

## JANUARY 2022

**International Year of Glass**  
(United Nations)

**International Year of  
Artisanal Fisheries and  
Aquaculture (United Nations)**

**January 1** – New Year's Day

**January 6** – Epiphany\*  
(Christian)

**January 7** – Orthodox Christian  
Nativity of Christ

**January 27** – International Day  
to Commemorate Memory of  
Victims of Holocaust (UN)

## A NEW YEAR

**W**elcome to the first edition of the 2022 HSH Newsletter! As always HSH is humbled by the amount of community support that was provided to each of our families throughout the Hope for Holidays campaign. In fact, we have continued to feel such gratitude for the community surrounding - both long-time and brand new donors - who have continued to ensure that our participants and their families stay safe and healthy during the pandemic. We finished the year strong and secure despite still maneuvering through the restrictions that COVID-19 continues to present.



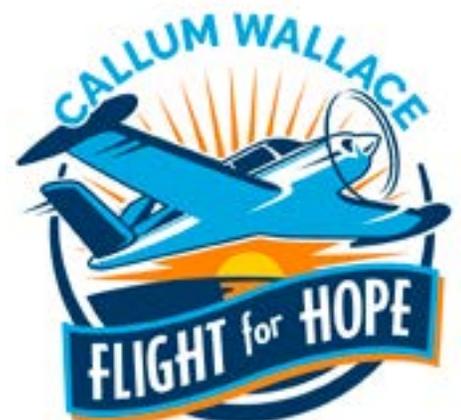
***Please see inside for Sara's full message as we head into 2022.***

## JOIN US AS WE TACKLE HOUSING ISSUES

**H**SH is working on making a positive difference in the affordable housing crisis in Halton.

HSH is doing this on numerous fronts and through many partnerships. Find out more about Oakville resident Callum Wallace's efforts to raise funds for local affordable housing by having his Flight for Hope benefit Home Suite Hope.

***Please see inside for more on Callum's effort.***



# HSH Executive Director Sara Cumming looks to 2022

**W**e finished the year strong and secure despite still maneuvering through the restrictions that COVID-19 continues to present.

As programming has grown, so too, have our outcomes with the vast majority of participants graduating with full-time employment in the careers they trained for at college.

However new problems have continued to present themselves over the course of the past two years. The most salient of them being the drastic increase in housing costs across the province.

Our graduates are now struggling to maintain their rentals on their own despite doing all the grueling work to become fully self-sufficient.

A full-time entry position at \$45,000 a year nets a participant \$2,997 per month with the average two-bedroom apartment in Halton being \$2,269 (according to the Toronto Real Estate Board). Once we take transportation, hydro, gas, internet, phone and groceries into account, most remain in a deficit.

Working with partners from across sectors to expand Halton's stock of affordable housing is a key priority of Home Suite Hope's as we move forward. This will be challenging as we will simultaneously need to safeguard all of our current levels of funding and programming, and, start to move towards a housing solution.

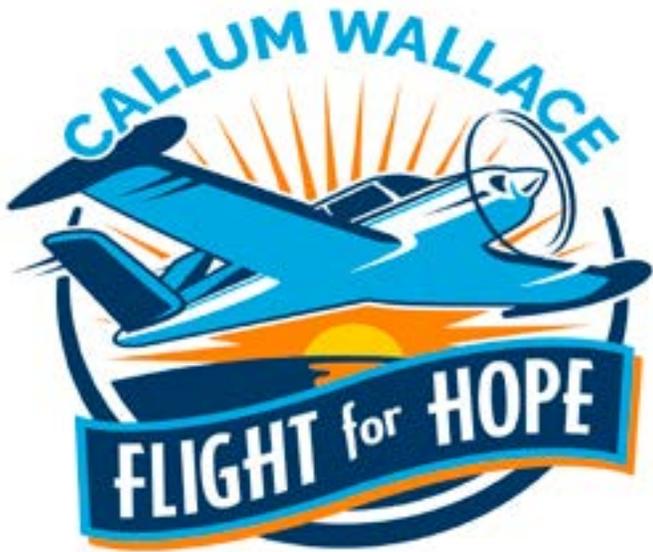
We know this community is up to the challenge and look forward to engaging you all in conversations over the next few months.

We look forward to another year of growth and community collaboration helping us to break the bonds of generational poverty - permanently changing lives for the better.



*Sara*

# Flight for Hope to benefit HSH affordable housing efforts



**C**allum Wallace, 27 years old, was born and raised in Oakville, Ontario. He attended Oakville Trafalgar High School and soon after began a career in real estate.

Callum has been involved with HSH since 2018 when he helped a family have a home for Christmas and the holidays.

