



WAYS OF GIVING

With Home Suite Hope 2024



HOME SUITE
HOPE



A LETTER FROM SARA

Home Suite Hope works to change the trajectory of people's lives by disrupting generational poverty at its roots. We do this by offering a helping hand up to homeless single parent led families; wrapping all necessary and individualized services around each family to ensure that they obtain the tools necessary to become self-sufficient. Our programming works from a Housing First principle, that is an understanding that individuals need a safe and secure roof over their heads before they can start working through the myriad of barriers that may be preventing self-sufficiency. All participants are granted a housing subsidy, take part in a full year of life skills training and are connected to supports ranging from foodbanks, counselling and childcare to referrals to other services. Participants who have the aptitude and attitude are provided with full scholarships to attend two-year diploma programs at Sheridan College. They are provided with transportation and book costs as well as one-to-one mentorship by female leaders at Sheridan. During this time the participants take part in professional development workshops and work with our Industry Council to become job ready. Once the participants obtain employment, we begin to scale back services until they are fully self-sufficient.

It is to no surprise that learning to live in a pandemic and dealing with the aftermath of it has been a huge curve ball throwing new stressors at our participants and causing brutal and unrelenting inflation on basic needs and rental prices. Despite these challenges, our participants persevere and continue to show strength and resilience! Through our programs, we have been able to house 100% of participants upon entering the program from a state of homelessness or precarious housing situations. Seventy-six percent of graduates are working full-time in their field of study just after completing their post-secondary education at Sheridan College with an average income of \$45,694 per year. Upon exiting, 90% of participants remained housed and are able to handle market rate rent. This is what stopping generational reliance on social assistance looks like!

None of this would be possible without the community wrapping their arms around our organization. The impact of our organization is dependent upon not only our amazing community partners (Halton Region, Sheridan College, Oakville Community Foundation, YMCA of Oakville, Food For Life) but also heavily dependent upon all of our corporate and individual donors. As a not-for-profit, all of our programming is dependent on a combination of government grants, service clubs, foundations, faithbased grants, fundraising events, corporate and individual donations.

As we strategically plan and budget to allocate funds to our programs and families, we are keenly aware of the difficulties that high rates of inflation will bring to our organization. We are hoping that the champions that have invested into building a better community will continue to support us as we help all our families end their cycle of poverty. We also understand that not everyone is in the position to give financially but still want to get involved in other ways. The Ways of Giving to HSH newsletter has been written to showcase all the ways that you can support the work that we do at Home Suite Hope. From weekly, to monthly or annual automated donations, to corporate sponsorships, or becoming a partner in change and sponsoring one family through their journey. Or perhaps you have experience with event planning, employment and support connections, or expertise in the field, which are needed on committees like the Industry Council or Board of Director committees, or willing to simply connect us to other resources and networks. Every connection and contribution, whether big or small, helps us reach our annual goals and continue to help single parents permanently change their lives for the better.

On behalf of Home Suite Hope, I thank you for all the support and kindness you share with us. Please be well, safe and happy over this holiday season.

In deepest gratitude,

SARA CUMMING, PhD
HSH Executive Director





INDIVIDUAL

Ways of Giving

Individual gifts come to Home Suite Hope in a variety of ways. Here we would like to highlight some of the ways that you might consider giving:

- 1** Mail a cheque to 1-200 North Service Rd. West, #424. Oakville, ON L6M 2Y1 addressed to Izabel Rader.
- 2** Donate weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or annually by credit card on our Canada Helps platform and receive an immediate tax receipt: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/home-suite-hope-shared-living-corp/>.
- 3** Set up an **Electronic Fund Transfer** from your bank account to ours on a schedule that works for you!
- 4** Email transfer funds automatically to our bank account by emailing our Bookkeeper, Izabel Rader at izabel@homesuitehope.org. Be sure to send her an email with your information so she can issue you a tax receipt!
- 5** **Transfer of Stocks:** Home Suite Hope accepts Donation of Securities, including publicly listed shares, bonds or mutual fund units. By donating securities directly to a charity, as opposed to selling them and donating the proceeds, the capital gains tax can be eliminated. This means more money for the charity and a greater charitable tax credit for you.
- 6** **Wills & Bequests:** Your will is a powerful thing! You can change the world with a charitable gift in your Will, while still supporting those you love.
- 7** For one time donation campaigns, donors may choose to donate through Unity Values. Campaigns are set up through our HSH page. To view HSH campaigns available on Unity Values, visit: <https://give.unityvalues.com/profiles/home-suite-hope-2>.



