

MARCH 2022

March 1 – Zero Discrimination Day (UN); Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
March 2 – Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins) (Christian)
March 7 – Lent (Orthodox); Black Mental Health Day
March 8 – International Women’s Day (UN)
March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day
March 20 – UN French Language Day
March 21 – Naw Ruz (Baha’i); International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN)
March 22 – World Water Day
March 24 – International Day for Truth Regarding Gross Human Rights violations and dignity of victims (UN)
March 25 – International Day of Remembrance to Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade (UN)
March 31 – Trans Day of Visibility

International Women’s Day #BreakTheBias

Home Suite Hope challenges everyone to #BreakTheBias this International Women’s Day (IWD).

HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming will share her story at the Urban Economy Forum’s Urban Thinkers Campus March 7 and with Miix Analytics on March 8.

HSH Development Director Krystal Valencia will also share HSH’s affordable housing plan March 7 at the Urban Thinkers Campus

Sara has also been in the spotlight appearing on both Cogeco TV’s *Oakville Matters* and *Halton News*.

See inside for all the details.



HSH WANTS SINGLE PARENTS’ INPUT



Take part in an HSH Survey and/or Focus Group on Housing Design for Single-Parent Families. As HSH works on an affordable housing model in its Housing Supply Challenge project, it wants to hear from all single parents across Halton. We want to hear your ideas about what works – and especially what could work better – when it comes to housing design. Take the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HSHCommunityHousingSurvey2022>

Join an HSH Housing Design Focus Group on Friday, March 25 from 1-2:30 p.m. or Tuesday, May 3 from 6-7:30 p.m. Register with Krystal at krystalv@homesuitehope.org.

SARA ON COGECO TV - TWICE!

OAKVILLE MATTERS

Home Suite Hope Executive Director Dr. Sara Cumming was featured as a guest on Oakville Mayor Rob Burton's Cogeco's YourTV cable program **Oakville Matters** in mid-February along with Halton Region Commissioner of Community and Social Services Alex Sarchuk.

The show's topic was Affordable & Assisted Housing and aired on Wednesday, Feb. 16 and Thursday, Feb. 17 on Cogeco TV's Cable Channel 23.

It is also available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RR9TiHJZhk&t=183s&ab_channel=YourTVHalton

HSH is one of 29 successful applicants across Canada to receive Stage 1 Funding for New Construction in the CMHC-Housing Supply Challenge. The Challenge was announced in the 2019 federal budget with the objective of reducing barriers to housing supply and affordability.

Working to achieve CMHC's (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) corporate aspiration, that by 2030, everyone in Canada has a home they can afford and that meets their needs, the Challenge offers up to \$300 million in funding for new ideas and solutions that will help more people find an affordable place to call home.



Sara Cumming, HSH Executive Director



Alex Sarchuk, Halton Region, Commissioner, Community & Social Services



Oakville Mayor Rob Burton

HALTON NEWS

HSH has received funds to plan a prototype to determine Housing Needs and Affordability for Single-Parent-Led Families. HSH is now working on Stage 2 of the challenge in hopes of winning a portion of \$37.5M available to pay architects and construction project management companies to implement the housing project as its first 'prototype.'

HSH is also involved in fundraising for its housing project. It is engaging in a capital campaign and has been identified as a beneficiary of Oakville resident Callum Wallace's upcoming fundraiser Flight for Hope. (www.flightforhope.com)

HSH Executive Director Dr. Sara Cumming was also featured Tuesday, Feb. 22 on Cogeco TV's **Halton News** with Jason Agnew.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

[Register for UTC: What is the City We Need NOW!?](#)



The Urban Economy Forum (UEF), in collaboration with the Commonwealth Association of Planners, is hosting an Urban Thinkers Campus - North America, Women and Urban SDGs: An Urban Paradigm Shift Toward Gender Equality.

This is a two-day, virtual forum March 7 & 8, 2022, in conjunction with International Women's Day (#BreakTheBias). The forum is based on the UEF program Canada, Women and Urban SDGs, a sub-program of the World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park.

Join Home Suite Hope at this event that will facilitate a conversation about The City We Need NOW!? The focus is to create inclusive cities by mainstreaming women's and girls' equality and equity in all aspects of urban planning, design, development, governance, and overall city life.

This is critical to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 5 - Gender Equality.

The forum will focus on six topics: Women and Housing; Women-Friendly Cities; Women's Lived Experience and Local Community Participation; Women and Violence; Women and Urban Inclusion; and, Women and the Environment.

