

JULY 2022

July 1 – Canada Day

July 9 - Nunavut Day.
A day to commemorate
Nunavut's history and
traditions.

July 9 – Eid al Adha (to July
13) (Islam)

July 13 – Asalha Puja Day
(Buddhism)

July 18 – Nelson Mandela
International Day



MUDGIRL MAYHEM



Home Suite Hope 'Heroines' were out in full force - participants, Board members, mentors, staff, family and friends at MUDGIRL Hamilton June 11 and 12. **See inside for photos of the event.**



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

We invite you to read our 2021 Annual Report and HSH's 2021 Financial Statement. Our reports are a treasure trove of success stories, inspiration and a review of the challenges faced as HSH - with help from supporters and donors - continued and expanded its work to support single-parent families in Halton.

<https://homesuitehope.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/HSH-2021-Annual-Report.pdf>

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in PRACTICE

Since 2020 Home Suite Hope has committed to incorporating EDI into everything we do — from the demographics of our clients, staff and Board members to extensive training opportunities to our purposeful inclusion of all religious and cultural holidays into our calendar.

Many organizations are embarking on this journey and are making significant strides in becoming more diverse and offering programs and services to improve equity. Where many of us fall short is in inclusion. We can diversify all we want, however without incorporating inclusive practices we will fall short in truly reaching any level of equity. Inclusivity takes much more work!



I wanted to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the community around us that helped HSH be truly inclusive this past weekend. You will see photos and read quotes from our participants expressing their joy and gratitude for a weekend spent in Muskoka. You will read about Bill and Deb McAlpine and their children—the amazing family that graciously offered their eight cottages to our families. You will also read about the four donors who made it possible for us to provide transportation to and from this event. In addition, grocery store gift card donations allowed Sarah Gillen, our program coordinator, to purchase all the food and stock each of the cabins with the essentials for a weekend away from home.

Within the last two years each of these participants was either homeless or experiencing severely precarious housing. They were desperately trying to make ends meet day to day with no sightline to a vacation with their children. Most lack transportation thus could never go up north, even if finances appeared to permit it. These families were able to experience what many members of the Halton Region take for granted — a piece of summer at the lake surrounded by the beauty of Muskoka.

While I have so much gratitude to all of you for allowing our participants this experience, I want to call special attention to the way in which the McAlpines and an anonymous donor rallied around one of our participants and her daughter. You will hear from, and see pictures of, Robin and her daughter enjoying this getaway. We were unsure if we would be able to include Robin in this excursion as her daughter is quadriplegic and requires special transportation and accessible lodging. The McAlpines heard about Robin's family through Sarah Gillen (who is engaged to their daughter Taylor) and immediately went to work making one of the cottages accessible. The bus we were able to secure to transport the participants was not accessible and when a local family found out Robin could not attend, they paid the entire bill for her and her daughter's vehicle to allow them to participate in this retreat. This is inclusivity in practice, and I am deeply indebted to each of you. Thank you from all the participants, my staff, and our Board of Directors for caring so deeply and for showing our participants this community does care.

Sara, xoxo

Sara Cumming, Executive Director, Home Suite Hope

FAMILY WEEKEND GETAWAY

AT A CABIN RETREAT

Home Suite Hope was able to offer its single-parent families a Cabin Retreat experience on beautiful Deer Lake in Emsdale, Ontario in June hosted by Penbrook Resort. It was an amazing adventure, not just for the HSH single moms and their kids, but for resort owners Bill and Deb McAlpine and HSH Program Coordinator Sarah Gillen and her partner Taylor, the daughter of the McAlpines.



Upon arriving after an early morning bus trip, the HSH families quickly got to it exploring the beach and lake as well as their home-away-from-home for the weekend, their cabins. They went tubing and on boat rides... there was one boat ride that everyone attended. There were campfires and barbecues and if families were not lined up for activities, Sarah was knocking on their door to let them know about it and to extend a personal invitation to the fun.

"It was very emotional to see Robin and her daughter (an HSH mom and her daughter who is quadriplegic) so happy," said Sarah. Not only were there boat rides, but Sarah and Taylor carried Robin's daughter out in the lake where Robin was on a floaty and placed her daughter on her lap so they could share a float together. The donation of a baby monitor also enabled Robin to return to the campfire fun once her daughter had drifted off to sleep after a busy day.

