

# HOME SUITE HOPE

A United Way Supported Agency



## Newsletter

### FEBRUARY 2026

Black History Month  
February 3 – Setsubun-sai (Shinto)  
February 14 – Valentine's Day  
February 16 – Family Day  
February 17 to March 3 – Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)  
February 17 to March 19 – Ramadan (Islam)  
February 17 – Shrove Tuesday (Christian)  
February 18 – Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins) (Christian)  
February 20 – World Day of Social Justice (UN)  
February 21 – International Mother Language Day (UN)



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TAYLER

"People think that young mums are bad mums, but I've sacrificed my entire life for my daughter. She doesn't lack anything in life. The bottom line is 'don't judge a book by its cover.'"

# FEBRUARY 2026

Lives permanently changed for the better



### WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS



Public Service

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## CONGRATULATIONS, SARA!

Home Suite Hope Executive Director Dr. Sara Cumming has been nominated in the YWCA Hamilton's 2026 Women of Distinction Awards. The awards ceremony is March 5 in celebration of International Women's Day. See inside for details

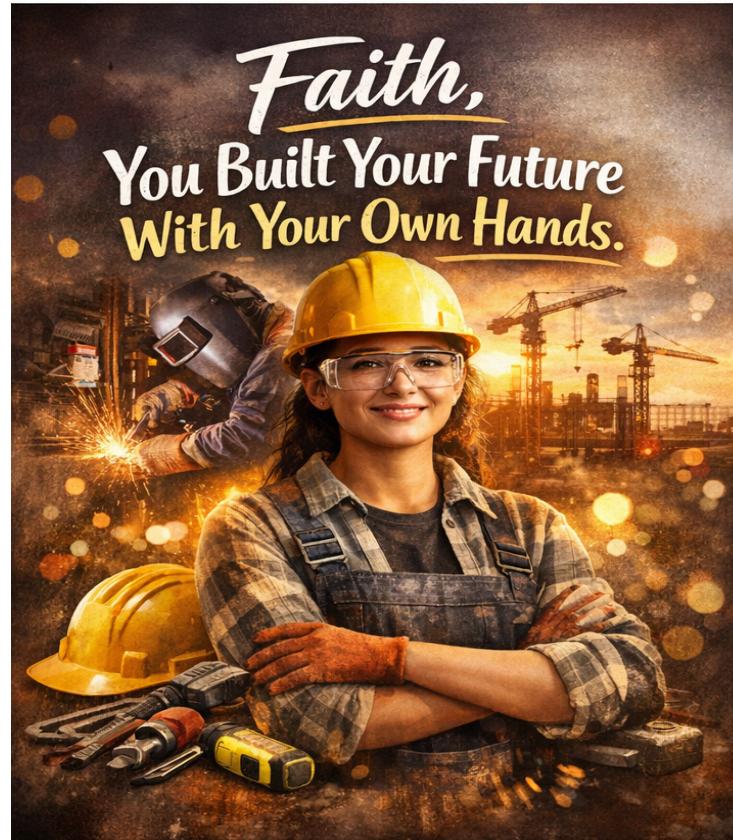
## HSH WELCOMES YOUR SUPPORT

Home Suite Hope receives no sustained government funding. It relies totally on grants, donations and fundraising. Please consider supporting HSH in its work to move single parents facing homelessness from poverty to stability.

[SUPPORT HSH](#)

# PARTICIPANT NEWS

## CONGRATULATIONS FAITH!



Congratulations on your graduation, Faith!

The skilled trades take strength, precision, courage, and heart—and you've shown all of that and more.

You didn't just study a trade... you mastered a craft, created opportunities, and proved that you're capable of building anything you dream of.

May this next chapter bring you steady success, meaningful work, and every tool you need to shape the life you want.

We're so proud of you. *Congratulations, Graduate!*



Dear Faith,

Congratulations again on your graduation!

This milestone reflects the dedication, perseverance, and effort you have demonstrated throughout your journey, and it is an achievement of which you should be very proud.

As you move forward toward your next goals, whether that includes further education, training, or entering the workforce, we encourage you to continue approaching each opportunity with the same commitment and determination that brought you to this point. We have every confidence in your ability to succeed and are excited to see where your next chapter leads.

Please accept our warmest congratulations, and our best wishes for continued success in all that lies ahead.

**The Home Suite Hope Team**

Read our blog post '[HSH participants build stability with skilled trades](#)'

# PARTICIPANT NEWS

## PUTTING SKILLS TO WORK



**A**s Faith, a new graduate in the skilled trades, Construction and Maintenance Electrician Pre-Apprentice Diploma program at the Skilled Trades College of Canada, explores educational and employment opportunities, she was quick to lend a hand to Home Suite Hope as the office had a mini makeover.