Does your workplace take part in a United Way campaign? Did you know you can direct your giving to Home Suite Hope?

HIGHLIGHTS

Glen & Ann Herring, a dynamic duo, and past Board Members of Home Suite Hope helped implement our flagship Homeward Bound Halton program in 2014. The Herrings have been monthly donors of Home Suite Hope since 2016, and recently renewed their pledged monthly gifts for another three years from 2021-2024 by setting up an electronic funds transfer from their bank.

Former Board Members and Treasurers **Lisa Garland** and **Lisa Somers**, current Board member **Elizabeth Young** and Executive Director **Sara Cumming** have been donating via Canada Helps for many years. Some donors prefer giving a set amount on a monthly basis, whereas others prefer to set a biweekly automatic transaction on pay day!

Community members **Graham Richardson**, **Neil Legrand** and **Ian Hallford** also prefer giving a set amount on a monthly basis.

Dedicated donors such as **Mark & Vanessa Barr** and **Neil & Joanne Lester** prefer to give on an annual basis.

In 2021, Home Suite Hope was one of the lucky recipients of a bequest from the **Mary Lousie Burkholder Estate**. This gift allowed Home Suite Hope to onboard three new families with a four-year commitment to each. This gift will have a generational impact changing, not just the lives of our single parents but also their children and grandchildren.

Glen & Ann Herring





CORPORATE

Ways of Giving

Many corporations have a Corporate Social Responsibility Committee (CSR) that help align the mandates of the corporation with causes in the community. We would love the opportunity to discuss Home Suite Hope with your organization.

As a small organization, we have the flexibility to mold a corporate package that is tailored to your company's CSR pillars that best suit your priorities.

Corporations can give in many ways:

- 1 Directed Funding:** Choose an element of programming that aligns well with your mandate. For example, our education program, housing security and development, elements of programming, or life skills and professional development.

HIGHLIGHTS

Sagen, led by Janine Fischer, directed a sixth year of funding to a cohort of Home Suite Hope's Homeward Bound Halton program ensuring that all of the participants had access to the educational resources they needed throughout the duration of their programming.

- 2 Sponsorships:** Corporations can sponsor fundraising events such as our Empty Bowls event. Sponsors receive corporate branding recognition, group volunteer opportunities, and logo recognition. The ideas we've included here are just the beginning. We'd love to speak with you about creating your ideal sponsorship opportunity that achieves your goals and objectives. We want to create something with you that provides you with value and makes you feel good about your investment in the community.

HIGHLIGHTS

Since 2012, **Dean & Debbie Marks** of the Taylor Group have been key community sponsors in Home Suite Hope's Empty Bowls annual fundraiser. In a traditional year, the Taylor Group would host a Bowl Painting Party with over 100 employees, to donate to the event.

For HSH's first bi-annual Home for Good Gala, **Smart Self Storage** and **Black Dog** directed \$100,000 in sponsorships in support of the event.

- 3 Company Matching Program:** Double your donation by allocating a gift to Home Suite Hope, and receive a Corporate Matching Donation from your employer. Corporate matching gifts are donations made by a company to a non-profit that an employee has already supported.

HIGHLIGHTS

Michael Bowick and **Joanne Peters** have been supporters of Home Suite Hope since the beginning. Every New Year that they have donated to HSH, RBC matches their donation dollar-for-dollar. Over the years, Michael and Joanne have supported several families in Home Suite Hope's HBH programming.

- 4 Donate through The United Way:** The United Way workplace campaign unites employees in all offices or branches of a company, and gives them an opportunity to donate, volunteer and speak out for causes that matter to them. You can see the results in your own backyard, even as your part of a larger mission to affect change worldwide.

HIGHLIGHTS

Michael Shaen and **Anita Mackey**, long-time supporters of Home Suite Hope, give an annual donation through the United Way Greater Toronto over the holidays.

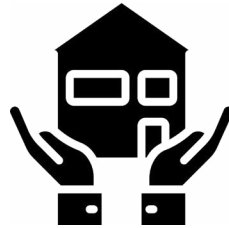
Past Board of Director's Chair, **Barrie Carlyle**, allocated his United Way workplace donation through United Way to Home Suite Hope.





OUR OUTCOMES

See what your giving can do



90%

of participants exited the program housed and handling market rent



76%

of participants who completed the HBH program exited with employment



88%

that completed the HBH program no longer receive social assistance



\$45,694

is the average salary for participants that completed the HBH program and obtained FT employment

*Stats reflective of 2014-2023



MEET SANDRA

See what your giving can do

I was born and raised in The Philippines and had a very successful career. By the age of 25, I was already holding the position of Regional Manager at a construction company and doing very well. However, my job became a source of friction at home and my marriage began to get unhealthy.