Other participants were 'living their best lives,' laughed Sarah, moms were teaching their kids how to paddle and one youngster was prompted to ask if they were in a different country.

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

MAKING MEMORIES

"Getting away with my daughter is never an easy task," says Robin, one of HSH's single parents.

"There are many factors to consider for her care. Transportation, accessibility to buildings, and her showers are some things the typical family would not give much thought to. And as a single parent, figuring it all out adds much more pressure.

But thanks to the staff of HSH and the owners of Penbrook Resort, the major barriers were removed, and we could enjoy a weekend filled with fun water activities on the lake."

- Robin, HSH Mom

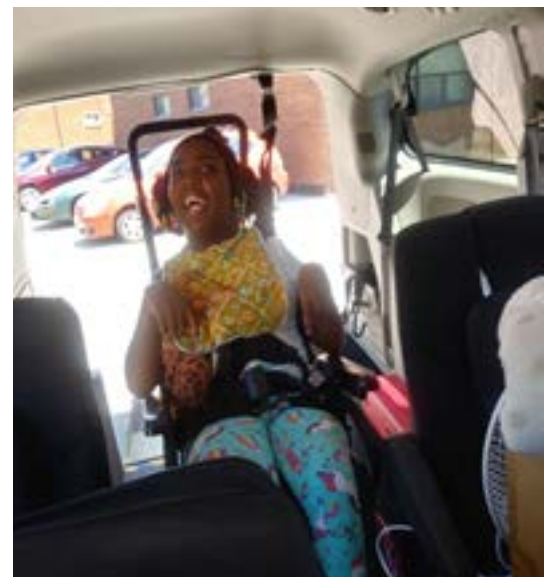
HSH Program Coordinator Sarah Gillen also took a turn watching the youth enabling her Mom to take a boat ride herself. And, the donation of a baby monitor enabled the pair to coordinate their time so that Mom could return the campfire a little after her daughter's bedtime.



ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION DONATED!

A gracious anonymous donor, stepped up to donate the funds that enabled Robin and her daughter to attend the Cabin Retreat. The donor provided funds for an accessible van needed for the family to get to the resort site and home again.

It opened a door to a fun weekend of happy memories.



PENBROOK: A WORK OF HEART

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Deb and Bill McAlpine have been

the owners of Penbrook Resort for 19 years, and are in their 20th summer season this year! They have been camping there for about 50 years.

Penbrook Resort is a fully family-run campground that is a work of heart and the McAlpines' favourite place on earth. It has a family-oriented environment that is enjoyed by many each year. The HSH participants who

had the opportunity to attend the Cabin Getaway at Penbrook all said that Deb, Bill, Taylor and the McAlpines all made them feel like they were family for a weekend!



"The idea emerged out of a conversation we had with Sara (Cumming, HSH Executive Director) last summer when she visited Penbrook. When we heard about all that HSH does for their participants, immediately we started thinking, "What can we do?" We really wanted to give back to what we felt was an amazing and life-changing organization. Donating the cottages for the weekend was the least that we could do for HSH. We were so happy to see all the families have so much fun and enjoy the space we are fortunate enough to call home. We would have the HSH families up again in a heartbeat!"

- Deb McAlpine

THANKS FOR THE RIDES!

While an **anonymous donor** provided the funds for an accessible van so one family with special needs could get to the Cabin Getaway, the remaining participants and their families owe a debt of gratitude to former HSH Board member **Navia Sharma** and the **Oakville Lions Club** for sponsoring the transportation to the resort. They owe their ride home to an **anonymous donor**, who stepped forward as HSH faced the challenge of finding support to pay for the ride home. A shout-out to Chris Campbell (mylimog@gmail.com) for exceptional service and for getting our participants to and from the cottages safely.



FLIGHT FOR HOPE LAUNCH

FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Home Suite Hope was at the launch of **Flight for Hope** at the Burlington Executive Airpark on Sunday, June 26. HSH launched its own **Affordable Housing Advocacy Campaign** in conjunction with pilot Callum Wallace's plan for a round-the-globe flight in 2023 to raise awareness about affordable housing and also raise \$1 million for HSH's affordable housing plans.



