



SHIFRA HOMES INC.



Shifra Homes Inc. | Annual Newsletter

Welcome Back

ISSUE 2019

In this issue of our Annual Newsletter we wanted to reflect on the enormous amount of care we have received from our friends and supporters all of whom are a big part of the Shifra family. Without all of you we wouldn't be able to continue our great work, so we would like to say thank you for making a difference in the lives of these young women and their babies.

With your support in 2018 we welcomed three beautiful babies. Two lovely girls, Sofia and Sabrina, and one wonderful boy, Ethan. We have created a new Day Program which allows Shifra Homes to support a larger range of mothers with our resources. Our Residential Program continues to support our residents both physically and mentally. In the future we hope to expand our services even more!

Pillars of Our Residential Program



Parenting

To prepare our residents for their new addition to their family we offer several programs with public health practitioners pre- and post-delivery throughout their entire stay at Shifra.



Education

We highly value education during our residents stay. We encourage them to complete their high school diplomas and tirelessly work to educate them in financial, employment, and life skills.



Health

Health is always a major concern for mothers, therefore at Shifra Homes we have on-site counselling and nutritional programs to ensure that our women are healthy; both physically and emotionally.




Love

Above all else, love is the strongest pillar here at Shifra. We constantly shower our women with love to assist in their growth and development during and after their stay at our residence.



"The Bethlehem of Burlington where children are birthed"

- Norm C.



Burlington Business Circle

Grants and Awards

During the year Shifra Homes was honoured by the **Burlington Foundation** and their new Brilliant Business Circle giving program. Shifra was one of 7 successful grant recipients and was awarded \$12,000 towards our Seeds of Hope program!

Once again, we are so grateful to **Diversey** for sponsoring Shifra Homes in their Annual Golf Tournament. Thanks to our sponsorship, Executive Director Nancy Romic was invited to speak on Shifra Homes' importance in the community. Overall the tournament was able to raise \$16,000 for Shifra Homes!

We would also like to thank the **Million Dollar Round Table Foundation Canada** for their generosity in recognizing Shifra Homes as worthy of one of their annual grants. The grant also prompted a visit from our member of parliament **Karina Gould** during the cheque presentation.

A warm thank you to the **Zonta Club of Oakville!** We are so grateful for all the work you women do for Shifra Homes. Your generosity helps our residents succeed in becoming amazing young women.



Our Proud Graduates



This year we are excited to announce three new graduates among our residents! Two of our moms achieved their High School Diplomas and one of our first girls graduated university this year with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing while raising her 5-year-old daughter. We are so extremely proud of how hard these moms worked to achieve their goals and could not be more impressed with their determination and drive.



Last September one of our very first babies started Grade 1! It is so humbling to watch these precious children achieve their milestones, knowing that it could not be possible without the tireless work of our volunteers and donors.

Baby Bottle Campaigns

This year our baby bottle campaigns were able to raise a total of \$33,618.04. We would like to thank everyone who donated:


- St. Paul the Apostle
- St. Patrick's
- St. Gabriel's
- St. Michael's
- CRC
- Georgetown
- Brant Hills Presbyterian



Since 2012, we've helped so many young, homeless, pregnant women and babies, and over 70 former residents.



Message from the Executive Director Nancy Romic



Last year marked a very personally difficult year for me. My mother had been diagnosed with terminal cancer and was given anywhere from several months to a year of life. My whole world seemed to be turning upside down. My first thought was obviously about my mother, but my second thought was about Shifra Homes. How would I be able to deal with life and death literally. As an only child and as a good daughter I knew that I had a lot of sacrifices to make. I decided to make her last days on this earth as great as I could. She would be my priority. This amazing woman gave me life and I wanted to make sure that she knew how grateful and how much I loved her for being my mother.

My biggest concern was that I would not be able to meet deadlines and fundraise as I should because of my commitment to be my mother's primary caregiver. As it happened, I had to take a leave of absence of 3 months from Shifra. This meant a quarter of my fundraising year. I prayed for strength and courage to help me make sure that everything would be looked after. To my surprise when people found out what I was going through, they donated extra money, bought supplies for the home and made sure that Shifra was okay during a time when I was down. This fact alone told me how loved and respected I was and that when I needed a hand to help me through this journey I did not even have to ask.

Shifra Homes had a very busy year. We are continually pushing boundaries and assisting so many young women and their babies. We are their voice. These young women often come into our Home with nothing but the clothes on their back and a lifetime of difficulties. While I was off, I thought about these young women. My heart literally felt so full. Full of pride, full of awe but most of all full of love. These young women are so amazing and so full of hope for a better future. These babies that they bring into this world, change their lives. They have someone to love unconditionally and they have a purpose; to give their children a better life than they had. I often question why these young women have had such difficult lives with nobody really making a difference for them. Their lives are important and matter and that is why we work so hard to show them that there are genuinely good people on this earth that care about them. People who genuinely want to help them through a period of their lives that would otherwise be very difficult.

Shifra Homes empowers these young women, loves them and teaches them to be successful. We teach them to express their love verbally and physically toward their babies and to work hard to give them the future that they deserve. The lessons that they learn while at Shifra are things that they will carry and remember for a lifetime. While our donors and contributors don't get to experience firsthand the beauty of these children, they are so grateful to each and everyone of you for providing them a life with hope. As a result, they become very successful and confident in their abilities to be successful members of our communities.

My mother loved me but was never able to verbalize this. However, prior to my mother passing, she told me that she couldn't believe how she had raised such an amazing daughter who loved so genuinely. She told me how proud she was of me for being the person who loved these young women and their babies and made a difference in their lives. Sometimes children just need to hear and feel that they are valued and most of all loved. Love has the power to do so much.

A sincere heartfelt thank you to each and everyone of you for always supporting Shifra Homes, these young women, their precious babies and all of us that help them at the time of their lives when they need it the most. Love is in each and everyone one of you: thank you for showering us with it!



Funding from The Regional Municipality of Halton

Shifra Homes would like to gratefully acknowledge The Regional Municipality of Halton for their financial support. The Homelessness Prevention & Intervention Strategy and the Community Investment Fund both help Shifra Homes to continue to provide the care needed for our vulnerable community to succeed.

Thank you to our Volunteers!

Without you we could never accomplish all that Shifra Homes has done. Your ever-flowing love continues to nourish this home and we will forever appreciate your time and energy devoted to these young women, their babies and our Home.



Heather VanderKruk
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Julie Beattie
Ron Faubert
Lorna Dueck
Kathryn Czarnik
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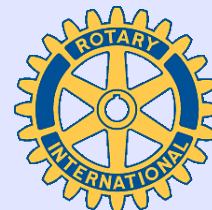


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