

AUGUST 2024

August 1 – Emancipation Day
August 5 – Civic Holiday
August 9 – Int'l Day of World's Indigenous People (UN)
August 12 – Int'l Youth Day (UN)
August 13 – Obon (Shinto-Buddhism)
August 19 – World Humanitarian Day (UN)
August 23 – International Day for Remembrance of Slave Trade and its Abolition (UN)
August 26 – Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)
August 31 – Paryushana Parva (Jain)

AUGUST 2024

Creating lasting change, one family at a time

TIME TO GET TICKETS: EMPTY BOWLS AND MORE



Empty Bowls tickets are now on sale for our annual fundraiser on October 20. And there are lots more ways to support HSH and the single parent families it serves. We have a **Drive-In 4 Hope** August 22 and you can sponsor the **HSH team pulling a plane** in the **United Way Halton & Hamilton campaign kick-off** September 21.
Details inside



ANNUAL REPORT 2023!

Check out our [HSH Annual Report 2023](#)
View our [Audited Financial Statement 2023](#)
Visit www.HomeSuiteHope.org

More inside.

EMPTY BOWLS TICKETS ON SALE

Empty Bowls is back for 2024 and tickets are now on sale! Join us on **Sunday, October 20th** at **Appleyby College** for Home Suite Hope's 16th Empty Bowls, presented by **Taylor**.



Empty Bowls is a fundraising event organized by Home Suite Hope, aimed at bringing the community together to visit various soup vendors - tangibly representing the soup-

kitchen experience - the same type of poverty that many homeless families face prior to entering HSH.



A ticket provides you with delicious soups, bread, and desserts donated



by local restaurants and businesses, shares the delectable tastes that Halton has to offer and all proceeds fund HSH's wraparound supports for its participant single parents and their families.

Your ticket includes:

- Soups prepared by local chefs
- COBS Bread for dipping
- A ceramic bowl (upgraded ticket)
 - Delicious desserts

This year's event will offer **two separate seatings**, so please be mindful of this when purchasing tickets:

Seating 1: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Seating 2: 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.



[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

HOST A PARTY

PAINT A BOWL

Grab a paintbrush and let your creativity shine! Bowl painting with Crack Pot Studio Oakville in support of Empty Bowls is back!

Thanks to **Crack Pot Studio Oakville**, a long-time supporter of HSH's Empty Bowls event, bowls can be purchased for \$30 each (tax included) or \$25 each for groups of 40 or more bowls.

Painted bowls are donated back to the event and set out for ticket purchasers' to choose from.

To order bowls:

CrackPotOakville@gmail.com

905.338.1358

All bowls must be painted by October 13th



POTTERY PAINTING & CHARITY
Crack Pot Studio

1. PURCHASE A BOWL AND PAINT IT IN STUDIO OR AT HOME. ALL BOWLS MUST BE PAINTED BY **OCT 13TH**.
2. DONATE THE BOWL TO HOME SUITE HOPE'S EMPTY BOWLS EVENT FOR ATTENDEES TO PURCHASE ONE OF YOUR WORKS OF ART.
3. FEEL GOOD FOR HELPING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES! ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT HSH'S WRAPAROUND SUPPORTS, HELPING TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF GENERATIONAL POVERTY.

\$30/BOWL
(BRUSHES, PAINTS + TAX INCLUDED)
OR
40 BOWLS + AT **\$25/BOWL**

IN SUPPORT OF
HOME SUITE HOPE **EMPTY BOWLS**

Call 905.338.1358 or
Email CrackPotOakville@gmail.com to place your order

PARTICIPANT NEWS

BACK TO SCHOOL



It's already August and soon it will be time to head back to school. Home Suite Hope supports its participants - and their children - with our long-standing backpack program. Each parent and child receives a backpack filled with the supplies they'll need as they begin a new school year. We also provide transportation support to ensure the parents and their children can get to school and we offer support to ensure they are ready for the challenges, homework, tests and more that will translate into success for them. We have parents starting their journey - some beginning their post-secondary studies, others doing academic upgrading to become college-ready and others heading back to class with graduation on their radar. Whatever stage they are at, HSH is here to make sure they're ready!

