort, and hope to families who are working hard to build stability and independence.

You can browse [Wish Lists](#) and sign up to sponsor a family through our website.

Gift drop-off deadline: December 9, 2025 at 484 Kerr St., Oakville (Monday to Thursday, 9:30 AM – 5 PM). If you require an alternate drop-off day or time, please email Nikkian at NikkianH@HomeSuiteHope.org to coordinate!

How to Sponsor a Family:

1. Browse the family wish lists.
2. Click My Profile to view a family's details.
3. Click Sponsor Me to confirm your choice.
4. Click Sponsor and follow the prompts — this step only collects your contact information (no payment or credit card needed).
5. Click Complete Transaction to finish.

You'll receive a confirmation email from NikkianH@HomeSuiteHope.org with shopping details and drop-off instructions. ***Upon request tax receipts can be sent out in early 2026 but require all gift purchase receipts to be dropped off along with the gifts***



HOPE 4 HOLIDAYS 2025

DONATIONS & GIFT CARDS

HOUSEHOLD & GENERAL DONATIONS

Help us support families by donating much-needed household and personal care items. These donations go a long way in bringing comfort, stability, and dignity to single parents and their children throughout the year. Every item makes a difference and reminds our families that their community cares.



Donations can be dropped off at our office:

- 484 Kerr Street, Oakville Monday to Thursday, 9:30 AM – 5 PM

If you require an alternative drop-off day or time, please email Nikkian at NikkianH@HomeSuiteHope.org

Suggested Donation Kits:

- Hygiene Kits: Shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, etc.
- Self-Care Kits: Candle, journal & pen, note of appreciation, treats, etc.
- Menstrual Hygiene Kits: Pads, tampons, pantyliners, wipes.
- Infant Kits: Diapers, wipes.
- Household Essentials Kits: Toilet tissue/paper towels, dish soap, laundry detergent, etc.
- Holiday Stockings: For adults, children and teens

GIFT CARD DONATIONS

Gift cards are a meaningful way to help families meet their monthly needs and provide a sense of choice and independence. Your donation allows parents to purchase groceries, household essentials, and other essential items for their family. If you can help, please consider donating (but not limited to) Walmart, No Frills/President's Choice, gas, or Visa/MasterCard gift cards, as these are most helpful for our participants. Gift cards can be dropped off at our office (484 Kerr Street, Oakville, Monday to Thursday, 9:30 AM – 5 PM) or purchased online [DONATE GIFT CARDS](#)



GIVE TO HSH THROUGH OCF GIVEOAKVILLE 2025

Home Suite Hope is proud to be included in the **Oakville Community Foundation's (OCF) 2025 GIVEOakville Campaign** - which is almost here.

The **GIVEOakville 2025** runs **November 14 through December 8**.

During the campaign, people can browse the OCF's digital catalogue and select from dozens of local charities to support - including HSH.



The 2024 GIVEOakville Campaign inspired nearly \$1 million for local charities, including Home Suite Hope (HSH). In 2024, GIVEOakville raised more than \$860,000, which was donated through the campaign, and inspired a further \$86,000 from Foundation Fundholders, who directed additional grants to GIVEOakville charities during the campaign. Altogether \$946,000 was directed to Oakville charities.