HSH Executive Director Dr. Sara Cumming will speak at the forum on March 7. Sara will be sharing her personal story as the daughter of a single parent who became a single parent herself and then obtained her PhD and launched a successful career as a researcher, educator and executive director - a changemaker. Sara will speak at the Women's Lived Experience and Local Community Participation session.

Home Suite Hope Development Director Krystal Valencia will also speak at the March 7 Women and Housing session to share HSH's involvement in the CMHC-led Housing Supply Challenge in hopes of making positive change to the affordable housing issue.

For more information and registration, visit <https://na-women-and-urban-sdgs.eventbrite.ca/>



International Women's Day #BreakTheBias with Miix Analytics



SARA SHARING HER STORY

IWD #BreakTheBias with Miix Analytics is taking place on International Women's Day, and is raising funds for HSH.

Home Suite Hope Executive Director Dr. Sara Cumming will share her story as Miix Analytics hosts this special event Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 9-10 a.m.

The hour-long event will include a keynote speech and panel discussion with women, who are challenging and breaking bias in their careers.

Sara continues to break the bias in her career and continues to be a community advocate for gender equality, social policy and employment.

Panellists include Sara, as well as Caroline Gianias, President of Radio Connects, Susan Sanei Stamp, Director, Talent Research and Insights at RBC and Seun Tuyo, Director at RFI.

Sara is a Professor of Sociology at Sheridan College and the Executive Director of HSH.



Sara Cumming, HSH Executive Director

"Throughout my life, I have experienced many biases — I grew up in a single mother-led household reliant on welfare and then became a single parent myself.

These circumstances intersected in my life and created many situations where I have been viewed (and treated as) less than.

Forging a successful career where my upbringing and 'feminine' attributes (caring, nurturing, emotional) are used as weapons against me has

not been easy; however, much harder for my colleagues who have other equity-deserving statuses (non-straight, non-binary, disabled, Black, Indigenous, women of colour, etc). It is important we have these conversations to change the narrative."

To register visit:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9NhTfLNSThmf6xsdJp3KgZRjRhL2P42JKUJUftapPf2rv-Q/viewform>

HSH asks all single parents - from across Halton - to take its survey

HOUSING SOLUTIONS SURVEY

Are you a single parent residing in in the Halton Region?

Home Suite Hope is advocating to become a part of a long-term affordable housing solution and needs your ideas, insight and feedback!

If you're a single parent, regardless of income, please consider filling out this survey to help us build better housing solutions:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HSHCommunity_HousingSurvey2022



LIFE SKILLS SURVEY

HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming, research partners from across disciplines at Sheridan College and 15 community partners (Big Brothers Big Sisters Halton/Hamilton, Bridging the Gap, Halton Children's Aid Society, Food For Life, Halton Region, Halton Multicultural Council-HMC Connections, Halton Women's Place, Kerr Street Mission, Oak Park Neighbourhood, Oakville Community Foundation, Peterborough Housing Corporation, SAVIS, Shifra, United Way Halton Hamilton, WoodGreen, YMCA Oakville) are working together to design a client centric and EDI-informed virtual life skills program that will aid the implementation of life skills training to help equip individuals with life skills that can help them maneuver through barriers and build independence.

Are you over 18 years old and feel like you would have gained from learning more life skills throughout your life? Please consider completing the following survey:

https://sheridan.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0wkBVWcrimhRchw

***Survey link is available until Friday, March 4, 2022**

CANADAHELPS CAMPAIGN

MAKE IT MONTHLY

Throughout March, create a new monthly gift of \$20 or more in support of our charity through CanadaHelps, and CanadaHelps will make a one-time extra \$20 donation to our cause!*

Create your new monthly donation through our CanadaHelps profile <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/home-suite-hope-shared-living-corp/>



(*Make It Monthly 2022 \$20 Offer is valid for new scheduled monthly donations of a minimum of \$20 per month beginning March 1st, 2022 at 12:01 AM Newfoundland Standard Time (NST) to March 31st, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST). CanadaHelps will donate to a participating charity an additional \$20 for each new monthly donation of \$20 or more that is made three times before June 2, 2022, to a maximum aggregate amount of donations from CanadaHelps to all participating charities of \$50,000 CAD. See full terms and conditions: https://go.canadahelps.org/e/905392/t-monthly-terms-and-conditions/3cyqy7/488349074?h=NRjp6tAF_Pm6NnsoEW7_QLwGNdZVsqciKTA7Mc94IYvY)