Faith, who says she has always had a knack for being handy and enjoys putting those skills to the test, braved cold temperatures and snowy weather to come to the HSH office, roll up her sleeves and both dismantle and then assemble desks as well as several storage units for the HSH team. She even slipped in a couple of repairs and to do's that had been in the works. Thank you Faith for your expertise and time!

## PARTICIPANTS CELEBRATE SUCCESS

**W**e are so proud of our participants currently attending school who are putting in the work and are excelling!

Participants received high eighties, mid-nineties, and even scores of 99 percent and 100 percent. Keep up the amazing work participants!

**Haley Weber, HSH Caseworker**

# STAFF NEWS

## SARA NOMINATED AS YWCA HAMILTON 2026 WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

**HSH Executive Director Dr. Sara Cumming** has been nominated in the YWCA Hamilton's 2026 Women of Distinction Awards.

The nominees were announced for the YWCA Hamilton's milestone 50th annual Women of Distinction Awards, presented by ArcelorMittal Dofasco at the **Nominees Reception** Jan. 20 at Hamilton's The Waterfront Centre. The Awards ceremony is March 5 in recognition of International Women's Day 2026.

Hamilton and Halton community members have nominated 73 exceptional women and girls across nine award categories. These leaders, innovators, and trailblazers are creating legacies that will shape the future of our community.

Sara attended the Nominees Reception alongside **HSH Interim Director of Operations/Program Manager Nikkian Hanson-Daley**. This is not the first time Sara has been nominated as a Woman of Distinction. The recent reception provided an important opportunity for nominees to meet one another, connect with local trailblazers, and celebrate the impact they are making in the community.

The YWCA Hamilton Women of Distinction Awards honours women and girls whose leadership and impact create lasting change in Hamilton and Halton. The awards ceremony in celebration of International Women's Day, will recognize these women and their achievements — while raising vital funds to empower women, girls, and gender-diverse people. The awards boast numerous nominees across a variety of categories including: Arts & Culture; Community Champion; Education/Training; Health/Wellness; Innovation in Business; Public Service and Stem/Trades as well as Young Trailblazer and Lifetime Achievement.

Sara was nominated by **Adine Carter, Vice President, Corporate Affairs at ARGO Development Corp.** Sara is a nominee in the **Public Service** category, which honours a woman who has demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and impact in her role serving the public good in the community. As a community leader, she shows compassion and ethical responsibility in her service to others. She champions inclusivity and equity and makes significant contributions that enhance the lives of women, girls, and gender-diverse people.



# STAFF NEWS

## NOMINATED IN PUBLIC SERVICE CATEGORY

As a community leader, she shows compassion and ethical responsibility in her service to others. She champions inclusivity and equity and makes significant contributions that enhance the lives of women, girls, and gender-diverse people.

Sara was born to a 16-year-old single mother, raised on social assistance and eventually earned her PhD in Sociology, focusing on understanding and dismantling the systemic barriers that keep women and families trapped in cycles of poverty.

She has secured nearly \$2 million in research funding to tackle complex social problems affecting women here in Halton and as far away as Kenya. As ED of Home Suite Hope, Sara leads a transformative, four-year wrap-around program that has moved 118 single mother-led families from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

The awards gala is Thursday March 5, 2026 at Hamilton Convention Centre by Carmen's, 1 Summers Lane, Hamilton ON. A 6-7 p.m. cocktail reception will be followed by the Awards Gala Dinner 7-9 p.m.

[\*\*Purchase Tickets\*\*](#)



# STAFF NEWS

## WELCOMING NEW FACES AT HSH

### MEET KADIAN

My name is **Kadian Thompson**, and I am a Social Service Worker practicum student from **Northern College**, completing my placement with Home Suite Hope.

I am grateful for the opportunity to learn within an organization that is deeply committed to dignity, stability, and long-term housing solutions for women.

I am particularly drawn to Home Suite Hope's holistic and relationship-based approach, which recognizes the complexity of housing insecurity and the importance of meeting individuals with compassion, consistency, and respect. Through my studies, I have developed a strong interest in trauma-informed practice, advocacy, and strengths-based support, and value work that centres client voice and lived experience.

I tend to be quiet and observant at first, but I am very willing to engage, ask questions, and contribute. I approach this placement with curiosity, accountability, and a strong desire to learn.



### MEET JANE

**Jane Yrenaya** is working remotely on a special project with HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming and Interim Director of Operations Nikkian Hanson-Daley.