I finally found the courage to leave, but it came with years of costly legal representation as I fought for my freedom and custody of my children. Finances became very tight, and it was getting difficult to manage all my expenses. My brother encouraged me to seek a new life in Canada — so I did.

Because my marriage and custody cases were not finalized, I had to leave my children in the care of my parents. As I built my life in Canada, I continued to support my children across seas by sending money back to the Philippines. I rented out a room and lived with five other people as I worked as a caregiver so I could become eligible to officially settle in Canada.

After being separated for five years, I was finally able to move my sons to be in Canada with me. I was so happy to be reunited with them, but it was very difficult. Adjusting to winter temperatures, being confined in a dark basement apartment, going to a new school, meanwhile having a parent that is trying to balance home life along with three other jobs to make ends meet was not ideal for a happy family.

I learned about Home Suite Hope while I was volunteering and it was one of the best discoveries. HSH helped me in so many ways: emotionally, professionally and financially. Before HSH, I lacked direction. I always wanted to improve and upgrade my skills and HSH helped me to achieve my goals.

I have now officially finished my diploma in Business Management in Human Resources at Sheridan College and I have secured full-time employment in my field of study. After graduating from the HSH program, I feel confident about who I am and I believe in myself. Working with Home Suite Hope is like having a big family, it has been amazing!



FOUNDATIONS

Ways of Giving

- 1 Community Foundations:** Community Foundations help guide volunteer efforts, financial support and personal foundation efforts to where it will have the greatest impact based on geographical location, and population-specific needs.

HIGHLIGHTS

Oakville Community Foundation has been one of the most consistent supporters of Home Suite Hope's Homeward Bound Halton program directing philanthropic resources to Academic and Jill of All Trades programming. Certain OCF fundholders will directly allocate funding to HSH through their annual GIVEOakville campaign. The Burlington Community Foundation donated to Home Suite Hope's program resource expansion to further support HSH families residing in Burlington.

Through the Aqueduct Foundation, **Peter and Eve Willis** provided \$5000 in matching funds after committing to match every \$1 donated in support of the "Running on Empty" transportation campaign.

- 2 Private Family Foundations:** The most promising approaches to social and economic mobility create opportunities for and address the needs of the "whole family".

HIGHLIGHTS

Larry and Gerry Wilson Foundation and Leah Battista Foundation: These two funds held within the Oakville Community Foundation, donate \$10,000 to bridge the funding gap for a family for one year. This year, the LeVan Family Foundation (a fund held within the Oakville Community Foundation) donated toward supporting four HSH families over the next year.

JP Bickell Foundation: The JP Bickell Foundation was established by Canadian businessman J.P. Bickell to support three charitable programs, as well as annual support to The Hospital for Sick Children. The JP Bickell Foundation's contribution of \$86,400 over 3-years provided rental subsidies for 3 young parents, providing the environment necessary to be successful and ultimately providing these families with the opportunity to escape the effects of poverty and create a stable life changed for the better.

- 3 Company Foundations:** Company foundations and employee-advised community funds allow companies to invest money in an account dedicated solely to charitable giving, and then use that money to make a difference in the community.

HIGHLIGHTS

Meaningful Work Fund (MWF): Through their MWF, Raise (previously Ian Martin Group) and its stewardship committee led by Sydney Weston has given \$20,000 toward two families in their last phase of Homeward Bound Halton programming.

The Greater Toronto Apartment Association (GTAA) Charitable Foundation is an ongoing supporter of HSH programming. This year, HSH was awarded \$20,000 from the foundation.



Home Suite Hope is proud to be part of Oakville Community Foundation's GiveOakville campaign. GiveOakville is an online crowd-funding platform. 100% of donations are shared with the featured charity of your choice, PLUS your donation is eligible to be topped-up by the foundation. Donate today:
<https://www.theocf.org/giveoakville/home-suite-hope/>

WE ARE A
GIVEOakville
CHARITY



HOME SUITE
HOPE

www.GIVEOakville.com



Have a way to give that is different or unique?

Sometimes our local community comes to us with amazing and innovative ways to contribute to Home Suite Hope financially.