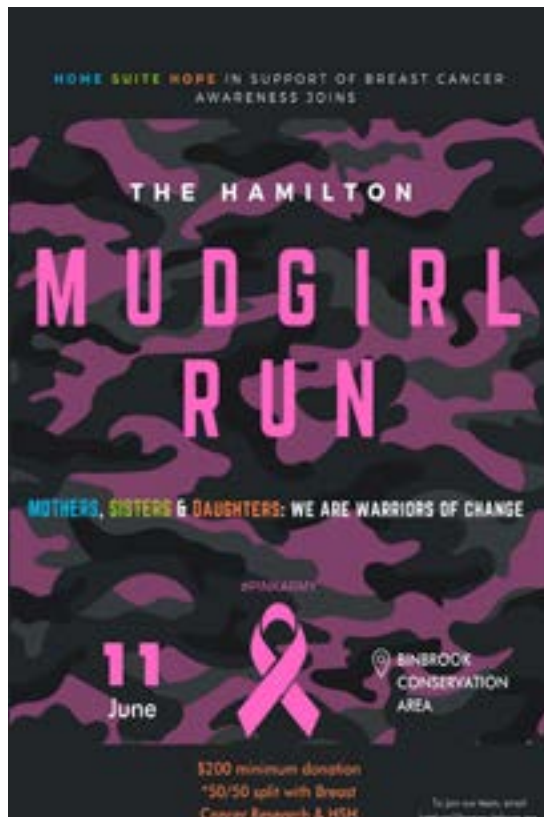
JOIN HSH AT MUDGIRL

Don't be shy to get dirty as you step up to the challenge by joining Home Suite Hope's MUDGIRL Run team in 2022. Get ready for an all-inclusive, 5km (about 3 miles) race, consisting of 17-plus obstacles to overcome. The course is committed to testing your strength, endurance and above all, your spirit. There is no timing and no obligation to complete all the obstacles. You are competing for the sole purpose of having fun and having a great experience, regardless of your athletic ability.

MUDGIRL Hamilton is Saturday, June 11, 2022. MUDGIRL Village Opens at 7:45 a.m. with waves of competition beginning at 8:30 a.m. and taking off every 15 minutes until 1 p.m. The Challenge takes place at 3120 Binbrook Rd., Binbrook, Ontario with parking at the Binbrook Agricultural Society.

For more info, visit <https://register-en.mudgirlrun.ca/event/mudgirl-hamilton-sun>.

You can also contact HSH at info@homesuitehope.org or katelynz@homesuitehope.org.



PETER'S PERSPECTIVE

A LONG-TIME HSH SUPPORTER

The idea of not giving someone a fish, but teaching them to fish is what first attracted Peter Kolisnyk, an Engel & Völkers real estate broker, to Home Suite Hope (HSH).

More than a decade later – after agreeing to join HSH as Interim Executive Director and later serving as Board Chair to steer the not-for-profit through some challenging waters – Peter is proud to see that HSH not only survived but thrives.

HSH's mandate is to assist not just single mothers move from homelessness to self-sufficiency through education and support, but position their children not to repeat the cycle of poverty. Effecting that change in the town he has called home for 30 years resonates with Peter, who spent the majority of his sales and marketing career travelling abroad for a major sportswear company – and seeing first-hand the global issue of homelessness.

It was ski club friends Vanessa and Mark Barr, who introduced Peter to HSH and its mandate intrigued him. He recalls Vanessa described it as not giving someone a fish, but teaching them to fish and he said, "If someone is prepared to do the work, I am prepared to give them the support they need."

Upon stepping in to the not-for-profit struggling as many across Canada do, Peter took the lead on a major restructuring and drastic changes that put HSH on solid ground. He also took up the challenge of a former board chair and joined the HSH board serving as Chair and Past-Chair for the better part of a decade.

Peter didn't just step into the challenge, he jumped. He tackled the Ironman Muskoka and raised \$10,000 above his \$50,000 goal for HSH. He then raised another \$40,000 in a Sleep in Your Car event that saw him sleep in a car for seven nights. Two subsequent Sleep in Your Car events, hosted at the YMCA of Oakville and the Infinity Oakville car dealership, also raised significant funds for HSH.

Peter said raising awareness of HSH was the real benefit. He noted a big turnaround for HSH came when the community became more aware of its work and the positive outcomes it was achieving, which drew large individual and corporate donors and supporters. Peter noted HSH has great partners in the Town of Oakville, Sheridan College (where participant parents study and graduate).



ENGEL & VÖLKERS
PETER KOLISNYK

A DONOR'S STORY

Peter helped establish another valuable partnership when, as chair of both HSH and the YMCA of Oakville, he encouraged collaboration between the agencies. The YMCA offers support to HSH families, providing opportunities for both mothers and children to become more involved in activities and the broader community.

Peter notes one HSH skilled trades graduate parent not only gained employment with the YMCA, but received the Peter Gilgan Scholarship Award to further pursue her studies.