Jane brings over 20 years of experience in **Human Resources and Learning & Development**, where she has dedicated her career to helping individuals and organizations thrive. In her current role as a Client Success Manager with a leading leadership development company, Jane partners with organizations to build leadership capability and cultivate work cultures where people flourish.

Having worked internationally across Canada, Bermuda, New York, the UK, and Abu Dhabi/Dubai, Jane draws on her diverse global experience to bring cultural intelligence and a broad perspective to her work. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Human Resources. Committed to lifelong learning, Jane has earned a Diversity & Inclusion for HR Certificate from Cornell University, is certified in Psychological Safety through Leader Factor, and is currently pursuing her Master's in Organizational Leadership.



At the heart of Jane's work is her core belief everyone deserves to work in an environment that enables them to flourish and bring their best selves forward. She believes when people are empowered to express their authentic strengths and talents, they live wholeheartedly and make meaningful contributions to their teams, organizations, and communities.

# FUNDRAISING UPDATES

## COMING MAY 2026

Join us for an elegant afternoon of tea, treats, and Bingo as we come together to support single-parent-led families in our community.

We're currently seeking exciting bingo prizes — from sporting event tickets and luxury handbags to spa experiences and more.

Prize donations are eligible for a tax receipt and help make this event truly special.

For more information about donating a prize, please contact HSH Fundraising & Events Coordinator [Katelyn Zaoral](#)



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## HSH HAS A RESOURCE HUB

**Home Suite Hope Resource Hub** is a welcoming space for clients, organizations, and community partners to connect, learn, and share.

It brings people and information together — from life skills and employment to housing, children, and wellness supports — helping our community grow stronger, together.

As the Community Resource Hub establishes and expands, stay tuned to our social media and our website for updates.

[Visit HSH Resource Hub](#)

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## NONPROFIT WEEK FEB. 15-21

February 15th to 21st is **Ontario Nonprofit Appreciation Week**.

Home Suite Hope is one of those non-profits making an impact in the community. This is our 21st year working to support single parents move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

We are a member of **Community Development Halton** and the **Impact Halton Coalition** and are a **United Way Halton Hamilton**-supported agency.

We invite you to learn more about what we do at [HomeSuiteHope.org](http://HomeSuiteHope.org)

Nearly 850,000 nonprofit workers are dedicated to serving, connecting, and supporting all Ontarians.

- Nonprofit workers provide essential services, such as childcare, long-term care, shelters, community health centres, seniors support, and more.

- Much of the work is done by women workers who are the majority of the nonprofit workforce (77 per cent).
- Nonprofit workers are your neighbours, your friends, your family, and your community leaders.

Ontario's 58,000 nonprofits help to create healthy and thriving communities and contribute \$65 billion to the economy.

- Ontario's nonprofit sector is diverse – from arts and culture, housing, sports and recreation, faith, child development, community health care, the environment, and more.
- Nonprofits are leading advocacy and change for a better, greener, more equitable economy and inclusive society.

In Halton we have a nonprofit coalition - ImpactHaltonCoalition

There are close to 1,000 nonprofits in Halton, supporting community health, creating opportunities through sport, recreation and culture, protecting our environment, welcoming newcomers, and supporting the well-being of residents from all walks of life.

Nonprofits are essential community infrastructure in Halton. Learn more about Impact Halton Coalition at Impact Halton Coalition/CDH and learn about the work of the Coalition advocating for new funding models, policies that recognize the challenges faced by the workforce and need for deeper collaboration with decision-makers.

### Appreciation Week

February 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

***Nonprofits provide essential community infrastructure!***



*Learn more about nonprofit advocacy in Halton & join us: [cdhalton.ca/impact-halton-coalition](http://cdhalton.ca/impact-halton-coalition)*

# HSH IN THE COMMUNITY NEW: HAVEN TO HOME (H2H)

Thanks to funding from the Ontario government and in partnership with Halton Women's Place (HWP), Home Suite Hope welcomed a new program, **Haven to Home (H2H)**.

This program became a reality in July 2025 and offers specialized support for individuals impacted by gender-based violence.

H2H assists program participants to secure affordable, safe housing and provides up to one year of rental subsidy.

It also offers wraparound support that includes life skills training and workshops, employment and professional development supports, landlord engagement and housing navigation and personalized client-driven case management.

Eligibility is for those eligible for services from Halton Women's Place, must identify as a single woman with or without children, be over 18 years old and must be eligible to receive income supports and or have secure employment.

For more information, visit  
[HomeSuiteHope.org](https://HomeSuiteHope.org)

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



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**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](mailto: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, connect 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





**Sheridan**



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