While real estate is his day job, he has a passion for flight. After receiving his pilot's licence, Callum has been flying every chance he gets. He's grateful that it has reached a point where his passion and his job enable an opportunity to pursue one of the biggest challenges a pilot can face, alongside helping HSH (support many people in need) fund and launch a new initiative!

## **The Goal:**

Callum Wallace will launch to the skies from Burlington Executive Airport later this year, setting out to become the fourth (4TH) Canadian in history to solo-circumnavigate the world in a small, single-engine, aircraft. The event will take approximately two-and-a-half months and everyone will have the opportunity to be involved and follow along via live tracking on the Flight for Hope website. While this is a solo mission, Callum aims to create an event and platform where thousands of people can actively be involved. Flight for Hope will host numerous events over the next year, both locally and internationally, leading up to the departure, with proceeds going to Home Suite Hope.

It's Callum's goal to raise \$1 million dollars for Home Suite Hope so that HSH can leverage government funding to acquire affordable housing for its participants.

# Flight for Hope supports HSH as its pilot has seen its success

## The WHY:

"I often get asked WHY I want to do something like this," Callum explained, when Sara (Cumming) from Home Suite Hope heard about Callum's plans to fly around the world.

Callum answered, "First off, I'm a go-getter and pushing myself to another level has always been my priority — a world flight is a challenge for even the best of pilots. Secondly, turning this into an event to support others makes this exponentially more meaningful for me and an event of this size has great potential to really make a difference. I'm from Oakville and Home Suite Hope is a local charity of which I have seen first-hand have a positive impact on our community."



## How to Donate:

We have many ways to get involved and help support Flight for Hope! From corporate sponsorships to a simple donation, you can email [Donate@Flightforhope.com](mailto:Donate@Flightforhope.com) to learn more. Additionally, you can visit [www.flightforhope.com](http://www.flightforhope.com).

*Callum*



# Hope 4 Holidays

## THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF OUR DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Home Suite Hope is proud to say its annual **Hope 4 Holidays** campaign successfully served approximately 30 families.

This campaign connects HSH's single parents and their children with the community through the spirit of giving and there were many ways our supporters got involved.

Some sponsored a participant and their family members' wish lists.

Others donated gift cards, household and personal hygiene items.

An anonymous donor provided gift cards for each family to purchase a holiday dinner.

Many helped by donating to #GivingTuesday. You can give every day through CanadaHelps- <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/home-suite-hope-shared-living-corp/>. **THANK YOU!**



Thank you so much!

# 2021 BOARD MILESTONES

## FACES CHANGE ON THE HSH BOARD, COMMITMENT REMAINS CONSTANT

**W**ith **Barrie Carlyle as Chair** and **France Fournier as Vice-Chair**, the HSH Board of Directors stepped up to meet numerous changes, challenges and successes in 2021.

The board bid farewell to **Catherine Meagher** (who stayed on as secretary), former board chair **Sharon Wingfelder**, **Sharon Richardson** (who continued with Empty Bowls organization) and **Natalie Jamison** (who donated a \$13,000 2021 Share the Wealth Award from the ScotiaMcLeod Charitable Foundation to HSH).



The board welcomed **Burhana Bello-Ayorinde**, former HSH Industry Council representative **Ted Ecclestone**, Homeward Bound graduate **Sasha-gay Hanson** and **Troy McLean**.



HSH's Finance Committee welcomed a new face, too, as **Kevin Farrell** joined in working with HSH **Treasurer Lisa Garland**.

Human Resources Committee member **Leena Sharma-Seth** delivered anti-racism workshops to both the board and staff as principal of Mending the Chasm: Building Inclusive Cultures from the Inside Out.

For the second pandemic year, HSH held a **virtual AGM and Annual Report** both of which were released in September.

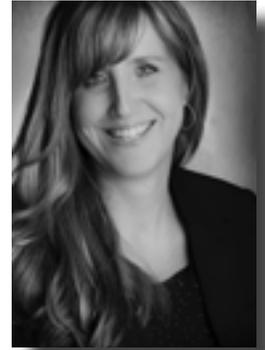
HSH's board signed on to the federal government's **50-30 Challenge** in support of a plan to improve access for racialized persons, people who identify as LGBTQ2, people living with disabilities and First Nations, Inuit and Metis to positions of influence and leadership on corporate boards and in senior management.

# 2021 STAFF MILESTONES

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SARA CUMMING

**W**hile **Executive Director Sara Cumming** led HSH through many successes in 2021, she had an exemplary year in her academic world.