TAYLOR IN THE MEDIA

HSH graduate **Taylor Lepage** was recently featured in an **Inside Halton** story about the lack of affordable housing in Halton. HSH is grateful Taylor stepped up to do the interview and give voice to the challenges faced by HSH participants.

[Oakville charity says it can't find Halton landlords willing to help women and children facing homelessness](#)

"Taylor recounted that she and her two babies found themselves facing homelessness in 2016 when circumstances beyond her control meant they could no longer continue living with her children's father in Burlington. With no post-secondary degree and no job, the prospect of supporting herself and her children was bleak. Luckily, Lepage was referred to Home Suite Hope, which was able to get her an apartment in Oakville. The organization also provided child care while Lepage went through HSH's four-year Homeward Bound Halton program. Lepage said she took the electromechanical engineering technology program at Sheridan College and now works as a machine builder.

"I think we'd probably be on the streets if it wasn't for Home Suite Hope," said Lepage. "They got me into our apartment through property management. At the time, I couldn't have done that myself because I was a young parent, and I didn't have a job."

She now pays her own rent and said she is devastated by news that Home Suite Hope is struggling to find landlords to help those currently facing the challenges she faced, particularly when the non-profit is willing to pay rent until their program is over and their clients are strong enough to handle it themselves."



PARTICIPANT NEWS

SHANNON'S INSPIRATIONAL WORDS

Shannon Taylor is a proud Homeward Bound Halton participant, graduate of Sheridan College's Office Administration Executive Program and Home Suite Hope's 2024 Valedictorian.

"I am filled with an an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude. We, the Graduating Class of 2024, represent a remarkable journey of perseverance, strength, and unwavering determination. To the single mothers whose paths have been paved with countless challenges and sacrifices, I want to extend my deepest admiration and respect for each of you. We are all a testament to the power of resilience and the ability to overcome adversity with grace and courage and, of course, the endless help and support we received from all of the staff at Home Suite Hope.



Our journey throughout the two years we spent in college has been marked by late-night study sessions, juggling parental responsibilities with academic pursuits, and navigating the complexities of life as students and mothers simultaneously. Yet, through it all, we persisted, refusing to let our circumstances define us or limit our potential.

Today, we celebrate our academic achievements and the strength of character that has propelled us forward. We stand as shining examples of what is possible when determination meets opportunity, many of which we wouldn't have had if we didn't have HSH.

As we embark on the next chapter of our lives, let us carry with us the lessons learned, the friends we've made and all the memories. Let us remember the late nights spent managing our time between our kids and our studies, the moments of doubt overcome by sheer willpower, and the unwavering support we have received from this incredible organization.

I would like to personally thank everyone here at HSH. It has been a long winding road for me, with many ups and downs but never for a minute did I feel alone or like I didn't have the support I needed from you. For many years, I couldn't even imagine being here today, and I couldn't have done any of it without HSH. You were the light I needed at the end of a very dark tunnel. Thank you.

To everyone here, thank you for believing in us, pushing us to be our best selves, and celebrating our successes, big and small.

To my fellow graduates, we are one step closer to meeting our goals, and I wish you all the best of luck with your employment search. Congratulations to the 2024 HSH College graduates!"

HSH HITS THE BIG SCREEN

DRIVE-IN 4 HOPE AUGUST 22

Home Suite Hope is hitting the big screen! Attend **Drive-In 4 Hope** in support of HSH!

WHEN:

Thursday, August
22nd, 2024

WHERE:

5 Drive-In Oakville

WHAT:

