



Newsletter

OCTOBER 2025

Women's History Month

October 1 – International Day of Older Persons (UN)

October 1 – Yom Kippur (to Oct. 2) (Judaism)

October 10 – World Mental Health Day (UN); International Day of the Girl Child (UN)

October 13 – Thanksgiving Day

October 17 – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (UN)

October 20 – Diwali (Hindu-Jain-Sikh)

October 23 – Jain New Year (Jain)

October 24 – United Nations Day

October 31 – Halloween

Koa & Kind

OCTOBER 2025

Lives permanently changed for the better

EMPTY BOWLS 2025

Presented By:



Enjoy delicious soups, bread & desserts! Prepared by your favourite local restaurants and chefs!



Sunday, November 2nd



Appleby College, 540 Lakeshore Rd W



EMPTY BOWLS 2025

Now in its 17th year, **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. Guests are invited to select a handcrafted 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**.

As our signature annual fundraiser, **Empty Bowls** helps fund the vital wraparound services that empower single-parent families on their journey from crisis to independence. This much-loved event invites the community to gather around the table, sample the best of Halton's culinary scene, and be part of lasting change.

MATCHING DONATIONS

Koa and Kind is donating \$1 from every candle sold to **HSH**. Koa & Kind is a local small business specializing in handcrafted home fragrances. Together, we can help bring light, stability, and hope to someone's life, one candle at a time. [Purchase candles here](#)

PARTICIPANT NEWS

PARTICIPANTS GET CREATIVE AT SOCIAL IN PREPARATION FOR EMPTY BOWLS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community partner, **Cakes2Connect**, Home Suite Hope's program participants receive a birthday cake to celebrate their special day.

In September, we wished **Kristina** a very **Happy Birthday!**



EMPTY BOWLS 2025



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU NOVEMBER 2

**Now in its 17th year, Empty Bowls returns to Appleby College
Sunday, November 2**

Guests at this event that has become a local tradition are invited to select a handcrafted 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!

Reserve your to-go kit today by purchasing a Take Home Soup Kit ticket

**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.*

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

[Purchase Empty Bowls 2025 Tickets](#)

HELP OUT EMPTY BOWLS 2025

DOUBLE THE IMPACT

Double The Impact at Empty Bowls

Home Suite Hope is seeking a matching sponsor to join us for our signature fundraiser, **Empty Bowls**. With a pledge of \$3,000–\$5,000, your business can match on-site donations collected during the event — doubling the impact for single parent families in Halton.

This is a powerful way to demonstrate community leadership, engage with a passionate audience, and ensure families have the housing, education, and support they need to build brighter futures.



A Taste of Community, A Bowl of Hope

Double the Impact.



Seeking \$3K–\$5K Matching Sponsor
to Match On-Site Donations

WE NEED YOUR SKILLS

We need your skills!

Home Suite Hope is looking for a carpenter or handy person to help us with a small creative project for **Empty Bowls 2025** — building a set of large wooden spoons that will add a special touch to this year's event.

If you (or someone you know) can lend a hand, we'd love to hear from you! And if you're a carpentry business, we'd be happy to recognize your company's logo in our event materials as thanks for your support.



Please reach out to Katelyn at KatelynZ@HomeSuiteHope.org

EMPTY BOWLS 2025 SPONSORS



EMPTY BOWLS 2025



Presenting Sponsor

Diamond Sponsor



Henderson Partners LLP
CPAs & Advisors

Bronze Sponsors



Soup Sponsors

O'Connor Catering



Bread Sponsor



Coffee Sponsor



Dessert Sponsors



Venue Sponsor



Raffle Sponsors



Bowl Sponsor



Market Vendor

Koa & Kind



ROTARY TOURNAMENT: FORE A GOOD CAUSE!

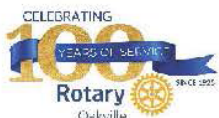


HSH BENEFITS FROM GOLF TO GIVE

On Monday, September 15th, **Home Suite Hope** was proud to be a beneficiary of the **Rotary Oakville Golf to Give Tournament**, held at Piper's Heath Golf Course in Milton. It was a beautiful day on the course, filled with community spirit and generosity.

Our HSH team had the opportunity to connect with golfers on the course through a fun and educational game highlighting the realities of today's rental prices — sparking great conversations about housing affordability and the challenges single parent families face.