1 First Canadian Title's Academic Scholarship: With parents and their children pursuing post-secondary education, HSH is experiencing the breaking of generational poverty in the present day. Now in its seventh consecutive year, First Canadian Title's scholarship program was named after The Honourable William G. Davis, the 18th Premier of Ontario and current FCT board chairman, whose passion for education contributed to his work in building Ontario's community college system. FCT launched the scholarship in 2015, to help deserving students attend post-secondary education. Since then, the scholarship has helped 15 students across Canada offset some of the financial challenges that come with attending college or university. In 2018, FCT opened up a yearly competition for a \$5000 scholarship and to date, 4 youth at HSH have been awarded the scholarship.

2 Kits for a Cause: This past year, Home Suite Hope received a donation from CIBC Mellon through Kits for a Cause. A packing party for CIBC Mellon staff was held to pack and organize backpacks filled with essential items for participants and children going back to school.

3 The Lions Club of Oakville: The Lions Club of Oakville donates funds to unique participant needs as they arise. In past, they answered the call for laptops for our first participants that pursued a technology program and supporting a participant's campaign to raise money for an accessible van for her daughter who is quadriplegic.

If you or your organization has a new and creative way to support the families that we serve please email: sarac@homesuitehope.org



AFFORDABLE HOUSING CAMPAIGN

Ways of Giving

Housing is an urgent issue. For single mothers receiving social assistance, their monthly social assistance includes only \$642 for shelter costs. Halton's housing costs are among the highest in Canada, making it nearly impossible for families to escape homelessness, even with our subsidies.

There's no one-size-fits-all solution to this affordability problem. Instead, Home Suite Hope takes a three-pillar approach to address housing needs:

The first pillar, HSH would pre-pay rent in existing buildings to ensure participants are housed immediately. It requires an upfront investment but ensures that our participants have affordable housing in today's challenging market, preventing hidden homelessness from becoming visible.

The second pillar, involves partnering with organizations to secure blocks of housing units in new builds. This approach creates a sense of community and improves the efficiency of service delivery.

The third pillar, is self-sufficiency through home ownership. HSH's long-term goal.

Over the past year, Home Suite Hope has worked tirelessly to bring awareness and funds to this critical issue. The public discussions of our need for more access to affordable housing really began when Callum Wallace launched Flight For Hope—a solo flight around the world in his single engine plane to bring both awareness and funds to this housing crisis. His return marked the official launch of Home Suite Hope's affordable housing campaign, at the Bi-Annual Home for Good Gala.

HSH is in desperate need for affordable housing options and cannot sit idly and wait. Too much is at stake; too many futures hang in the balance.

To learn more about the affordable housing campaign and how you can get involved, contact Sara Cumming at sarac@homesuitehope.org



THE IMPORTANCE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

See what your giving can do

Affordable housing holds significant importance for single parent families like ours. It's more than just a place to live; it's a foundation for stability. Having access to safe, affordable housing means we can focus on other aspects of our lives, such as education, career growth, and personal development, without the constant financial stress of housing costs.

An affordable housing unit would open up avenues for us to create a more stable future. It would provide a secure home base from which I could pursue my career, further my education, and save for our future. This stability would allow me to allocate resources toward my son's education, extracurricular activities, and experiences that contribute to his holistic development.

Unfortunately, finding affordable housing as a single parent can be incredibly challenging. Many factors contribute to this difficulty, including limited availability of affordable units, high demand, and the financial strain of being a sole provider. In addition to rent, there are numerous other significant expenses that single parents have to cover alone, such as childcare, healthcare, education, and daily living costs. This financial strain can make it hard to make ends meet, leading to a cycle of financial stress.

Access to safe, affordable housing indeed enables us to focus on other areas of development. When we have a stable place to call home, it relieves the burden of constantly worrying about our living situation. This stability allows us to allocate our energy towards personal growth, building skills, pursuing education, and seeking career opportunities that can break the cycle of poverty.

The community support of the Affordable Housing Campaign is invaluable. It signifies that our society acknowledges the challenges single parents face and is willing to provide a helping hand. The campaign's efforts can lead to real change in our lives by not only offering affordable housing options but also fostering a sense of community and empowerment. Knowing that we have support from the community enables us to build legacies of empowered prosperity for ourselves and our children. It paves the way for us to break down barriers, achieve our dreams, and show the world that single parents are capable of remarkable achievements when given the opportunity and support they deserve.



PILLARS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Ways of Giving

First Pillar



Renter

Pre-purchase affordable rent in existing buildings to prevent visible homelessness.