Sara competed in this year's **Reimagining Education** hosted at Sheridan College with two separate teams. Of the 95 teams entering, 10 were named finalists and then competed for \$10,000 in funding for the top four teams. Both of Sara's teams won one of the four \$10,000 grand prizes.



Sara also completed a postgraduate certificate in **Women in Leadership** from Cornell University. Meanwhile, Sara's research teams were awarded two separate three-year research grants; a **Colleges and Institutes Canada (CiCan) grant** collaborating with colleagues at Sheridan and Niagara College to help guide gender mainstreaming in Kenyan Technical and Vocational Educational Training programs (TVET) and a **Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council-Community College Social Innovation Fund (NSERC-CCSIF) grant** collaborating with 15 not-for-profits and Halton Region to build a client-centric, EDI-informed, applied Life Skills Program.

In October of 2021, Sara was the second Canadian to be accredited as a **Clinical Sociologist** by the Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology.



HSH welcomed **Sarah Gillen**, who took over Life Skills and Outreach as HSH bid farewell to Trina Roiballove. Sarah had already been working with HSH, her latest venture offering Virtual Tutoring and Homework Help to participants and their children. Sara recently stepped up into a new role as Program Coordinator at HSH.

Front-line staff took part in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion training delivered by Leena Sharma-Seth through *Mending the Chasm: Building Inclusive Cultures from the Inside Out*.

Front-line staff also completed the Government of Canada's Women and Gender Equality Canada's Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) training.

Program Manager **Catherine Lucasan** became Catherine Villasenor in June as she married Danier Villasenor. Case Manager **Nikkian Hanson** announced her engagement to Oshane Daley and Case Manager **Leah Burton** became engaged to Dan Saliba. Just before the end of 2021, Sarah Gillen also announced her engagement to Taylor McAlpine.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## HBH & HBHY PROGRAMS

**F**our participants completed the Homeward Bound Halton (HBH) program in 2021, with **all four exiting our program with secured employment** within their field of study.

HSH also celebrated **two participants graduating from their Sheridan College Program**, both of whom hit the ground running applying for employment. Both participants were able to secure employment within months of their graduation and are on track to completing the Homeward Bound Halton program. The hard work and determination of our participants never cease to amaze us!

Sheridan



This year HSH mentors also attended a **trauma-informed workshop** with Sheridan College and 2021 marked the first time in HSH history that we supported 12 students with their learning in the social work and social services fields.

**Eight participants started school**, including two Homeward Bound Halton Youth (HBHY) participants. This included Homeward Bound Halton's first cohort to have participants enter a Computer/IT program. Four participants have ventured into the world of Computer Programming and Computer Software Programming.

Case Manager Leah Burton headed the **Ontario Trillium Foundation-funded pilot Homeward Bound Halton Youth** program. Five young single parents were on-boarded in January 2021. **St. Jude's Anglican Church** held a furniture drive that operated for numerous months in 2021 and helped furnish the new participants' new homes. In January 2022, **three of those young parents** will be attending their post-secondary program and two will also be on their academic journey in either Academic Upgrading or working towards the completion of their high school diploma.



In partnership with Food for Life, Homeward Bound Halton Youth participants completed monthly food literacy workshops - where they discussed a variety of topics such as meal prepping, grocery shopping on a budget, kitchen safety, and knife skills. The workshops also included live demo's where participants would follow along with the chef to cook delicious and nutritious meals with food from Food for Life. The youth enjoyed the workshops and the additional food supports helped combat any food insecurities.

# ...PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FCT awarded its **William G. Davis Scholarship to Kyjuana Marksman, daughter of HSH participant Monell Marksman**, during a scholarship ceremony attended by FCT and HSH officials and Kyjuana and Monell.



HSH and **Safetynet Children and Youth Charities** teamed up for a Back-to-School Shopping Day for HSH participants and their families just ahead of students returning to in-person learning last fall.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH & LIFE SKILLS



HSH welcomed **Sarah Gillen** as the new Community Outreach Worker in 2021. Under Sarah's leadership, HSH had increasing amounts of self-paced modules available to accommodate COVID-19 and/or independent learners.

The self-paced Learning Management System offers modules that cover important topics that range from professional and personal development, financial literacy, education, health, etc. These include modules that discuss things such as credit cards and budgeting, how to apply to college, building confidence, email communication and online etiquette, and so much more!

Homeward Bound Halton Youth (HBHY) workshops (synchronous group workshops) were offered bi-weekly featuring live facilitators like Stride, Halton Legal Clinic, financial advisors and covered topics such as Knowing Your Rights as a Youth, Wise Money Management, Self-Advocacy and more.