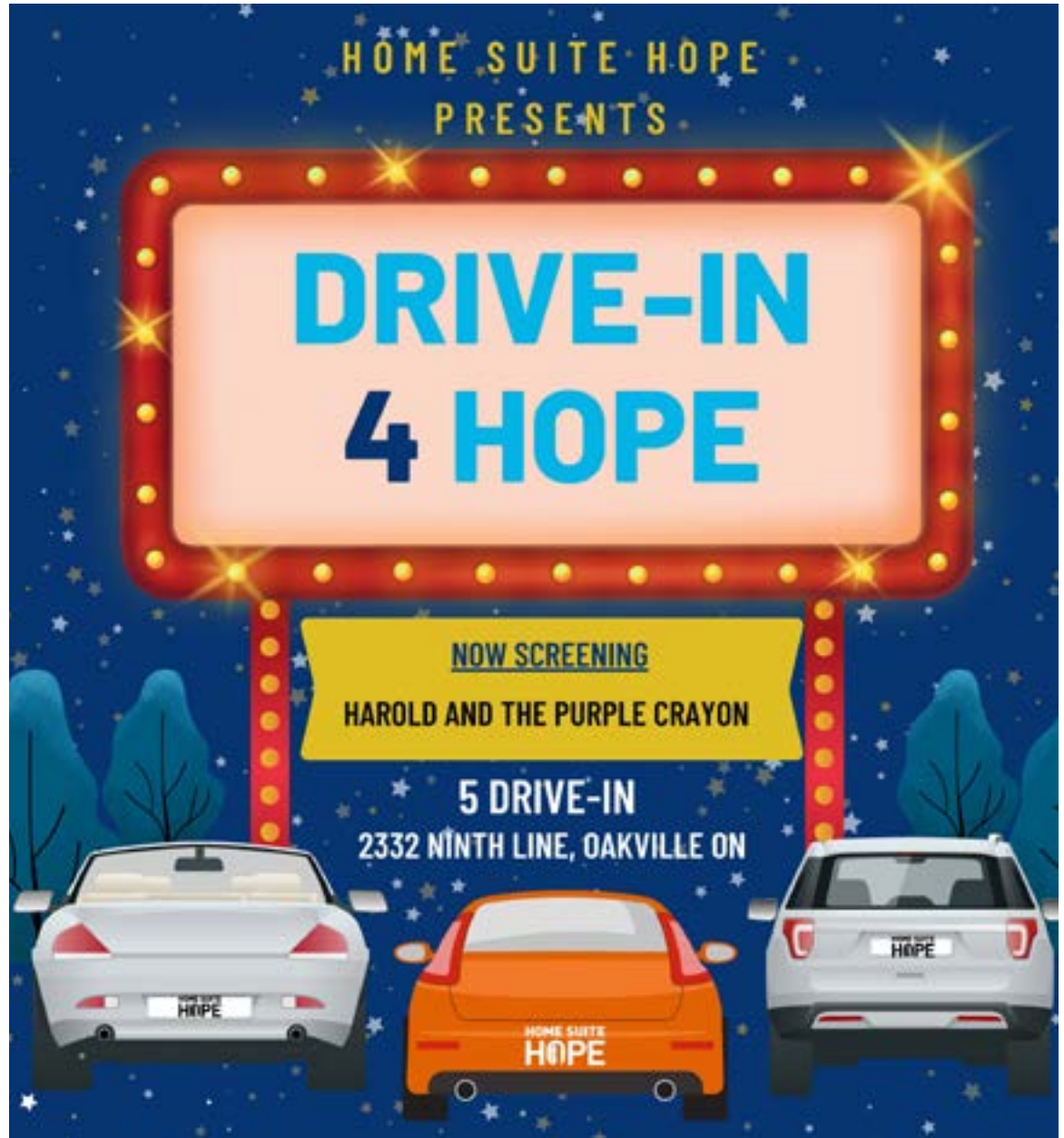
Double Feature
Screening of *Henry
and the Purple
Crayon* + one other
movie (TBD)

TICKETS:

Carload tickets will be sold in advance and include admission for as many people that can fit in your vehicle, voucher for two large popcorns and two drinks from the concession stand, a chance to win raffle items and more!

**This event is rain or shine*

[Purchase Drive-In 4 Hope Tickets](#)



STAFF NEWS

HSH MEETS UWHH

HSH Program Coordinator **Jovelle Reid** and Case Worker **Haley Weber** recently attended a **United Way Halton & Hamilton** all-agency meeting in Oakville.

The event brought together a network of agencies that receive UWHH funding and HSH is proud to have been included as one of them this year. It was a great opportunity to network, learn more about the UWHH and gain insight through panel discussions with other agencies. Home Suite Hope is pleased to work with and receive funding from UWHH.

The United Way Halton & Hamilton is funding HSH's Homeward Bound Halton program through its Feed Grant on a multi-year cycle. HSH was approved for three years.