Second Pillar



Partner

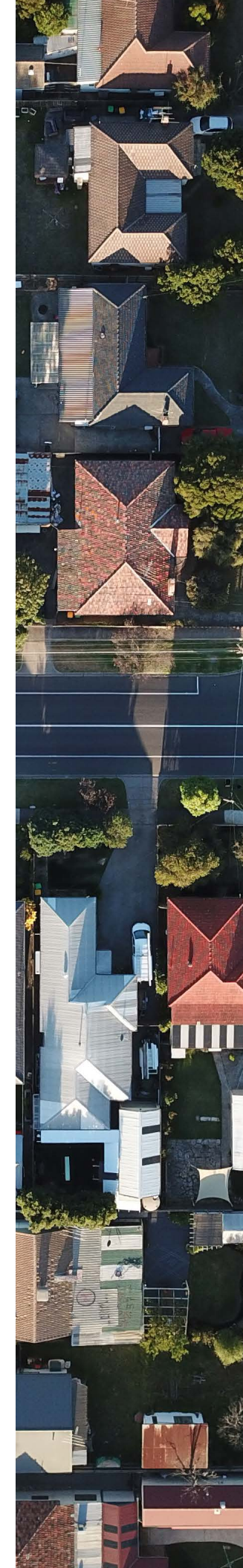
Secure long-term units in new builds.

Third Pillar



Owner

Own safe, affordable builds with long-term funding.





PARTNERS IN CHANGE

Ways of Giving

Through the Partners in Change campaign, HSH hopes to find those willing to sponsor our families and close the funding gaps in HSH Programming and Housing. Sponsors are given the opportunity to know the family, through community events, including the participant's HSH graduation. Sponsorships can be done on an annual basis, team basis or for the four-year duration.

This campaign seeks partners to address the annual **\$9,595 program funding gap** and the **\$14,400 housing funding gap**, for each family to help them journey from homelessness or precarious housing to a stable home, education and a brighter future - hope.

HIGHLIGHTS

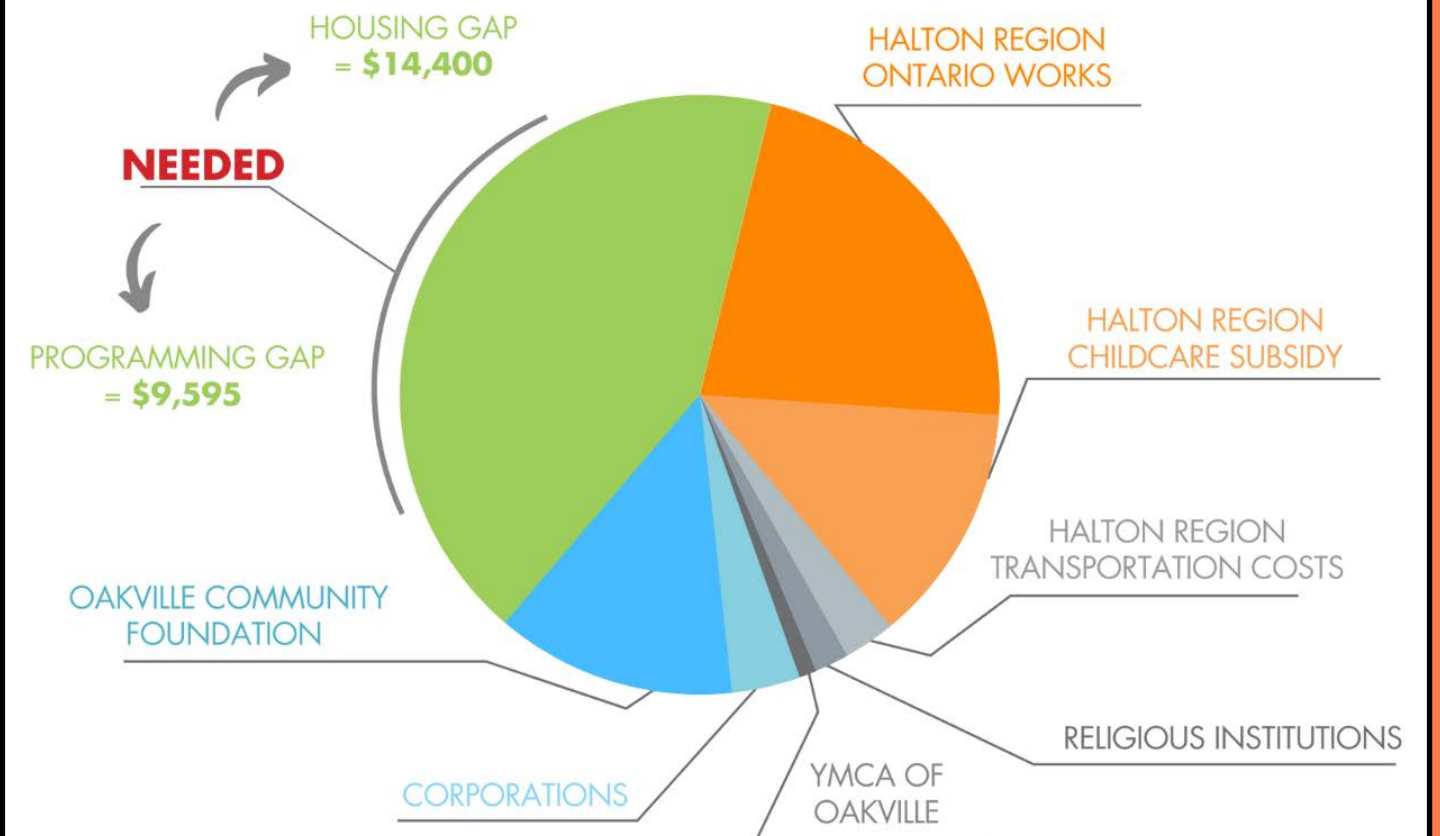
St. Jude's Anglican Church – As HSH's first Partner in Change, St. Jude's stepped up to sponsor a mother and her son to bridge the funding gap for three years of her programming.