There are also community-supported scholarships available through HSH for the children of participant parents.

Across the two generations, the cycle of poverty can be broken, noted Peter.

While HSH's mandate is to assist single parents, Peter said he believes that assisting parents amounts to helping the entire family unit.

Peter is currently continuing his involvement with HSH as a member of its Fundraising Committee.

As an expert in real estate, who can draw on a global perspective, homelessness, poverty and the lack of affordable housing are challenges that won't disappear overnight, according to Peter. While he acknowledges it takes a village to bring about change, he notes HSH is again a community catalyst for that change through its current work to establish more affordable housing.

He will continue to do his part and his immediate plan is to advocate for the efforts of his Engel & Völkers colleague, Callum Wallace, also of Oakville, who plans to bring awareness to the global issue of homelessness and raise \$1 million for HSH through Flight for Hope.

Set to launch Flight for Hope's fundraising campaign this spring, Callum's goal is to fly out of Burlington Executive Airport with the aim of becoming the fourth Canadian in history to solo-circumnavigate the world in a small, single-engine, aircraft. It's also Callum's goal to shine a light on homelessness globally and raise \$1 million dollars for Home Suite Hope so that HSH can leverage government funding to acquire affordable housing for its participants.

For more on Flight for Hope, visit www.flightforhope.com.



Peter Kolisnyk: Sleep in Your Car



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

THE WOMEN'S CENTRE OF HALTON

The **Women's Centre of Halton** is a safe place for all women to learn, grow and get support in a non-judgmental way.

Established in 1989 to support the transition of women leaving shelters, the Centre has focused on empowering women to be their best selves ever since.

It believes all women deserve to be treated with respect and compassion, and empowering women is at the root of its philosophy and mandate.

The Women's Centre of Halton is often the first place women come to when they are searching for a fresh start.

The Centre provides a wide range of services and programs to empower women in their journey and increase their options, including: peer support; life coaching; life skills coaching; a legal clinic; social care; trauma and abuse counselling and more.

The Centre practices anti-discrimination policies on race, culture, sexual orientation, religion, and ability.

Led by Executive Director Kate Holmes, who took over the helm in April 2021, the Centre is dedicated to supporting women who have experienced or are experiencing crisis or distress, or who are in transition of a life change.

The Centre is open to all women, and offers support so that each woman has the opportunity to be heard and accepted, to acknowledge her equal worth and the individuality of her life experience.

The Women's Centre of Halton is a not-for-profit organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. They play a vital role in governing the organization and ensuring community capacity building.

For more on The Women's Centre of Halton, visit <https://thewomenscentreofhalton.com/>



TEAMWORK DELIVERS

A SPECIAL TREAT FOR HSH MOMS

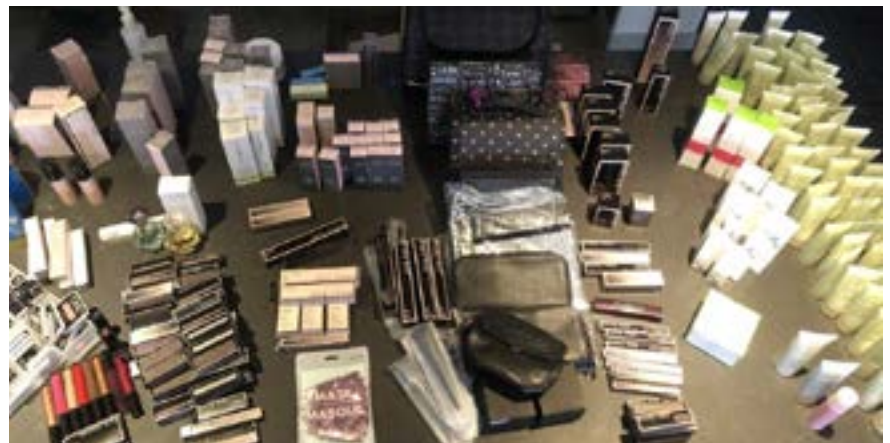
Home Suite Hope moms received a gift bag and flower for Valentine's Day.

HSH is grateful to **Ann's Flower Boutique in Oakville, Mary Kay consultant Amy Blanchard** and Edith and Lori and **The May Court Club of Oakville** for making this special delivery happen.

Ann's Flower Boutique donated the flowers while Amy donated several thousand dollars' worth of makeup.

The May Court Club of Oakville delivered the gift bags to our moms.

A real team effort and HSH is so grateful to all those involved for their generous contribution!



CHANGING THE PATTERNS OF POVERTY TO A LEGACY OF PROSPERITY