A late morning media launch was followed by several hours during which pilots provided 15-minute flights. More than half a dozen HSH single parent-led families got in on the flight fun. The day was a fundraiser. CHCH Television was on hand... see the coverage here: <https://www.chch.com/flight-for-hope-oakville-man-fundraising-for-solo-flight-around-the-world/>

For more about, or to donate to, Flight for Hope, visit www.flightforhope.com.

We are thrilled to officially announce the launch of Flight for Hope, a fundraiser dedicated to expanding affordable housing options for Home Suite Hope. Callum Wallace is flying solo around the world in a single engine plane to bring awareness to the issues single mothers face globally, with the goal of raising one million dollars towards HSH affordable housing.

Pre-pandemic, our Homeward Bound Halton program had been 100% successful in moving single mother families from homelessness to self-sufficiency. 100% of our graduates left fully employed and maintaining their own housing. The inflation in housing costs has resulted in a dire situation where even our graduates with full-time employment cannot afford housing without some type of social benefit. Additionally, our families are remaining homeless for longer than ever before as landlords are engaging in purposeful bidding wars between potential renters--a situation that our participants are unable to engage in. Affordable Housing is paramount to the success of our families and others like them.



- Sara Cumming, Executive Director, HSH

SOS: RUNNING ON EMPTY!

MATCHING FUNDS SECURED!

SOS: Home Suite Hope single parents are **Running on Empty!** HSH launched an immediate emergency transportation campaign – Running on Empty - to help our families with rising gas and transportation costs.

Our participant single parents are facing steeper challenges as they work to move from poverty to stability, as rising transportation costs are proving to be a real hindrance.

While HSH helps families with rental subsidies, a post-secondary bursary, childcare costs and case management, rising transportation costs are impeding their ability to get to school, grocery store or food bank, work, childcare and case management and life skills meetings.

Our \$25,000 campaign launched with a **Matching Challenge** – for every \$1 that was donated between June 22 and June 29, 2022, it was matched by **an anonymous supporter, who provided \$5,000 in matching funds.** The Matching Challenge was taken home by a \$2,500 donation from the **Willis Family through the Aqueduct Foundation** and **Bonnie and Terry Jackson through The Jackson Family Foundation Fund at the Oakville Community Foundation.** Thank you!



If you missed the Matching Challenge, you can still donate to this worthy cause.

Make a monthly donation through CanadaHelps earmarking it for transportation/gift cards:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/home-suite-hope-shared-living-corp/>

HSH BOARD UPDATES

AGM, 2021 ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT



Barrie Carlyle

Home Suite Hope held its Annual General Meeting June 23.

The meeting saw Barrie Carlyle take on the mantle of Past Chair while veteran Board member France Fournier steps up from the position of Vice-Chair to Incoming Board Chair.



France Fournier



Lisa Garland

The HSH Board also bid farewell to long-time Board member and Treasurer Lisa Garland, who will continue her support but, having reached the end of her tenure, steps away from official duties at HSH and moves into official duties on the Board of Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington. Thank you, Lisa.

The HSH Board also bid farewell to Navia Sharma has served on the HSH Board since 2020 and prior to that had been an active volunteer member of HSH's Industry Council. Thank you, Navia.



Navia Sharma



Kevin Farrell

Taking on the role of HSH Treasurer is new Board member Kevin Farrell who brings a long history in the accounting industry to the table.

Board member Ted Ecclestone, who also boasts significant experience in the finance industry, steps into the role of HSH Board Vice-Chair.



Ted Ecclestone

HSH HEROINES

Home Suite Hope 'Heroines' were out June 11 and 12 for the **MUDGIRL Run Hamilton**, an all-inclusive, 5km (about 3 miles) race, consisting of 17-plus obstacles to overcome.

The course is committed to testing strength, endurance and above all, spirit.

The event is about raising breast cancer awareness. Breast cancer most often affects the heart and soul of families – women.



Breast cancer does not discriminate and it takes an army of support, to get those affected by it, through it.