Mark McLaughlin committed to an annual Partner in Change Investment in a family for 4-Years. When asked about why he wants to invest, "I was looking for a place to invest, not donate. My financial background makes me use that terminology. The concept of investing in an individual with a family and the group of experienced HSH staff and their success rate sounded like a pretty good return to me."

In November 2022, **100 Women Who Care Burlington** have chosen to sponsor HSH for the funding gap of the full 2022-23 School Year for one Homeward Bound Halton Youth.

In 2022, HSH successfully matched **9 families** with a Partner in Change to bridge the funding gap for their school year.

PARTNERS IN CHANGE CAMPAIGN



WHAT WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH TODAY

\$9,595 PER FAMILY PER YEAR TO SPONSOR
PROGRAMMING FOR A HOME SUITE HOPE FAMILY

\$14,400 PER FAMILY PER YEAR TO SPONSOR
HOUSING FOR A HOME SUITE HOPE FAMILY



MEET CAROLINA

See what your giving can do

Carolina's life changed when she discovered pornographic videos of her 13-year-old daughter made by her child's father. It was in that moment Carolina knew her and her children's lives would change forever.

Her days became filled with police involvement, Children's Aid Services, and family and criminal court. The accumulation of personal and family trauma continued to build and Carolina found herself homeless with her three children. In an instant, all of her life goals and aspirations were taken from her.

Carolina knew that in order to move forward in life, she needed to complete her education and secure a full-time job. But on her own, this goal was out of her grasp – until she found HSH. Carolina was accepted into the Homeward Bound Halton program, and it was at this point that her life changed again. However this time, it was changed permanently for the better.

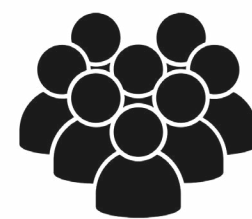
After successfully graduating from the Homeward Bound Halton program, Carolina is now working full-time as a Software Engineer and Security and Privacy Champion. She earns well over the Canadian income median and has created a stable life of self-sufficiency.

"To me, the organizations and individuals that support Home Suite Hope were the lifeline that supported me when I was crushed. With their help and support, knowing that they were my silent partners, gave me the strength and will to keep pushing forward when things got too tough, when I felt like cracking and when I was too tired and exhausted to get up, because I knew I had their support, they believed in the program and therefore in me. I didn't want to disappoint them, and I wanted them to feel proud of me. They became my family here in Canada. Even when I was lonely I knew I wasn't alone."



OUR OUTCOMES

See what your giving can do



Since 2014, Home Suite Hope
has served more than

272 individuals



\$250.00

will provide a family
with a months worth of
transportation funds



\$450.00

will provide a family
with a months worth of
groceries



Homeward Bound Halton
has served more than

50 families





ANNUAL EVENTS

Ways of Giving

1 GivingTuesday: GivingTuesday is a global movement for giving and volunteering, taking place each year after Black Friday. The “Opening day of the giving season,” it’s a time when charities, companies and individuals join together and rally for favourite causes. In the same way that retailers take part in Black Friday, the giving community comes together for GivingTuesday.