Homeward Bound Halton is HSH's success story – assisting many single parents journey from homelessness or precarious housing, through support and education across a four-year time frame, to employment and stability for their children.

Together, we can transform patterns of poverty into legacies of empowered prosperity.



SARA WELCOMES OLIVER

The Home Suite Hope team sends their love and congratulations to **Executive Director Sara Cumming**, her daughter **Maddy** and partner **Ben**, on welcoming Maddy and Ben's son, and Sara's first grandchild, **Oliver Gordon** who arrived 10 days late on Tuesday, July 9 at 2:37 p.m. and weighing 8.6 lbs. Mother and baby were fine after 20 hours of hard labour and an emergency C-section and happy to go home.

Congratulations to Maddy and Ben, the family and to Sara and her husband Tom on becoming grandparents!

STAFF NEWS

MEET LACHI HSH SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNER

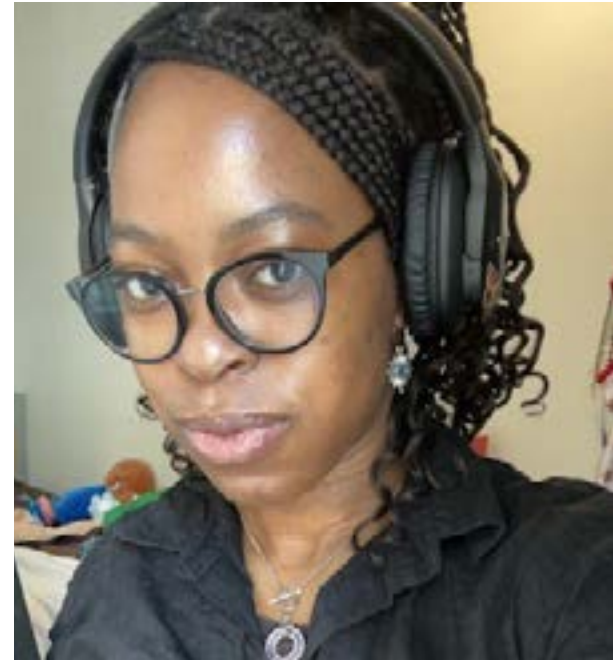
Hi everyone, my name is Lachi (Amalachi Ezeokafor) and I am the Special Events Planner at Home Suite Hope thanks to the Canada Summer Jobs program! I currently go to McGill University and I major in Economics with a double minor in Urban Studies and Hispanic Studies.

During my time at HSH this summer, I am helping plan and execute enjoyable events for the Halton community, meeting new people, and learning new skills that I can apply in other areas of my life.

Additionally, I am excited to be gaining more experience working in the non-profit environment. In my free time, I enjoy painting, listening to music, playing my bass, and hanging out with my friends and family.

Recently, I have also gotten into movies, so it is a goal of mine to finish my Letterboxd watchlist this summer!

I'm happy to bring my ideas and creativity to the HSH team and see how they contribute to the success of the organization.



CASEWORKER HALEY WEBER SHARES NEWS



Haley Weber, who joined HSH as a Caseworker in 2023, recently received official status on her renewal of registration as a Social Worker from the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW). Born and raised in Hamilton, where she completed her Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at McMaster University, Haley has worked both in the social services (Children's Aid Society) and the violence against women sectors, and also has experience supporting families with the wraparound approach. A mother of four, Haley utilizes a strengths-based framework and empathic approach when working with families, and works from a feminist, anti-oppressive and inclusive framework.

Congratulations, Haley!

STAFF NEWS

SARA AT OMDREB EVENT

HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming was invited to speak to Oakville and Milton real estate agents at an **Oakville Milton District Real Estate Board (OMDREB)** event focusing on housing.

OMDREB's Halton Symposium and Tradeshow 2024 took place June 26 at the Oakville Conference Centre. Its focus was housing and Sara represented Home Suite Hope among other local charities including Halton Women's Place and Shifra Homes.



CAIDAN TURNS TWO

Catherine Villasenor, who is the HSH Director of Operations, celebrated her son **Caidan's** second birthday with Caidan, her husband Danier and the HSH Team last month.