Participants of HSH programs face many obstacles to overcome on their journey from poverty to stability and HSH is there to support them.

PHOTOS MUDGIRL RUN HAMILTON



HSH STAFF UPDATES



Home Suite Hope Executive Director Sara Cumming, PhD, teaching on implementing a Gender Needs Assessment during her recent trip to Nairobi with Sheridan and Niagara colleges, in conjunction with the Mastercard Foundation's Young Africa Works-Kenya: Youth Employability through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

SARA IN KENYA

HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming joined staff from Sheridan and Niagara colleges on a trip to Kenya the week of June 13.

It came out of a partnership between the colleges and the Mastercard Foundation's Young Africa Works-Kenya: Youth Employability through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) program.

The program supports TVET institutions in building a national gender equality policy and training capacity. That's in line with the program goal of increasing participation of young Kenyans, particularly young women, in market-relevant skills training programs.

Over a five-day visit to Nairobi, college representatives – including Sheridan professors Sara Cumming, PhD and Michaelann George – provided training to TVET government officials and community partners. They also held a two-day workshop with representatives from 26 Kenyan TVET partner Institutions tackling a number of topics, including the introduction of a Gender Equality Needs Assessment Toolkit and providing participating TVET institutions with information and tools to strengthen female participation at all levels.



Coming out of the workshop, mentors and participants discussed the next steps for each participating institution in terms of needs assessment, policy development and training needs.

Learn more about Young Africa Works – TVET 14 and the work being done on the #SheridanNewsroom: <https://bit.ly/3HIAt8R>

- With files from SheridanNews

All of the TVET teachers (Kenya's equivalent to colleges) and the Professors from Sheridan and Niagara colleges, who led the training sessions.



Government officials attending a day of gender mainstreaming and policy building sessions.

HSH NEWS

QUEEN'S JUBILEE AWARD

Oakville MP and Canada's Minister of Defence Anita Anand recently wrote to Home Suite Hope Executive Director Sara Cumming to congratulate Sara on being presented with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award. In honour of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, MP Anand is honouring outstanding residents with a commemorative pin and a certificate of recognition.

MP Anand recognized Sara with this award for her exceptional service to the Oakville community.



WELCOME RACHEL

Home Suite Hope welcomes Rachel Millar to its team for the summer.

Rachel is a business student graduate, who studied at Sir Sandford Fleming College, in Peterborough and will be joining HSH as a Target Marketer. Rachel's points of interest in business are Marketing and Corporate Social Responsibility. Her personal hobbies include reading, gardening, and hiking.



"I'm excited to be joining Home Suite Hope to expand my experience, knowledge and growth." Welcome, Rachel!



MAYOR BURTON AT CHAMBER

Home Suite Hope was at the Oakville Conference Centre in early June to hear Oakville Mayor Rob Burton's Town Economic Update with the Oakville Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Burton, provided an economic update for the Town of Oakville, whose council's vision is for Oakville to be the most Livable Town in Canada, and to participate in a moderated Q&A followed by networking.

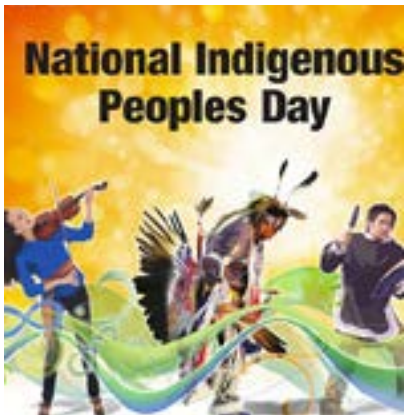
Thanks to France Fournier, the Chamber's President and CEO and HSH's Incoming Board Chair.

HSH NEWS

CATHERINE'S SHOWER

Home Suite Hope staff held a baby shower for HSH Program Director Catherine, who, with her husband Danier, are expecting their first baby – a boy – this month.

Congratulations, Catherine!