Every year, Home Suite Hope raises gift cards for families for the holidays, and compiles a “stock” of gift cards to help our families with emergency expenses throughout the year. If a family’s car breaks down and they must pay to get it repaired, or if we must overcome a global pandemic, gift cards are given to families to help offload the financial stress.

2 Hope 4 Holidays: Help put presents in participant’s homes during the holiday season by sponsoring a family and donating items on their wish list. Sponsors will receive a “Dear HSH Donor” letter. Host an event or establish a time of giving amongst your family, friends, and coworkers to collect grocery, household, or visa gift cards to donate to our families to purchase their presents and holiday needs.

3 Household Item Drives: Everyday household items, such as cleaning supplies, toiletries, personal hygiene products and cabinet staples can take up a considerable amount of money in a participant’s monthly budget. These drop offs can be arranged with Angela Blackburn, angelab@homesuitehope.org.

4 Grocery Gift Card Donations: Sometimes life throws a curve ball and unexpected expenses arise. This could look like medical and dental costs, kids outgrowing clothing rapidly, car repairs, broken or stolen items, or household repairs. Home Suite Hope tries to help our participants recover from these unplanned expenses by providing grocery cards to help offset the costs and reduce their expenses for the month.

5 Running on Empty: The rising cost of transportation has created increasing difficulties for our parents to accomplish their daily tasks – groceries, case management meetings, and drop-off to childcare – which is why HSH will be accepting donations toward gas gift cards, to purchase special requests for their vehicles and other potential transportation-related set-backs.

6 Empty Bowls: Our annual Empty Bowls fundraiser brings together local soup vendors with our wonderful community members, donors, and corporate sponsors to raise money for Home Suite Hope programming. As a community favourite event, Empty Bowls truly brings together the Halton Community for a good cause. If you are interested in attending, becoming a corporate sponsor, or volunteering at our next Empty Bowls event email katelynz@homesuitehope.org.

7 Bi-Annual Home for Good Gala: A gala first held to celebrate the launch of Home Suite Hope’s affordable housing campaign and the return of Flight for Hope’s Around the World flight, the gala will continue on to ignite the beacon of hope for those caught in the storm of homelessness to raise funds and awareness for affordable housing. All proceeds will be used to create affordable housing units for HSH single parent families. To join the mission to make housing in Halton more affordable, and help single parent families find a safe, affordable home, for good, as a donor, event sponsor, or to get involved in other ways, email katelynz@homesuitehope.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Home Suite Hope’s very own Executive Director, **Sara Cumming**, organized the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Sheridan College to sponsor our families for the Hope 4 Holiday’s campaign since 2015? In fact, Sara was involved with Home Suite Hope in a variety of ways before she officially joined the team.



OTHER Ways of Giving

- 1 Industry Council:** The Industry Council plays a critical role in the development and success of the Homeward Bound Halton program. The Industry Council is a group of senior executives from a variety of fields with decision-making authority who meet throughout the Homeward Bound Halton program to support the professional advancement of participants in the program. The Industry Council is a group made up of 8-12 representatives from organizations including private sector businesses, non-profit and public sector employers, community champions with influence in the local community and representatives from employment services at the local college, municipality or community services organization. A key success factor for Homeward Bound Halton participants is that the college programs available through the program are aligned to the local labour market opportunities with the organizations that sit on the Industry Council. If interested or would like more information please contact Nikkian at nikkianh@homesuitehope.org.
- 2 Board Committees:** Do you have a skillset that can help us improve services? Are you an expert at IT, fundraising, governance or accounting? How about marketing and branding? Home Suite Hope welcomes all insight onto special subcommittees that meet quarterly. Email Angela at angelab@homesuitehope.org to inquire.
- 3 Special Events:** Do you enjoy event planning? Home Suite Hope cannot survive without fundraising events. We have been so fortunate to have a dynamic Empty Bowls volunteer committee to help steer this successful event annually. We are hoping to expand the types of events we do and are looking for volunteers to help plan and organize! Email Katelyn at katelynz@homesuitehope.org for more information.
- 4 Blueberry Fields:** Do you like to be outdoors and working with your hands? Upper Oakville Shopping Centre envisioned the creation of a community garden for the residents of Oakville—Blueberry Fields. They wanted to amplify their community work by endowing Home Suite Hope with the harvest. Each year volunteers from the community plant, grow and harvest fruits and vegetables, and we are deeply grateful. Email Angela at angelab@homesuitehope.org for more information or to get involved.
- 5 Third Party Events:** Every contribution makes a huge difference, and all proceeds raised in your community will directly support the programs and services at Home Suite Hope. Email katelynz@homesuitehope.org.