Stabilizing First Halton (SFH) life skills workshops (synchronous group workshops) also featured live facilitators like Stride and topics such as Time Management.

The Community Outreach Worker was also doing one-on-one meetings, working with partnering agencies to gain referrals from primary caseworkers to further support individuals with varying levels of needs and knowledge/experience with life skills such as budgeting, money management, nutrition and healthy eating on a budget.

# DONORS & FUNDRAISING

## GRANT, EMPTY BOWLS, HOPE 4 HOLIDAYS AND MORE

Early in 2021, HSH received a \$105,000 donation from **BLT Construction Services** as part of **BLT's Building Blocks of Hope** pandemic relief fundraising campaign. The donation was formally made at Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington, where BLT had constructed a field hospital. The company donated funds back into communities to fight homelessness in the communities in which it built pandemic field hospitals.



HSH welcomed **Mark McLaughlin** as a new Partner in Change as Mark stepped up to finance the nearly \$10,000 annual shortfall of the approximate \$50,000 annual cost of supporting a HSH single-parent family as they move from poverty to stability across the four-year Homeward Bound Halton program.

HSH announced the new **Youth Transitional Year Pilot**, funded by the Halton Region Community Investment Fund (HRCIF), and operated through a partnership consisting of HSH and Bridging the Gap and Shifra Homes.

HSH saw **Sagen** (formerly Genworth Financial), an original Homeward Bound Halton sponsor, renew its annual \$25,000 sponsorship.

HSH partnered with **FCT, Ian Martin Group** and **Sagen**, to provide Basic Needs Subscription Boxes for our families, procured by Kits for a Cause.

**The Meaningful Work Foundation**, through the Ian Martin Group, became a Partner in Change in support of a single mother and her son in the Employment phase, after the mom completed Human Resources studies at Sheridan College.



**Ian Martin Group** became a formal supporter of HSH with employee **Sydney Weston** joining HSH's Industry Council and the company leading a Summer Survival Kit campaign – in addition to working in **HSH's Community Garden Blueberry Fields**.

Sagen delivered last fall by leading HSH's **Backpacks for Back to School** campaign, purchasing backpacks and back-to-school supplies and packing the backpacks for delivery to HSH participants and their children.

# ..DONORS & FUNDRAISING

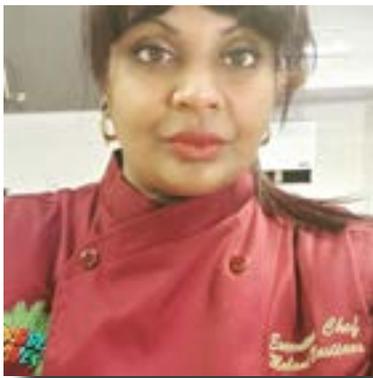
## CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS & PARTNERS IN CHANGE

**Miix Analytics** donated nearly \$10,000 in services to audit HSH's Donor and Social Media Analytics.



## EMPTY BOWLS

**Empty Bowls 2021** was for the second year held as a delivery rather than in-person model. HSH sold 300 tickets and raised approximately \$77,000. Among the restaurateurs contributing to the event was **Chef Melani Bastians**, owner of The Green Eatery and Caribbean Vibes in Milton and founder of No One Goes Hungry (@hungerfreehalton) – whose own brush with family crisis led her to HSH. 2021 drew to a close with HSH seeking input from Empty Bowls attendees on the format and function of its flagship fundraiser as plans got underway for Empty Bowls 2022.



## HOPE 4 HOLIDAYS

**Hope 4 Holidays** was once again a success. Organized by Program Manager Catherine Villasenor, the annual holiday campaign saw more than 30 HSH families' wish lists sponsored by community donors. Other local businesses and individuals donated gift cards,

cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items. An **anonymous donor** provided gift cards for holiday dinners for the participants and their families. Former HSH board member **Natalie Jamison** organized the gift wrapping of all donated gifts through her firm, **Scotia Wealth Management/ScotiaMcLeod**, a division of **Scotia Capital Inc. – The Jamison Group**.



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HSH launched its campaign – a major focus for 2022 - advocating for affordable housing in Halton. HSH **Director of Development Krystal Valencia** is leading HSH in a project to address the affordable housing crisis in Halton. HSH also released a video on the issue.

# 2021 HSH HIGHLIGHTS

## OFFICE NEWS

The HSH Office re-opened midway through 2021 with reduced staff present on a daily basis as HSH continued to work to get back to 'normal' all while observing the most current pandemic-related health and vaccination requirements. Unfortunately with the resurgence of the pandemic in late 2021, HSH's office will start 2022 with staff working remotely once again for the month of January.

## VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

Long-time HSH volunteers - **Lori Sims of the May Court Club of Oakville** and **Cindy Perras**, a veteran Empty Bowls organizer – were recognized as HSH Volunteers of the Year during Volunteer Month in April.



HSH adopted a **Land Acknowledgement Statement** including it in its business signatures and website to honour and respect the rich history of many First Nations and Métis on whose traditional and treaty lands, now under the stewardship of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, HSH works.

Staff and board members at HSH embraced **International Women's Day (IWD)** by taking the IWD 2021 #ChooseToChallenge pledge in choosing to challenge inequality, call out bias, question stereotypes and address all forms of gender inequality. People took selfies taking the pledge and they



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# SHARING OUR STORY

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Miix Analytics** assisted HSH in a communications audit, which led to the development of newly styled, branded social media templates and a new newsletter email format, all of which were officially adopted in the summer of 2021.

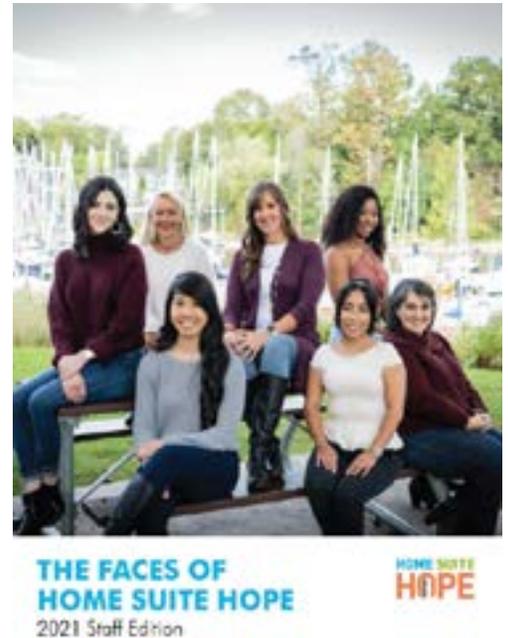
HSH and Sheridan College once again teamed up as **students in Sheridan's Honours Bachelor of Photography program** loaned their talents to HSH with a variety of artistic projects, including photo shoots to augment HSH's communications.

# PUBLICATIONS & VIDEOS

## PUBLICATIONS & VIDEOS RELEASED IN 2021

**The Faces of Home Suite Hope**, a four-part series launched in 2020 and was updated in 2021 to give the community a glimpse of the faces behind Home Suite Hope in order to provide donors and supporters information about the agency they are investing in - who we are and what we do.

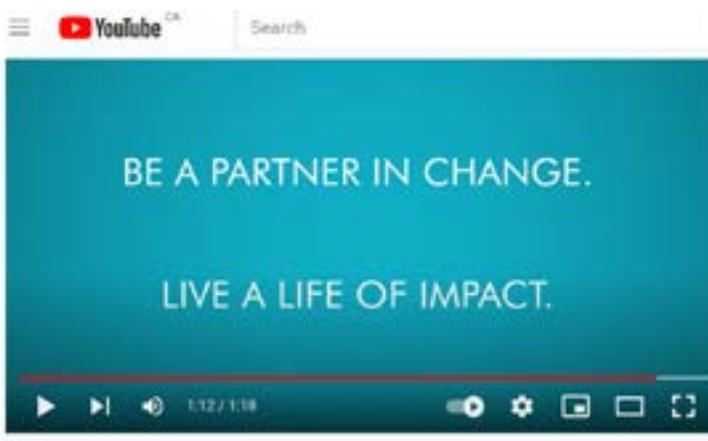
[Faces of Home Suite Hope 2021: The Staff Edition](#)  
[Faces of Home Suite Hope 2021: The Participants Edition](#)  
[Faces of Home Suite Hope 2021: The Board of Directors Edition](#)  
[Faces of Home Suite Hope 2021: The Mentors & Industry Council Edition](#)



**Ways of Giving 2022 Edition** launched near the end of the year to highlight the many ways in which individuals, groups and corporates can get involved with HSH in 2022.

[https://homesuitehope.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/WOG2022\\_Updated.pdf](https://homesuitehope.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/WOG2022_Updated.pdf)

**Check out HSH's video from 2021:**



**Virtual Life Skills:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFFsKHd6sa0&t=3s>

**Partners in Change**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jf16pLBKT7w>

**Empty Bowls at Home**

<https://youtu.be/cXZTOc9vXjo>

**HSH's Affordable Housing Campaign**

<https://youtu.be/-DV7fSjefwc>



Sheridan



SAGEN™

*CHANGING THE PATTERNS OF POVERTY TO A LEGACY OF PROSPERITY*