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

HSH recognized June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada. First celebrated in 1996, the day — which falls on the summer solstice — recognizes and honours First Nations, Inuit and Métis cultures. Halton, as we know it today, is rich in the history and modern traditions of many First Nations and the Métis. From the lands of the Anishinabe to the Attawandaron, the Haudenosaunee, and the Métis, these lands surrounding the Great Lakes are steeped in Indigenous history. As we work on these treaty lands, we are in solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters to honour and respect the four directions, lands, waters, plants, animals and

ancestors that walked before us, and all of the wonderful elements of creation that exist. We acknowledge and thank the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation for being stewards of this traditional territory.

PRIDE MONTH

HSH celebrated June as Pride Month and celebrates equity, diversity and inclusion all the time. HSH acknowledges the history and hardships LGBTQ communities have endured. The rainbow flag is a symbol of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and queer pride and LGBT social movements. Its colours reflect the diversity of the LGBT community and the spectrum of human sexuality and gender.



DONOR NEWS



THANK YOU ZONTA CLUB OF OAKVILLE

Home Suite Hope sends a thank-you to the Zonta Club of Oakville for its recent donation – delivered by Lorraine to HSH Development Director Krystal Valencia – and its continued support of HSH single parent participants and their families.

TOY DONATIONS

Home Suite Hope sends a shout-out to Jill Johnson of Guelph. Thanks, Jill, for your thoughtful donations. They will come in handy if an HSH single parent finds they are in need of a cool birthday gift.

Thank you!



A PINK BICYCLE

Thanks go out to Roger Beach and his young neighbour Ally who, together, donated a girl's bicycle to HSH. One lucky girl will be lucky to cruise around on this pink-and-white beauty!

Thank you!



DONATIONS WELCOME

Home Suite Hope offers wraparound support for single parents and their families as the parent becomes stabilized, completes a two-year, post-secondary diploma and then job searches across our four-year Homeward Bound Halton program.

Donations are always welcome – from grocery and gas gift cards to toiletries and cleaning supplies. Donating is easy through CanadaHelps at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/home-suite-hope-shared-living-corp/>

GET INVOLVED

ARE YOU ORGANIZED - AND WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

HSH is seeking a super organized individual, who would like to step in and volunteer as our interim Volunteer Coordinator.

If you are interested, please contact info@homesuitehope.org



HOST A PAINTING PARTY THIS SUMMER

Are you searching for a team-building event or group social activity?

Consider a bowl-painting event with Crack Pot Studio in support of Home Suite Hope's annual Empty Bowls fundraiser.

We need bowls for our autumn signature fundraiser that serves up soups from various local restaurants in support of our programming for single parents and their families.

GREAT CANADIAN GIVING CHALLENGE

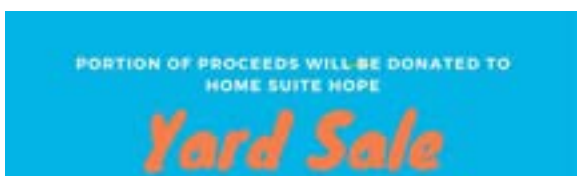
Home Suite Hope took part in the Great Canadian Giving Challenge - a month-long contest with the chance to make a donation have an even bigger impact! Every dollar donated to Home Suite Hope in June via CanadaHelps.org was an entry for a chance to help Home Suite Hope win \$20,000. Your donation could have been the one to help us win the funds! Fingers crossed!



YARD SALE FUNDRAISER

Thanks to former Home Suite Hope student intern Chloe Shackelton, who donated a portion of the proceeds from her recent Yard Sale to HSH.

Thanks for thinking of HSH, Chloe!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

SPECIAL DELIVERY

HSH received a special Tim Hortons delivery on June 8.

The **Tims For Good** program, in partnership with the local Tim Hortons restaurant owners in Oakville, provided coffee and baked goods to show their support of organizations and individuals that do good in their communities.

HSH is grateful to be among those being recognized with this special delivery.

Tims for Good organized the delivery brought by Zainab Raja.

Thank you!

Home Suite Hope received a special delivery of coffee and treats from Tims for Good as a recognition of its work in the community. Pictured, from left, HSH Program Manager Catherine Villasenor, HSH Bookkeeper Izabel Rader and Zainab Raja.

The logo for Tim Hortons, featuring the brand name in a red, cursive script font.

Sheridan



SAGEN™

CHANGING THE PATTERNS OF POVERTY TO A LEGACY OF PROSPERITY