Caidan has become HSH's Chief Happiness Officer and was all smiles as the HSH team sang 'Happy Birthday'

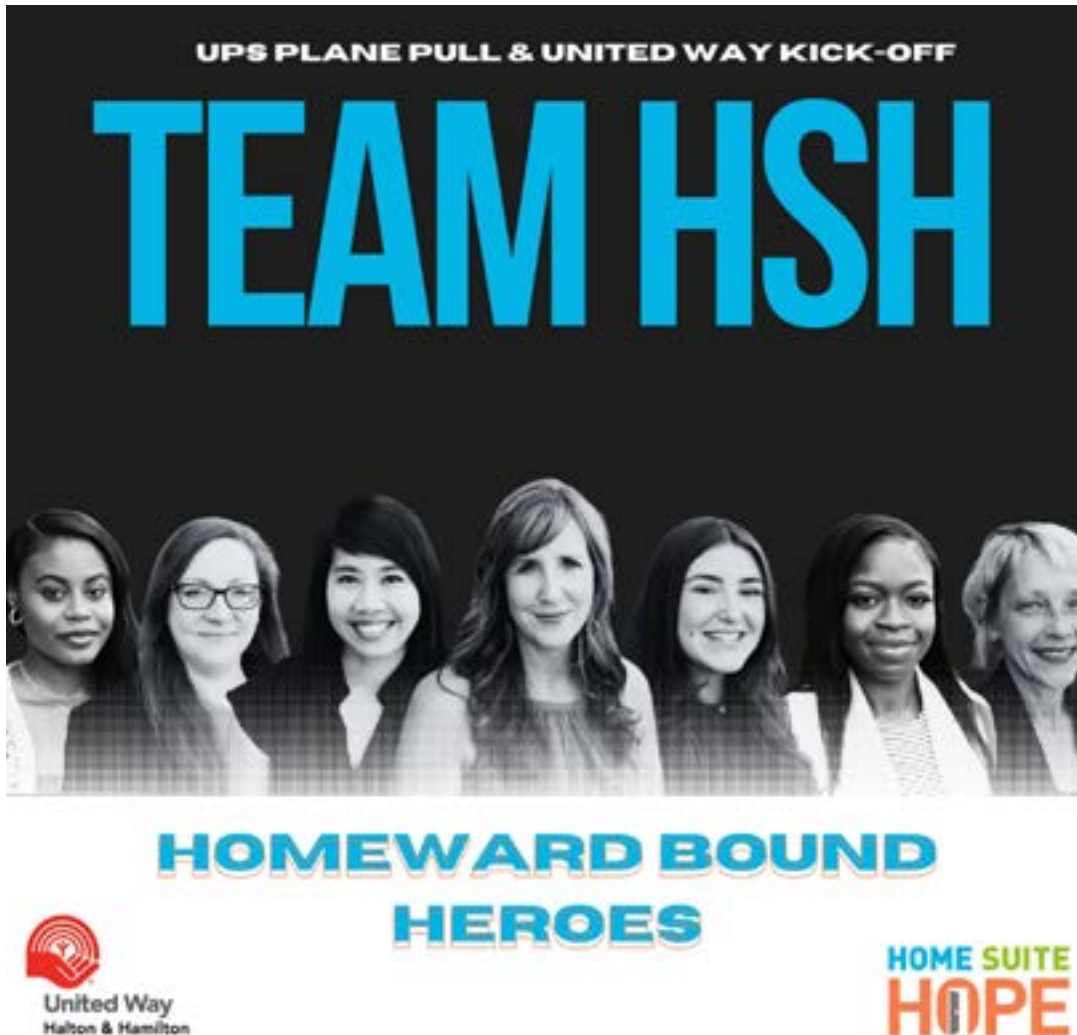
Happy 2nd Birthday, Caidan! xoxox

20TH ANNIVERSARY

HSH congratulated our Kerr Street neighbours, **Lucy's Boutique and Alterations** on 20 years in business. The two owners, sisters Eman and Ban are rays of sunshine and Home Suite Hope is grateful to have crossed paths with them and for their continued support. Even with their busy schedules, they took the time to meet with each HSH participant attending 2023's Home for Good Gala, and carefully altered and donated dresses to each woman. In hearing HSH was also celebrating a 20th Anniversary this year, Ban stopped by with flowers to congratulate the HSH team!



