

JUNE 2024

Pride Month
National Indigenous History
Month

June 12 – World Day Against
Child Labour (UN)

June 16 – Eid al Adha (to
June 19) (Islam)

June 18 – Father's Day

June 20 – World Refugee Day

June 21 – National
Indigenous Peoples Day

June 23 – United Nations
Public Service Day

June 27 – Multiculturalism
Day (Gov't of Canada)

JUNE 2024

Creating lasting change, one family at a time

UNDER THE 'B' A BONUS FOR HSH



Home Suite Hope thanks **Wishlist Group** for hosting a **Luxury Bingo** benefitting HSH at **Community Resto** on May 28.
See more inside.

A BBQ FOR VOLUNTEERS!

We are excited to host an HSH Volunteer Appreciation BBQ and 20th Anniversary Celebration! This event is our way of expressing gratitude for volunteers and their continued support and dedication to fostering positive change in our community. The BBQ is Thursday, June 13 from 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m. at Kerr Street Mission, 2nd floor patio - 485 Kerr St, Oakville.



PARTICIPANT UPDATES



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Home Suite Hope thanks **The Purse Project Network Hamilton/Halton**, co-organizers **Jill MacKellar** and **Gayla Matos** – and all the people who donated gorgeous purses packed with all kinds of goodies – so the single moms of HSH's programs could receive a great gift for Mother's Day! The Purse Project Network is an ongoing supporter of HSH and the single parents we serve. This donation was definitely a special treat for our moms on their special day!

SPRING CLEAN-UP DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JUNE 14

There is still time to donate to HSH's **Spring Clean-Up Donation Drive** to collect donations of used clothing, shoes, books, children's toys, household linens and household decor.

And we need volunteers with a vehicle who can do some lifting to help us take donations from storage to weigh-in on June 20 between 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

We have extended our original **deadline to donate to June 14**. All donations will be collected and brought to a local **Value Village** to be weighed. All proceeds from the sale of the items will directly support HSH's wraparound supports for single-parent families. HSH will be paid the following for the items we collect: Clothing: 20 cents per pound; Small housewares: 10 cents per pound; Books: 10 cents per pound; Furniture: 5 cents per item; Other large items: 5 cents per item. Please box (household items) or bag (soft items) your donations, and email KatelynZ@HomeSuiteHope.org to schedule a time to drop off your donations. Let's rally together to reach our goal of raising \$3,000 for Home Suite Hope. That's about 750 Large Yard Bags (avg. 20 lbs.) and 225 medium boxes (household goods)!



Contact KatelynZ@homesuitehope.org



THANK YOU

Thanks again to **U-Haul Moving & Storage of Oakville** for their generous contribution of a storage unit for our donation drive! The support means all donations to our drive are being stored in their easily-accessible, climate controlled, spacious units.

NEWS FROM OUR PARENTS

GRADS, JOBS & OFFERS OF ADMISSION

We are preparing to officially recognize HSH graduates this month. We have **six participants graduating** from their college program. Of the six, four have successfully completed the Office Admin Executive program at Sheridan. Congratulations!



The offers of admission are also rolling in as already two of HSH's first-year participants have received offers to study in their first choice of programs at Sheridan College. Similarly, two program graduates are currently involved in interviews and a third has landed a job tailor-made for her and her family. Way to go HSH grads and new participants!



SPECIAL DAYS



Home Suite Hope and its new partner, **Cakes2Connect**, continue to celebrate our participants' birthdays. Cakes2Connect provides and delivers a cake to HSH to recognize these special days.

Cakes2Connect is an Oakville-based nonprofit venture that provides homemade birthday cakes to women who deserve to be celebrated on their special day! HSH is grateful for this new partnership that is proving a success with our moms - and their families.



ALUMNI UPDATE



ALUMNI SOCIAL



HSH hosted its annual Alumni Social Dinner on the evening of May 17 at Montana's Burlington.

It was an opportunity for active participants in HSH programming and alumni of the program to connect, network and enjoy a mom's night out. The social was a means for current participants to hear about the experiences of past HSH participants and their time while in the program.

Attendees enjoyed a relaxing dinner in the company of HSH Program Manager Nikkian and Caseworkers Haley Weber and Jovelle Reid, as well as program alumni, and the chance to engage in lively conversation while learning from one another's personal and professional journeys at HSH.

WISHLIST FUNDRAISER

LUXURY BINGO

Wishlist Group hosted a fun night of networking, friendly games, and drinks and appetizers in support of Home Suite Hope on May 28.

