

Newsletter

APRIL 2024

April 1 – Easter Monday

April 2 – World Autism Awareness Day (UN)

April 7 – World Health Day (UN)

April 9 – Hindu New Year; Eid al Fitr (sunset to April 10) (Islam)

April 12 – International Day of Pink

April 14 – Baisakhi (New Year) (Sikh)

April 21 – Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)

April 22 – Pesach (Passover – to April 30) (Judaism)

April 28 – National Day of Mourning (Gov't of Canada); Palm Sunday (Orthodox); World Day for Safety and Health at Work

FRESH FUNDRAISER BENEFITS HSH



Home Suite Hope was at **Fresh Kitchen & Juice Bar** in downtown Oakville as it hosted a fundraiser to benefit HSH throughout March. **See more inside.**

SEEKING LUXE DONATIONS!

HSH is seeking donations of new luxury accessories, experiences, and items for an upcoming Bingo fundraising event (items such as purses, wallets, jewelry, luggage, housewares). Items must be new, with proof of purchase receipt. In-kind donations are eligible for a full tax receipt.

If you are interested in donating, please contact KatelynZ@HomeSuiteHope.org



PARTICIPANT UPDATE



MAKING THEIR MARK

Two Home Suite Hope program participants are successfully achieving their post-secondary goals and are doing so with awesome marks.

Homeward Bound Halton participant **Brittany** is a first-year welding student and is off to an amazing start as she is holding one of the highest grades in her math course: 95%.

Way to go Brittany!

Kristina, a Stabilizing First Halton Participant, is excelling in her preparatory program at Sheridan College. She has an overall grade of 98% in her courses.

Congratulations Kristina!

MOVIE NIGHT SOCIAL

It was **Movie Night** recently for an HSH Participant Social. A private screening of *Mean Girls* (the original, as selected by the moms) was served along with popcorn, chicken fingers and soft drinks. Everyone said they had a blast hanging out together and said they always have fun at HSH socials. This event proved to be a nice break for our single parents.



PARTICIPANT NEWS



HIGH-FLYING FAMILY FUN FOR MARCH BREAK

On March 14th, 2024, HSH participants took part in a **March Break Family** event and it did not disappoint!

Parents and their children bounced the night away at **Aerosports Trampoline Park** in Oakville.

There was sliding, climbing, and, of course, lots of jumping!

It was a fantastic time and Home Suite Hope's Program Team is grateful to all of the participants who were able to attend and share in the fun.

Looking forward to our next event already!



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



International Women's Day



International Women's Day



#InspireInclusion
#IWD2024

100WWCB EVENT IN BURLINGTON



#InspireInclusion
#IWD2024

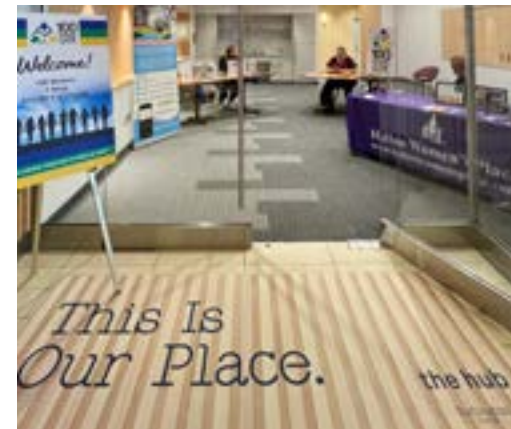
On Friday, March 8 - International Women's Day 2024 - the Home Suite Hope Program Team joined 100 Women Who Care Burlington (100WWCB) at Burlington Centre's The Hub to share its message.



It joined Halton Women's Place, which, like HSH, has been supported by 100WWCB.

HSH is grateful to 100WWCB for its support as well as the recent opportunity to connect with other agencies and members of the public. HSH works every day for the benefit of women and their children through #InspireInclusion. Women's success is everyone's success!