HSH PULLS A PLANE: UWHH



HOMEWARD BOUND HEROES PULLING FOR HSH

Help HSH improve lives locally! Home Suite Hope is pulling a plane at the [United Way Halton & Hamilton campaign kick-off - the UPS Plane Pull](#), to improve lives locally. The event is Saturday, September 21 at the Hamilton Airport.

By sponsoring the HSH team you are supporting the ongoing work of United Way Halton & Hamilton in its mission to fund programs that address three focus areas - helping children and youths reach their full potential, improving neighbourhood health and personal well-being, and promoting financial security and independence. As HSH is a United Way Halton & Hamilton-supported charity, any funds raised towards this ALSO support Home Suite Hope and our mission.

The UWHH has also received a generous MATCH for its Agency teams so any funds raised by an agency team (including HSH) up to \$1,500 will be matched at 50% and every \$1 over that will be matched 100% (to a max combined total of \$20K)!

Please [DONATE](#) to help us reach our goal!

SOS: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Home Suite Hope's desperate need for housing was recently covered by Inside Halton and Village Media.

Home Suite Hope's desperate need for housing is getting a lot of attention from the local media – but we really want to hear from local landlords and property managers.

Can you help us find housing? Home Suite Hope's most immediate need is for housing – affordable housing.

We urgently want to partner with affordable housing providers as we move our single parent participants from poverty to stability through a four-year program that provides support and post-secondary education to result in employment and stability.

If you know someone who has rental units, in-law suites, is a property manager or contemplating building with a not-for-profit partner, we ask that you consider connecting with us. Contact Catherine Villasenor at cvillasenor@homesuitehope.org.



In case you missed the news:

Read reporter David Lea's interview with HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming: [Oakville charity says it can't find Halton landlords willing to help women and children facing homelessness](#)

Read HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming's column in Village Media's Oakville News: [Home Suite Hope urgently needs apartments in Halton](#)

... and Halton Hills Today [Home Suite Hope urgently needs apartments in Halton](#)

Read Ben Brown's article in Oakville News: ['Very problematic': Home Suite Hope faces housing crisis amid rising costs](#)

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Life was exceedingly hard for many in 2023 and HSH and our participants were not immune to these difficulties but we all worked extremely hard to move through the year as thoughtfully as we could. The year 2023 will be remembered as the year of 'turbulence and tenacity.'

- Sara

[HSH 2023 Annual Report](#)

CHECK OUT OUR AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023

On behalf of Home Suite Hope, we invite you to check out our Audited Financial Statement 2023 released at our AGM June 13.

[Audited Financial Statement 2023](#)



PRESENTATION TO AGM

HSH Executive Director Dr. Sara Cumming presented the 2023 Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement to the Annual General Meeting on June 13.

Please take some time to view her presentation:

[2023 Report to AGM](#)



Dr. Sara Cumming
Executive Director,
Home Suite Hope

COMMUNITY UPDATE

HSH CONTACTS

HSH's Program Manager Nikkian Hanson-Daley is currently on maternity leave having welcomed her daughter Nova in late June. Executive Director Sara Cumming is also spending time this summer with her new grandson Oliver, who was born in early July.

Catherine Villasenor, HSH Director of Operations, is at the helm and can connect anyone needing to reach Sara urgently.

While Nikkian is on maternity leave, here's who to contact in her absence:

Intake/Program Eligibility:

Jovelle at joveller@homesuitehope.org or programs@homesuitehope.org

Case Management Inquires:

Temisha at temishaj@homesuitehope.org or Haley at haleyw@homesuitehope.org

In-Kind Donations:

Temisha at temishaj@homesuitehope.org

Community Relations and Programming:

Catherine at cvillasenor@homesuitehope.org

Events and Volunteer Inquires:

Katelyn at katelynz@homesuitehope.org

Management-Related Inquires:

Sara at sarac@homesuitehope.org or Catherine at cvillasenor@homesuitehope.org



Sheridan



CHANGING THE PATTERNS OF POVERTY TO A LEGACY OF PROSPERITY