6

Community Mentors: It is crucial for marginalized populations to have access to role models. Home Suite Hope offers homeless single parents the opportunity to rebuild their lives. Our mentoring program connects our eager single parents with community members who want to see them succeed. Home Suite Hope's mentoring program started with its Homeward Bound Halton program as a means to helping students' network and prepare for their new careers. HSH would like to expand this program and offer it to participants in both the Homeward Bound Halton and Stabilizing First Halton program. We believe mentoring – professional or informal – would help empower people by providing positive models and networking opportunities. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Nikkian at nikkianh@homesuitehope.org.

7

Virtual workshops: Do you have a skill you'd like to teach our participants? Do you teach mindfulness? Yoga? Offer baking or painting classes? Want to teach our participants basic car maintenance? We are always looking for an array of skills to pass on to our participants! Email Nikkian at nikkianh@homesuitehope.org for more information.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Sullivan Team, a Burlington-based Realty Brokerage has given Home Suite Hope \$1,000 through an employee-driven initiative.

Engel & Volkers Oakville has collected and donated gift cards to support mothers and children in HSH programs, to offset costs over the holidays and throughout the year.

The Robertson Kadwell Team of Sotheby's International Realty Canada in Oakville held a third party event inviting clients, friends and family to join them at Hagerty's Garage + Social for drinks, food and golf/F1 simulator challenges to raise money for HSH.

The Burlington Welsh Male Chorus performed their annual concert at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre. Ticket sale proceeds went towards supporting Home Suite Hope and Flight for Hope.





MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENTS

Words from those who give

This organization has significant obligations to the families, and it must continue to operate month after month, regardless of any shifts in costs or revenues. It cannot let participants down. For this reason, when we were involved on the Board, we set up Endowment Funds through Oakville Community Foundation to have some protection in the event of financial hardship. At the same time, we believe that it [monthly giving] really helps the staff and board to plan and provide consistent levels of service when they know that there is regular monthly income committed for the long term. With this in mind, we wanted to give that kind of support to the families and we hope that, by acknowledging the commitment here, we can encourage others to do the same. Imagine if a hundred community members were to regularly give \$10, \$30 or more per month, how that dependable regular income would support and stabilize the organization's efforts.

~ **GLEN & ANN HERRING**
HSH Donor

I know that luxury doesn't exist to the same extent for everyone. It is for this reason I wanted to work with Home Suite Hope, helping the participants in its program with advice or connections as they go through their journeys towards more stable lives.

~ **TED ECCLESTONE**
Board Vice Chair

I'm proud to support Home Suite Hope and their mission. My volunteerism isn't selfless – I get far more from my relationships with mentee's than I give; among other things, their resilience, perseverance, and courage inspire me. They remind me that leading at Sheridan is a tremendous privilege.

~ **JANET MORRISON**
President of Sheridan College &
HSH Mentor

It has been an absolute privilege to be a mentor with Home Suite Hope since 2019. Meeting my mentee and her infant son, has shown me that we do indeed all "get by with a little help from our friends!", as one wise song famously proclaimed. The best part is that it is truly a mutually beneficial relationship - not a one way street as you might assume from the designated title as Mentor/Mentee. I learn and grow from them as much as they learn and grow from me! A true human connection cannot exist any other way; I am assured of that now. Thank you HSH for offering this opportunity for me to be of service and to practice living, loving and growing in the company of some of the most courageous members of our community.

~ **LYNN PETRUSKAVICH**
HSH Mentor

The idea to engage the employees in the team-building activity was the brainchild of Dean Marks, president and CEO of Taylor Group, who became curious when he saw a figure with a red shackle painted inside a white bowl at a fundraiser he attended. When he probed about the bowl and the art, he was inspired. "It made me really understand what Empty Bowls and Home Suite Hope is about," he said, adding the Taylor Group has been sponsoring Empty Bowls since 2012. "It's about trying to unlock that shackle and give this person the opportunity to get back up on their feet.

~ **DEAN MARK**
President and CEO of Taylor Group

I joined Home Suite Hope because of the direct way in which we impact the lives of single parents. Ensuring that we are delivering the highest quality and most successful programs to our participants so that we can break the cycle of poverty, at least for those families, will have an enormous impact on the broader community. I do believe we have the additional responsibility of shedding light on homelessness and poverty within Halton Region.

~ **BARRIE CARLYLE**
Past HSH Chair of the Board of Director



HSH STAFF

We look forward to hearing from you!



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