To learn more about HSH, visit our website at HomeSuiteHope.org.



HSH TEAMS UP WITH FRESH KITCHEN & JUICE BAR



FOR FUNDRAISER

Stopping by the **Fresh Kitchen + Juice Bar Oakville** and treating yourself or a friend to the Hello Gorgeous power shake benefitted Home Suite Hope throughout the month of March.



For every **'Hello Gorgeous'** power shake purchased all month, Fresh Kitchen + Juice Bar Oakville donated \$1 towards local women's housing programs to help drive awareness and financial support.

Home Suite Hope is honoured and truly thankful to have been chosen as the official donation recipient from Fresh's Oakville location.



COMING IN APRIL: HATS OFF TO VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU

April is **Volunteer Appreciation Month** in Canada.

HSH joins the community in sending a huge thank-you to all those who help out with their time, talent and expertise throughout the year. We couldn't do what we do without their assistance.

Please stay tuned as HSH joins local officials in recognizing outstanding volunteers later this month.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Audrey Bailey is one example of a passionate and dedicated volunteer who wholeheartedly advocates for Home Suite Hope. With unwavering commitment and a tireless spirit, Audrey has been instrumental in raising awareness and championing Home Suite Hope's mission to create positive change in the lives of those in need. She goes above and beyond to educate herself about the pressing issues we address, ensuring she can effectively convey the importance of our work and the transformative power it holds. Audrey graciously donates her time to participate in Home Suite Hope's Industry Council, a group of business reps who coach and network as our participants job search after

graduation. Audrey also volunteers at our various events, leveraging her connections to elevate the experiences. Audrey's efforts are truly inspiring, and her dedication and compassion serve as a shining example for us all.

GET INVOLVED WITH HOME SUITE HOPE

There are a variety of ways for people to get involved with HSH- and we really count on those who do give of their time and talents. Community and school groups, businesses (large & small) and individuals can do anything from organize a drive, donate individually, help out when HSH puts out calls to action or requests volunteers, sponsor families or help with gift wrapping at the holidays, lend a hand at our events such as Empty Bowls, step up with their own ideas or roll up their sleeves at Blueberry Fields, our community garden.

For information or to connect with HSh volunteer opportunities, contact volunteers@homesuitehope.org.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

APPEAL FOR DONATIONS!



Spring is here! We're reaching out to our amazing community for assistance in gathering cleaning supplies and tissue products (toilet paper & paper towels) for the single-parent families we serve.

Laundry detergent and tissue products are among the most expensive items on a family's grocery list. This cost seems even heavier when relying on a single-income.

If you happen to have any extra detergent or tissue products, or have the means to purchase extra, we encourage you to consider donating to help those in need.

Email Nikkian at NikkianH@HomeSuiteHope.org to schedule a drop-off.

If you are not near our drop-off point (Oakville), we also gladly accept monetary donations through [CanadaHelps](https://www.canadahelps.org)

Please earmark it for 'Area of Greatest Need.'

CLEANING SUPPLIES

Home Suite Hope is in need of the following cleaning supplies:

- paper towels (most sought after)
- toilet paper (most sought after)
- laundry detergent (most sought after)
- all purpose cleaners
- bleach
- bathroom cleaners
- disinfectant
- degreasers
- floor cleaner

HOME SUITE
HOPE

SPRING IS IN THE AIR TIME TO CLEAN UP

TO BENEFIT HSH

Home Suite Hope is hosting a drive to collect donations of used clothing, shoes, books, children's toys, household linens, household decor, and most things that you find at your local thrift store.

As you are decluttering your home this spring, we urge you to think of donating the items to HSH. All items donated **from now until May 1** 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.

Get your school, sports teams, clubs, and family involved to help us excel with our efforts! And to all of our Realtor friends, let your clients know that we are able to pick up any soft goods and small household items that they are getting rid of before listing their home or moving!