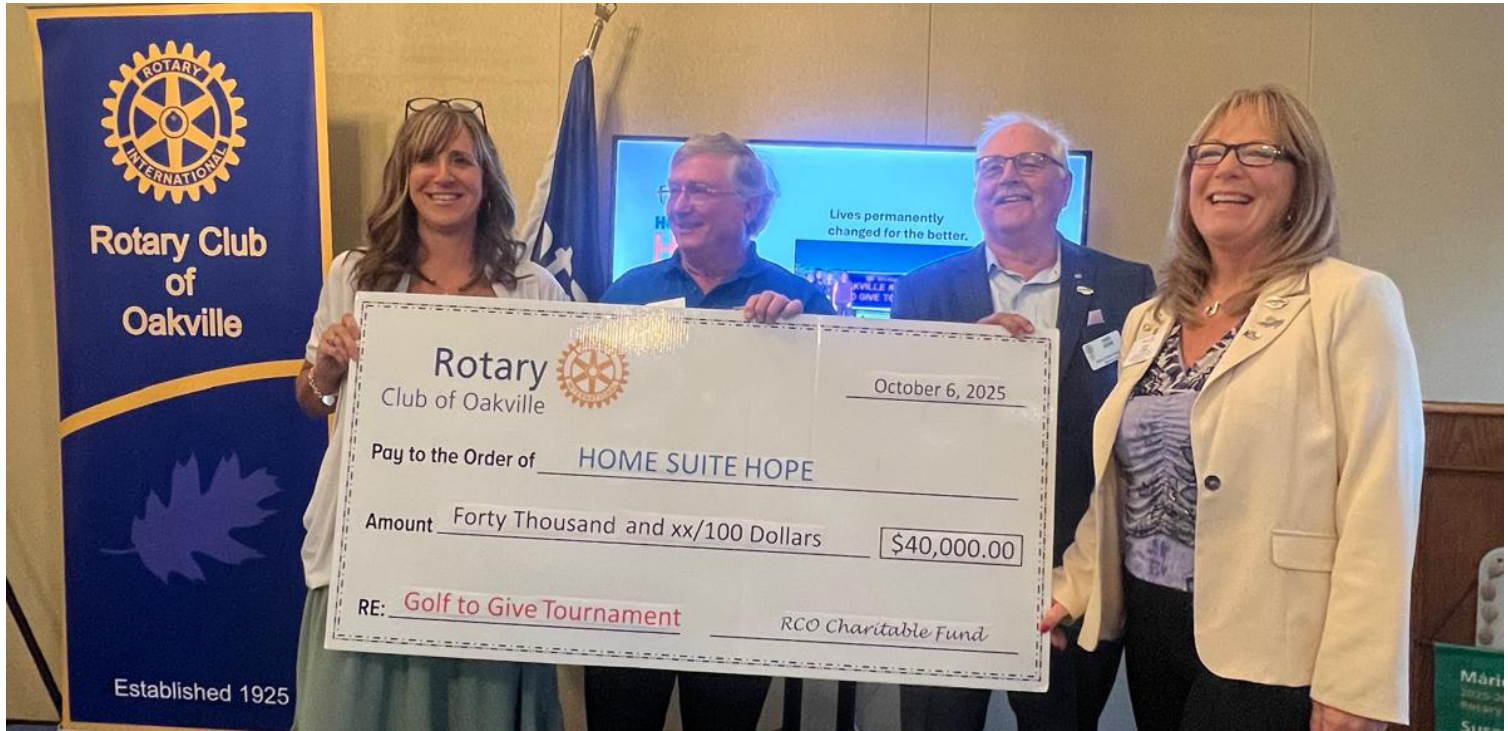
Those interested can also join **GIVEOakville LIVE!** on **Sunday, November 16** at **Appleby College**. Drop in between 1-3 p.m. and meet the GIVEOakville charities in person. Learn about some of the important work going on in the community and connect with others passionate about our community. [Register to attend](#)

You can also donate right now. The OCF has introduced the **GIVEOakville Fund**. The GIVE Oakville fund is open year-round so that you can continue to support the Foundation's annual campaign. Funds raised throughout the year will be distributed to local charities when GIVE Oakville closes. All money donated to this Fund will be allocated to the 2025 GIVEOakville charities. Your one donation can impact more than 50 local organizations doing incredible work in our community, such as Home Suite Hope.

[**GIVE TO GIVEOakville**](#)

Watch our social media Nov. 14 to link to the GIVEOakville 2025 guide as it is released to the public.

ROTARY TOURNAMENT:



HSH BENEFITS FROM GOLF TO GIVE

Home Suite Hope owes a huge thank-you to the **2025 Oakville Rotary's Centennial Golf to Give Tournament**.

A \$40,000 cheque – proceeds from the tournament donated to HSH – was accepted at the Rotary Club Of Oakville October club meeting by **HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming**, who attended along with **HSH Marketing & Events Coordinator Katelyn Zaoral**.

Thanks again to Rotary for the media exposure of the donation – and a boost to HSH's Nov. 2 Empty Bowls event at Appleby College. Thank you Rotary Oakville for including Home Suite Hope in this incredible event that supported both Rotary's Educational Bursary Program and Home Suite Hope's mission to help single-parent families in Halton move from homelessness to stability. Rotary Oakville is celebrating 100 years of Rotary in Oakville: committed to helping others and building a better community.

[Read the media coverage](#)





LOCAL BUSINESSES GIVE TO HELP HSH SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES



HSH is so grateful to receive donations of hygiene kits for our families from Kits for a Cause. HSH visited two organizations in October - **Aviva Oakville** and **Dillon Consulting Oakville** - both of which saw staff members volunteer their time to assemble the kits for our single parent families. It was also an opportunity for HSH Program Team staff to share information about Home Suite Hope and the impact the donations have on our families. We are thankful to all of the volunteers who took the time to pack the kits and thoughtfully write messages of support and encouragement to accompany each kit.

Thank you to the teams at Aviva Oakville and Dillon Consulting Oakville for their support.