We're so grateful to **Rotary Oakville** for including Home Suite Hope in this incredible event. The total funds raised are still being finalized, and we look forward to sharing the impact with you soon!





HSH PULLS FOR COMMUNITY AT UWHH CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

HSH proudly participated in the **United Way Plane Pull** at UPS Hamilton Airport on September 13. Our team of 15 came together to tug a UPS cargo plane — a fun and powerful way to kick off **United Way Halton & Hamilton's** 2025 campaign!

We are so grateful to have been United in ACTION, standing alongside other community organizations and supporters. Together, participants helped raise over \$305,000 to support 124 local programs addressing poverty, mental illness, domestic violence, isolation, and at-risk youths. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible and for helping bring hope to more than 226,500 people in need across our community.

Home Suite Hope became a **United Way Halton & Hamilton**-supported agency in 2024.



VITAL SIGNS BURLINGTON

HSH PARTICIPATES IN PANEL DISCUSSION



The Burlington Community Foundation invited Home Suite Hope to sit on a panel to discuss the launch of its **2025 Vital Signs Report**.

HSH has had the privilege of working with the Burlington Community Foundation over the past year, as grantees of the foundation.

Together, we've been increasing our supports and partnerships within the Burlington community to help our participants who are living in Burlington feel connected and supported in their community.

To learn more about the Burlington Community Foundation's 2025 Vital Signs report visit:

[**Burlington Community Foundation Launches 2025 Vital Signs Report**](#)

[**Burlington Gazette**](#)



HAVEN TO HOME (H2H)

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



HOME SUITE
HOPE

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, 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**



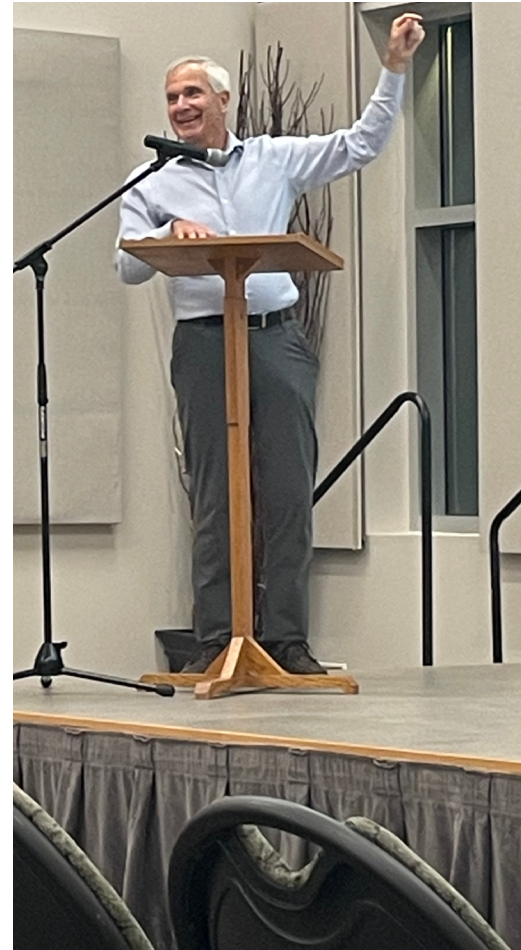
HOUSING INFO SESSION

SAFE & AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDED

On September 23 at Port Nelson Church in Burlington, **Garth Brown**, from **Mary's Ark Homes**, brought together organizations and individuals from the Halton community for a housing information session.

During this session, community members gained information about existing opportunities that property owners can utilize on their own property to help their neighbours within Halton. The session also highlighted the recent provincial government-funded partnership between **Halton Women's Place** (one of the presenters) and **Home Suite Hope** and their new joint **Haven to Home (H2H)** program, and underscored the prevalence of need within the community for safe spaces for families to rebuild.

Home Suite Hope's Executive Director Dr. Sara Cumming presented and shared information on HSH programs and H2H and the importance of safe and affordable housing for people in Halton. **HSH Caseworker Haley Weber** was also in attendance while community member **Andrea** graciously shared her story to underscore the impact that safe and affordable housing has on families who are rebuilding.



HOUSING INFORMATION

Support a single parent. Change a child's life. Build a stronger community.

 HomeSuiteHope.org | HaltonWomensPlace.com

YOU HOLD THE KEY TO BRIGHTER FUTURES!

HOME SUITE
HOPE



Home Suite Hope supports single-parent-led families in their journey from poverty to stability. Now, with new by-laws permitting detached homes in most backyards, your property could help create a **safe, affordable space** for a family to thrive.