Let's rally together as a community to help us reach our goal of raising \$3,000 for Home Suite Hope. To quantify that, it's about 750 Large Yard Bags (avg. 20 lbs.) and 225 medium boxes (household goods)!

Let's do this Halton! Contact KatelynZ@homesuitehope.org

HOME SUITE HOPE

Make a Difference with Your Spring Cleaning!

What You Can Donate:

- Clothes
- Shoes
- Books
- Children's Toys
- Linens
- Household decor
- + most things that you find at your local thrift store

Collecting Donations Until:
May 1st

Drop off point:
484 Kerr St, Oakville, ON
* by appointment only

Contact KatelynZ@HomeSuiteHope.org
for more information!

BOARD & STAFF NEWS

About Home Suite Hope

Who do we serve?

Single-parent families who are experiencing homelessness, at-risk of homelessness or precariously housed within Halton Region

What are we?

- Wraparound service
- We are an employment-based program that sees education to the means to stable employment, which will lead to independence.



The Program House/Map



What Programs do we Offer?

The Rental Housing Market Today

Average Rental Price of 1-Bedroom (2019) Report from the Halton Region

	2019 (Jan)	Jan 2020
Overall	N/A	\$1,843.00
Bedroom	\$1,200.00	\$1,499.00
One Bedroom	\$1,600.00	\$1,875.00
Two Bedroom	\$1,800.00	\$1,999.00
Three Bedroom	\$1,900.00	\$2,000.00

2024 Fundraising Plans



The Partners In Change Campaign



Important Partnerships

** Major partners whose rules and regulations must be always adhered to



BOARD LEARNING SESSION

Board members and staff recently met at **ACE Coworking's** Trafalgar Road location in downtown Oakville for a Board Learning session. HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming; Director of Operations Catherine Villasenor; Program Manager Nikkian Hanson; and, Marketing & Events Coordinator Katelyn Zaoral led staff presentations to the non-profit agency's volunteer Board members.

HSH has welcomed several new Board members over the past year and it was a valuable opportunity to share information about what HSH is, who it assists and how it does so with new and long-time Board members. The in-depth information is important as Board members make decisions about HSH at the governance level. The gathering was a great success and saw Board members express their appreciation for the opportunity and Sara thank them for the great attendance, for being willing learners and for asking such good questions!

CELEBRATE HSH'S 20TH WITH \$20

Home Suite Hope is marking its **20th anniversary** in 2024. HSH has been helping change the trajectory of poverty and homelessness for 20 years. Thank you for your support and trust in our services for the many single parent families who have walked through our doors.

The community has played a pivotal role in ensuring HSH has the means to grow its services. This would not be possible without your support. We send a heartfelt thank-you to all those who have supported us throughout the years and we are committed to continuing to serve the community as long as there is the need.

We are asking our supporters to make a donation of \$20 (\$1 for each year HSH has been operating).



[DONATE](#)

TWO WAYS TO BECOME A PARTNER IN CHANGE WITH HSH



HSH now has two **Partners in Change** programs - **Partners in Change** and **Partners in Change for Housing**. While the first sees a supporter support the annual funding gap (\$9,595) to support a family, the new Partners in Change for Housing can see a supporter (or team of supporters) fund the annual gap for rental housing costs (\$14,400) for a family.

PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING A HOME SUITE HOPE FAMILY

To become a Partner in Change or for more information, please contact Sara at SaraC@HomeSuiteHope.org or 289.213.5787 (direct line)

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



HSH Executive Director Dr. Sara Cumming, who is also a Professor of Sociology at Sheridan College, will be among the panelists in the **Creative Cities of the Future Lecture Series** on April 5 at Mississauga's Hazel McCallion Public Library. Open to everyone.

P R E S E N T I N G

CREATIVE CITIES OF THE FUTURE LECTURE SERIES

Future of Wellness: Spaces, Community, and Mental Health

Discover how housing, community dynamics, emotions and mental health intersect through the urban fabric in our upcoming lecture. Learn about novel housing solutions, creating supportive work environments, and building inclusive communities. Don't miss this opportunity to explore some creative ways to make our cities healthier and more welcoming for everyone.