GTAA SUPPORTS HSH

Home Suite Hope thanks the **Greater Toronto Apartment Association (GTAA) Charitable Foundation** for continuing its tradition of support. **HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming** and **Interim Director of Operations/Program Manager Nikkian Hanson-Daley** attended an **Oct. 30 GTAA Charitable Foundation dinner event in North York** to accept a \$20,000 donation in support of HSH programming. As funding for nonprofits grows continues to be elusive, HSH appreciates the GTAA's ongoing belief in and support of our work to move single parent families from poverty to stability. **Thank you!**



WORKING WITH THE ZONTA CLUB



HSH staff member **Caseworker Temisha Jacques** 'officially' joined the **Zonta Club of Oakville** in October at a club induction ceremony.

The Zonta Club of Oakville is a long-time supporter of HSH. It was founded in 1973 and consists of a small but vibrant group of professional women, that work to assist women in Halton and internationally. The Zonta Club of Oakville is proud of the many service, advocacy and education projects that it has been involved with. Service efforts by club members help a number of charities through the funds the club raises, and it also carries out its own service projects.



STAFF NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS CATHERINE!

MEET ATLAS

The HSH team celebrated the arrival of the newest member of the family for **HSH Director of Operations Catherine Villaseñor**.

Atlas Villaseñor arrived at 8:48 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

Atlas weighed in at 7 lbs. 4 oz. and is the second son of Catherine Villaseñor and her husband Danier. Atlas' arrival came none too soon for his very excited big brother Caidan.

Congratulations to **Catherine, her husband Danier and Caidan**.



Catherine is on maternity leave so all inquiries should be directed to **Nikkian Hanson-Daley, Program Manager and Interim Director of Operations** or **Executive Director Sara Cumming**.



STAFF UPDATES

CONGRATULATIONS MADDY

STEPPING UP

The HSH team welcomed **Madison (Maddy) Apold** as an intern this fall and is now congratulating her as she takes on expanded duties as **Program Coordinator**.

Madison has been working to boost awareness about HSH in the community through outreach to facilitate new program partnerships and use of communications tools such as social media to boost HSH's profile in the community.

Now, Maddy is also stepping in to assist the HSH Program Team by organizing socials, lending her talents to the holiday campaign and supporting program team members.

Madison is in her fourth year of the Bachelor of Community Safety program at **Sheridan College**. Her educational journey has been far from conventional — after beginning college in Vancouver and spending several years working full-time in Ontario, she chose to return to school with the goal of building a career dedicated to meaningful community impact.

Madison is also the proud mother of a lively one-year-old son, Oliver. She brings resilience, empathy, and lived experience to her work, qualities that enrich both her academic and professional pursuits. Passionate about women's rights and social justice, Madison is happy to further share her skills and perspectives with HSH.



PLEASE CHECK YOUR JUNK EMAIL!

Urgent call out to friends and supporters of HSH!

Please check your junk email as a new email security measure has mistakenly identified HSH as junk. As we enter our busiest season with **Empty Bowls** Nov. 2 at Appleby College and our **Hope 4 Holidays** campaign launched we need to get in touch with you!

Please check your junk email to see if you've missed any news from us.

HAVEN TO HOME (H2H)

HOME SUITE HOPE: THE NEXT STEP TO YOUR SAFE HAVEN.



HAVEN TO HOME (H2H)

Home Suite Hope and Halton Women's Place have partnered to provide specialized support for individuals impacted by gender-based violence.

PROGRAM SUPPORTS

- Secure affordable, and safe housing
- Up to one year of rental subsidy
- Essential Life-Skills training and workshops
- Employment & Professional Development supports
- Landlord engagement and housing navigation
- Personalized, client-driven case management

CONNECT WITH YOUR
HALTON WOMEN'S PLACE
WORKER TODAY!

To learn more
about program
options, for women and/or
single parent's contact
Home Suite Hope (HSH) at

905.339.2370
or
Programs@HomeSuiteHope.org

Statistics show over
50% of survivors of
Gender-Based
Violence struggle
to secure housing



Clients who
completed HSH
programs in 2024
are **90%** able to
sustain market rent
independently.



Eligibility

*For a complete list of eligibility criteria, contact with your HWP caseworker.

- ✓ Currently eligible for services from Halton Women's Place
- ✓ Must identify as a single woman with or without child(ren)
- ✓ 18+ years old
- ✓ Must be eligible to receive income supports and/or secure employment





ONGOING CAMPAIGN: SUPPORT THEIR JOURNEY

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 continue to run our **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

THANKS TO DOWNTOWN STARBUCKS

The **Downtown Oakville Starbucks** allowed HSH to post to its **Community Message Board**.

Not only does the posting help us spread awareness of Home Suite Hope's mission to move single parents from poverty to stability through wraparound support, education and employment - it was a great chance to remind the community about our upcoming signature fundraiser, **Empty Bowls**, taking place **Sunday, November 2 at Appleby College**. Starbucks is the official coffee and tea sponsor!

[Purchase Empty Bowls tickets](#)



Sheridan



CHANGING THE PATTERNS OF POVERTY TO A LEGACY OF PROSPERITY