The **Luxury Bingo** fundraiser took place at **Community Resto** in the heart of Kerr Village and offered an opportunity to win luxury accessories and experiences while raising funds for HSH programming!

Over \$5,000 in prizes were up to be won, including items from Coach, Kate Spade, Michael Kors, SPINCO Oakville, Yellow Door Wellness Studio, the Blue Jays Blueprint Club and Bradford Portraits! We thank all those individuals and companies that donated prizes for the special event.



A word of thanks from Katelyn

On behalf of Home Suite Hope, I would like to sincerely thank you all for your generous participation and unwavering support at (the) Luxury Bingo event!

Without the enthusiasm and generosity of individuals like yourselves at our events, Home Suite Hope would not be celebrating the milestone of its 20th anniversary. We thank you for continuing to step up to support us and the lives of the single-parent families we serve. The impact of your contribution will be felt by the countless families who benefit from the resources and assistance Home Suite Hope provides.



We are truly humbled to have allies like you by our side in our mission to break the cycle of generational poverty. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to further engage with our organization. We would be delighted to discuss future opportunities for collaboration and involvement.

With deepest appreciation,

- Katelyn Zaoral
HSH Marketing & Events Coordinator

LUXURY BINGO



INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH



June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada, a time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

CASSANDRA'S STORY

Sheridan College Social Service Worker (SSW) intern Cassandra Charles joined HSH in January as a new practicum student. "I am an outgoing, but shy individual, who comes from a mostly Indigenous background with a little European in there. I have also played soccer my whole life, as it is one of my biggest passions. I am all about hearing people's stories and keeping an open mind to life's journey and providing the best case management support to HSH families."

- Cassandra



Cassandra, a 20-year-old Sheridan College SSW student has been with HSH since January 2024. As she works towards obtaining her diploma and gaining social work experience with the HSH team, her future hope is to build a career serving and supporting Indigenous Peoples and the Indigenous Community.

She shared challenges the Indigenous community often face, mentioning, "My mom said the people often struggle and do not have the resources and mental health supports they need."

Cassandra recognizes her Indigenous heritage through her Dad, of the Chippewas of Geogina Island, an Anishnaabe Nation. However, she also credits her mom, who is of European decent, for being instrumental in fostering her relationship with her Indigenous identity. Her mother stays in touch with Patti Big Canoe, an Education Lead, who helps Cassandra navigate the complexities of her Indigenous identity and engages in discussions of how it relates to her studies.

INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

Being proud and open about her Indigenous identity was not always true for Cassandra. While she has fond memories of her paternal grandma's home adorned with pictures of wolves and dreamcatchers, there was not a lot of exposure to her culture nor a connect to her community. Upon learning of her own roots, Cassandra didn't find any particular meaning to her identity, expressing, "When I was young, I didn't think it mattered... a background is a background."



However, as time passed, Cassandra not only became curious, but began to notice patterns and barriers in her everyday experience, especially in her years of high school and college. From the tiresome comments like, "You don't look Indigenous," to navigating rules surrounding her rights to her Indigenous Status for not just herself but future children when pursuing being legally adopted by a non-Indigenous father figure, to hearing more about land acknowledgements and Indigenous history.

Cassandra found resources through Sheridan's Centre of Indigenous Learning and Support, and has been grateful for additional resources she's come to learn of while working at HSH and with Indigenous clients. Cassandra is eager to learn more about her history and community, and is excited of the prospects for building a future career.

LEARN MORE

June is **National Indigenous History Month in Canada** and there is an **Indigenous Canada** free upcoming webinar on the topic of Indigenous community engagement, hosted by the Faculty of Native Studies and CPHR Alberta (Chartered Professionals in Human Resources). Join in June 13 to learn from faculty and alumni, Drs. Matthew Wildcat and Shalene Jobin, Brent Boisvert and Jenna (JJ) Broomfield. More information and registration details are [here](https://www.cphrab.ca/professional-development/indigenous-community-engagement): <https://www.cphrab.ca/professional-development/indigenous-community-engagement>

Also, if you are looking for more learning topics from the Faculty of Native Studies, visit its [website](https://www.ualberta.ca/native-studies/programs/continuing-education/index.html) to learn about and register for courses offered this summer.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/native-studies/programs/continuing-education/index.html>