Why it Matters?

Our participants have overcome significant challenges, including:

- **Intergenerational Poverty**
- **Homelessness**
- **Domestic Violence**
- **Systemic Barriers**



Yet they move forward with resilience and determination, striving to give their children a better future.

One example is **Haven to Home**, a new Ministry-funded partnership between **Home Suite Hope** and **Halton Women's Place** that helps domestic violence survivors transition from shelter to independent apartments where they can fully rebuild their lives.

Through wraparound supports—like subsidized childcare, life skills training, financial literacy, and access to post-secondary education—families are set up for long-term success.

Over **85% of our graduates** secure employment, grow their income, and transition to full independence.

What's in it for You?



Vetted, Supported
& Accountable
Tenants



Reliable Rent
Payments



Ongoing Support
from our Outreach
Team



Potential
Financial
Incentives
(over \$95,000 in Burlington!)



Increase your
Property Value
& Monthly
Cash Flow

Schedule your free in-home consultation:



Garth Brown at **416.459.2730**



MarysArkHomes@gmail.com

STAFF UPDATES

A SPRINKLE FOR CATHERINE

CONGRATS!

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

Catherine was surprised by a sprinkle thrown by Sara and her HSH co-workers on Sept. 24 at the HSH office.

Congratulations to **Catherine, her husband Danier and big brother-to-be Caidan**. Caidan opened his own special gifts from the celebration!

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



STAFF NEWS: WELCOME STUDENTS

AMBER DAILEY

Amber Dailey (pronouns: she/her) is thrilled to be one of the new practicum students at Home Suite Hope. Amber is currently in the second year of the Social Service Worker (SSW) program at **Sheridan College**. As a teen mom raised by a single mother in a marginalized community, Amber has first-hand experience with the barriers and challenges that arise when resources are limited or inaccessible. These life experiences have shaped her passion for social justice and her desire to challenge the status quo.

"I firmly believe that real change is possible— but only when individuals are empowered to want and create that change for themselves. It's a pleasure to be on board. I look forward to learning from such an experienced and supportive team and contributing however I can throughout this journey," said Amber.



ALISON CHARLTON



Alison Charlton is excited to be joining HSH as a new Social Service Work (SSW) practicum student from **Sheridan College**. Alison comes to this placement as a second career student, with a background in economics from Queen's University and a career spent primarily in risk management and process improvement design. While her professional path has followed a corporate route until now, Alison has always had a strong desire to be part of a helping profession.

Born in New Brunswick, but spending most of her childhood in London, Ontario. Alison now resides in Oakville with her husband and their son Everett (and two Scottish fold cats). When not working or studying, Alison usually can be found at a rink, where her family spends most of the fall and winter cheering on her son's hockey team. Growing up, Alison was deeply influenced by her father, who worked in social services and was very engaged with marginalized communities. His dedication to community work left a lasting impression on her. "I was fortunate to gain early exposure to the field through him and further explored my interest in high school by volunteering at the Child Parent Research Institute. These experiences reinforced for me that not everyone starts out on equal footing, and that compassionate community-based support can make a profound difference. I'm particularly inspired by the mission and impact of Home Suite Hope. It's incredibly meaningful to witness, even in the short time I've been here, the potential and strength shown by participants navigating this pathway, supported by a dedicated women-led organization. I feel very lucky to be a part of this," said Alison.



HELP HSH SINGLE PARENTS 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've launched the **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

STAFF DIG INTO BLUEBERRY FIELDS

HSH staff dug into the job of weeding and harvesting at **Blueberry Fields**, the community garden it hosts thanks to the generosity of the **Upper Oakville Shopping Centre**.

The garden is staffed by volunteers - coordinated by the extraordinary **Ruth Borst** - and runs from late spring to late autumn. The bounty is shared with HSH participants and the broader community through **Kerr Street Mission**. With a staggered planting and harvesting schedule on the site, there is everything anyone could wish for at the garden that was the vision of the **late Ken Stockstill** of the Upper Oakville Shopping Centre.



Thank you to all the individuals, students and corporates who dig into the good cause every year!

Volunteering is a great opportunity to get involved, as an individual, small group or corporation! To get involved, contact volunteers@homesuitehope.org.



Sheridan



CHANGING THE PATTERNS OF POVERTY TO A LEGACY OF PROSPERITY