Panel Speakers:

Sara Cumming, PhD
Professor of Sociology at Sheridan College and Executive Director of Home Suite Hope

Colin Ellard, PhD
Professor at University of Waterloo and Director of Urban Realities Lab

Veroy Clarke
Community Development Coordinator for HMCL at the Open Window Hub

Hosted By: Stewart MacDonald, Architectural Technology Student at Sheridan College

Open to the public, no registrations required!

Date: Friday, April 05, 2024

Time: 12PM-1PM

Location: Basement of Hazel McCallion Central Library
301 Burnhamthorpe Rd W,
Mississauga, ON L5B 3Y3

INTRODUCING
NEW PRESENTERS
EVERY MONTH

IN THE COMMUNITY



ALLYSHIP IN OAKVILLE TRUTH PROJECT

Home Suite Hope is taking part in the **Oakville Community Foundation's (OCF) Debwewin: The Oakville Truth Project**. It has committed to a Declaration of Truth and Allyship and by doing so, HSH joins with many Oakville businesses, agencies and individuals.

The Oakville Truth Project, according to the OCF website, is a partnership between the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Oakville Community Foundation to further our shared understanding of Oakville's Indigenous past and support local Truth & Reconciliation.

Debwewin means truth (heart knowledge). The Anishinabe word is represented by the turtle, is believed to have been present during the creation of Earth, carries the teachings of life on his back and lives at a slow pace by understanding the importance of both the journey and destination.

The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) have deep historical roots in Oakville. Understanding the local history of the Indigenous people in Oakville from an Anishinaabek perspective is an important first step on the path towards Truth and Reconciliation.

The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) is part of the Ojibwe (Anishinaabe) Nation, one of the largest Aboriginal Nations in North America. The MCFN reserve near Hagersville, Ontario, is approximately 6,100 acres - all that remains of their once expansive property of 3.9 million acres. The word "Missisakis" in Anishinaabemowin language translates to mean many river mouths. By the mid-nineteenth century, the Mississaugas believed they had obtained their name from the mouths of the Trent, Moira, Shannon, Napanee, Kingston, and Gananoque rivers.

The term New Credit was in reference to the relocation of the Credit River Mississaugas in 1847. The word "new" was dropped from the reference to the community by official council motion in December 2018.

IN THE COMMUNITY

MOVING TOWARD RECONCILIATION

A commitment to Truth and Allyship was developed by the Debwewin Advisory Council. Organizations and individuals can become a signatory to it.

HSH's declaration includes a commitment to seek opportunities to learn about the Treaty territories, including the traditional territories of First Nations; build relationships with Indigenous peoples upon whose traditional territories we live and work; share our voices and resources to include and benefit Indigenous peoples; and share our learnings and understandings within the context of our work, in policy and practice, to honour and respect these relationships.

HSH's Executive Director Dr. Sara Cumming continues to lead HSH by example, strengthening the organizational commitment to learning and unlearning. She has completed the following courses: "Indigenous Canada" with the University of Alberta, and "Looking Forward, Looking Back: Indigenous Learning Series" with Sheridan College.

Sara has also completed a series of courses with the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion; "Fundamentals of Diversity and Inclusion," "Introduction to Unconscious Bias and Respect in the Workplace," "Cultural Competence," "History of Races, Race and Racism," "Intersections of Race" and the "Racialized Ally." The knowledge gained from these courses is translated into improved policies and practices at Home Suite Hope.

HSH signature to the declaration is a call to action that invites others to join in moving forward in an atmosphere of understanding, dignity and respect towards the shared goal of reconciliation.

For more information, visit <https://debwewinoakville.ca/declaration-of-truth-and-allyship-we-are-all-treaty-people/>



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