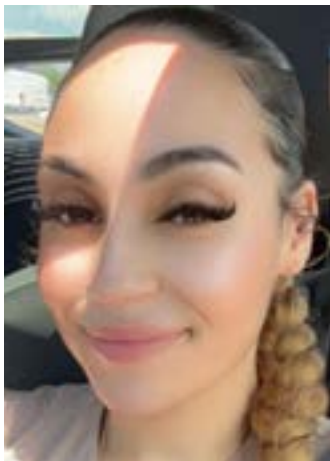
STAFF IN THE COMMUNITY

SARA SPEAKS TO ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Oakville invited Sara to share her story at a May 27 Oakville Rotary Club meeting at the Oakville Golf Club - and Club President Mahendra Shah presented HSH with a \$6,200 cheque to support the moving costs, technology and basic supports of two new families entering HSH's programming. Sara will also make a keynote address at an upcoming Rotary Scholarship event. Sara is an engaging keynote speaker and just about the best representative for HSH as she shares her story of being a single mom, obtaining her PhD and now being a Sheridan College professor and the Executive Director of HSH.



INTERN FROM SHERIDAN COLLEGE



Welcome to HSH! Kayla Gardener has joined the team. Kayla is with HSH from May 2024 – August 2024 as an intern from the Bachelor of Community and Development program at Sheridan College.

“Hello everyone! My name is Kayla and I am a new intern student at Home Suite Hope. Very excited to learn new skills, work with new people, and make a difference in the Home Suite Hope community. I am a conscientious, caring professional with extensive experience advocating for the social and economic well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

I am a recent SSW (Social Service Worker) graduate and am currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Community and Social Development at Sheridan College.

I have great skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, research, planning and much more. I enjoy working with others and learning new processes and skills. I have a three-year-old daughter who keeps me busy on my days off. I enjoy cooking and spending valuable time with my loved ones. I am dedicated to supporting families and youths through transformative interventions, making a difference in our communities, and beyond and am excited to be working with HSH.”

- Kayla

STAFF IN THE COMMUNITY



HSH AT BURLINGTON MAYOR'S EVENT

On May 27 at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre, **Burlington Mayor**

Marianne Meed Ward launched a **Speaker Series** with an event focused on affordable housing featuring guest speaker **Jennifer Keesmaat**. HSH's Director of Operations Catherine Villasenor represented Home Suite Hope at the event and the preceding tradeshow of industry experts and community groups, including HSH, the Halton Region and Habitat for Humanity.

The event featured the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Business and Red Tape Reduction Councillor Kelvin Galbraith, with urban planner Jennifer Keesmaat, who was named one of the "most powerful people in Canada" by *Maclean's*, one of the "most influential" by *Toronto Life*, and one of the top Women of Influence in Canada. Jennifer spent five years as the City of Toronto's Chief City Planner, where she was celebrated for her forward thinking and collaborative approach to city-building.

Event attendees were updated on upcoming housing, community development and growth projects in Burlington, but also challenged with envisioning a city where affordable housing existed and housing was accessible to everyone – not a reality of today, but absolutely attainable in the future if we adopted more innovative ways of addressing housing, used land efficiently, built homes based on the need, and focused on eliminating the need for shelters and transitional housing.

The event was called **Making Housing Affordable: What We Can Do in Burlington.**

STAFF UPDATES



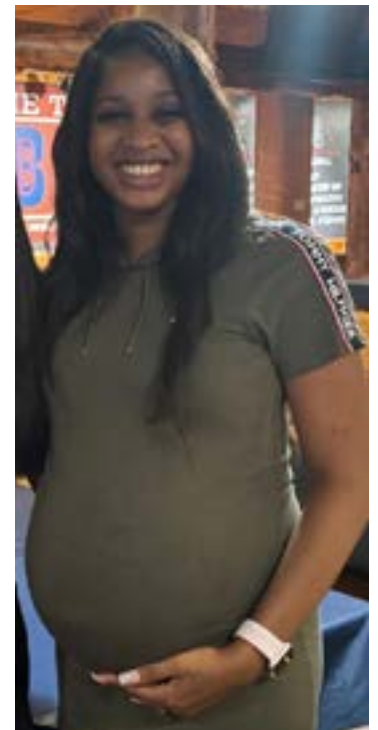
EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP

On May 29, HSH hosted a **Welcome to the Employment Phase Workshop** at the **Centre for Skills Development in Burlington**. Facilitated by HSH Program Manager Nikkian Hanson-Daley, it introduced graduating participants to the employment phase of HSH's program. The workshop included an employment preparation presentation regarding intensive job search and was attended by members of the Industry Council, HSH student interns and caseworkers. HSH participants also gave a quick 'elevator

pitch' to the Industry Council members about why they should be hired, and received feedback from the council and HSH employees. Staff at the Centre gave a tour of the on-site Resource Centre and a presentation about the services and support offered there.

NIKKIAN PREPARING TO BE A MOM

Program Manager at HSH Nikkian Hanson-Daley and her husband Oshane are preparing to become new parents very soon. Nikkian is expecting a baby girl this month and everyone at HSH couldn't be more happy for her and Oshane. We are all awaiting the big day and wish the growing family all the very best!



LIFE SKILLS EVENT

INVESTMENTS WORKSHOP

Home Suite Hope hosted a Life Skills youth-informed **Investments and Financial Literacy Workshop** on Friday, May 17 at the **YMCA of Oakville**. The session was facilitated by **Donna McKenzie and Shara Carr from S.O.S Financial Group**.

Attendees took advantage of the opportunity to learn various financial literacy skills and tips on planning for themselves and their families. A range of topics was presented to the audience, such as: building their financial house, budgeting, methods to debt elimination and the importance of investing in savings accounts and diverse investment plans.



FUNDING NEWS

VALUABLE DONATIONS



HSH moms not only received purses for Mother's Day, but also paper goods - toilet tissue and paper towels - thanks to the generosity of HSH's newest Board Member **Val Del Hierro** and her employer **Irving Consumer Products**.

SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

Participant needs are unique, and from time-to-time, HSH runs 'special projects,' which are pilot projects or focused fundraising campaigns to seek out supports to address unforeseen challenges and gaps in social services. Among such special projects over the past years have included the summer Cabin Retreat weekend that offered participants a weekend camp trip, the Running on Empty campaign to help with rising gas prices, the fundraising efforts that helped HSH secure an accessible vehicle to transport the mom of a quadriplegic child so they could participate in HSH festivities, or the pilot project that brought an in-house psychotherapist and since has proven in-house psychotherapy supports encourage active program participation and better access to mental health supports.



ZONTA
CLUB OF
OAKVILLE
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

All of these projects and needs have been fulfilled thanks to the continued support of our community and champions, such as the Zonta Club of Oakville, the Lions Club of Oakville, and individual donors (long-time and new) who continue to answer the call and fuel the needs of the participant and organization. HSH is grateful for all the support!



HSH INDUSTRY COUNCIL

EMPLOYMENT CONNECTIONS

Home Suite Hope's **Industry Council** plays a critical role in the development and success of the Homeward Bound Halton program.

This group of senior executives with decision-making authority from a variety of fields support the professional advancement of participants in the program. The Industry Council is made up of representatives from private sector businesses, non-profit and public sector employers, community champions with influence in the local community and representatives from employment services at the local college, municipality or in community services.



We have some amazing volunteers who give their time to participate on the Industry Council. Here, we highlight - and thank - our 2024 Industry Council representatives.

HSH INDUSTRY COUNCIL 2024

Sydney Weston, Account Manager, Rising Recruiters

Joanna Puchalski, Senior Manager of Tax Transformation & Technology, PWC

John Fleming, Retired, Job Connector, Council member of Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW)

Hugo Breton, Business Coach, Founder of Action COACH Halton

Jason Lewis, Lawyer, Associate General Counsel, Lafarge Canada

Karen Grant, VP of Operations, Teladoc Health

Mark McLaughlin, Retired, Accountant

Cheryl Pitt, Retired, Pharmaceutical industry, Entrepreneur

Melinda Tarantino, Teacher, Halton District School Board

Val Del Hierro, Vice President of Sales Strategy & Planning, Irving Consumer Products

Susanne Sores, Interim Associate Dean, SCLS, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Sheridan College

Celine Chiovitti, Executive Vice President & Head of Pensions, OMERS

Audrey Bailey, Bilingual Real Estate Sales Representative, Co-Founder The MINK Group

Dara Marcoccia, Vice President, People Experience and Chief Human Resources Officer, Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre

Laura Edge, Curriculum Consultant, Sheridan College

Jennifer Mcleod, Life Coach; Author, Sales Consultant, Canadian Company

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

BUDGETING: NEW BEGINNINGS Youth-Informed WORKSHOP



Would you like to feel more confident about your spending? The first step is to **learn how to budget**. Lets find a strategy that will work well for you and start on the path towards saving more and stressing less. Home Suite Hope is hosting a **youth-informed** budgeting workshop led by Lauren Cihosky from the YMCA of Burlington!

LIGHT
REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE PROVIDED!



Monday, June 3rd, 2024



4:00 PM - 6:00 PM



YMCA of Oakville, 410 Rebecca Street, Oakville, ON, L6K 1K7



Join Us!

To register, please email
jovellerehomesuitehope.org by
May 31st, 2024



Visit our Social Media for more information:

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