

**ROOTED & RISING: EXPANDING OUR REACH,
DEEPENING OUR IMPACT**

SHIFRA HOMES

WELCOME !

This past year has been one of extraordinary growth and transformation at Shifra Homes. As we reflect on 2024, we are proud to share the meaningful impact we've had in the lives of young, homeless, pregnant women and their babies. With your generous support, we expanded our capacity by opening a third location and adding seven more beds, bringing our total to 17. We also strengthened our wrap-around services and walked alongside mothers in their journeys of healing, hope, and renewal.

In this issue, you'll find program updates, powerful stories of resilience, and a glimpse into what's ahead. Thank you for standing with us, you are helping build brighter futures, one mother and baby at a time

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2024 BABIES

- SANITA - FEBRUARY
- CAIN - FEBRUARY
- MALAKAI - FEBRUARY
- JESSE - MARCH
- RAPHAEL - JUNE
- ALEENA - JUNE
- BRUCE- JUNE
- EREN - JUNE
- JOSIAH - JULY
- LYNAAEH - JULY
- JULIAN - JULY
- NERIAH - SEPTEMBER
- AMARACHUKWU - SEPTEMBER
- ANIKS-RACHEL - OCTOBER
- VICTORY - OCTOBER
- AAYAN - OCTOBER
- LUKE - NOVEMBER

ROOTED IN PURPOSE, RISING IN REACH

EXPANDING OUR CARE: 17 BEDS ACROSS 3 HOMES

In May 2024, we proudly opened the doors to our third residence – a powerful reflection of how far we’ve come and how deeply our roots have grown. This expansion marks a significant milestone in our mission to support young, homeless, pregnant women with safe shelter, dignity, and care. With this new home, we’ve added 7 more beds, bringing our total capacity to 17 beds across three houses. It’s more than a number, it’s more mothers and babies welcomed into warmth, more lives changed, and more futures rewritten with hope. As the need for supportive housing continues to grow, so too does our commitment to meet it.



UNITED WAY HALTON & HAMILTON

We are incredibly grateful to United Way Halton & Hamilton for their tremendous support of Shifra Homes. Through their Feed Grant, access to the Community Warehouse, and heartfelt Christmas events for the residents, they have made a meaningful difference in the lives of our residents. Their generosity helps us provide essential resources and joyful moments for young mothers and their babies throughout the year. Thank you for standing with us and our community!



FRESH START PROJECT BURLINGTON

We sincerely thank The Fresh Start Project for their ongoing support of Shifra Homes. Their generous network helps set up young moms with essentials—from furniture and food to other vital resources. Their support brings hope and stability to the moms and babies during their transition back into the community. We’re grateful for their partnership and belief in new beginnings.

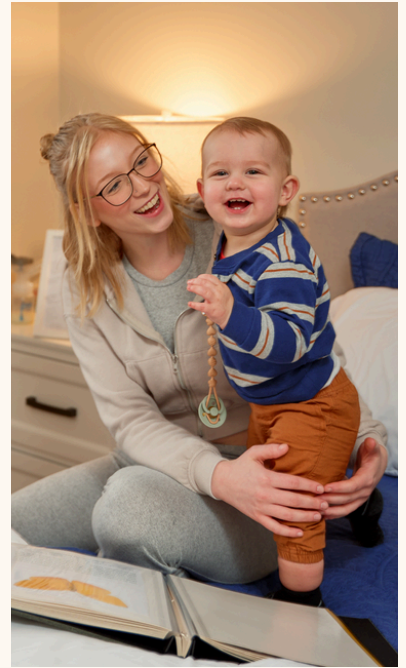
3D TINY HEARTS ULTRASOUND

We are thankful to Tiny Hearts 3D Ultrasound for generously providing our residents with free access to their services. This thoughtful support gives young mothers a special opportunity to bond with their babies and experience the joy of seeing their little ones in a comforting, welcoming environment. Thank you, Tiny Hearts, for helping make these precious moments possible.



SUCCESS STORY

MB was just 17 when she found out she was pregnant. Alone and afraid, with no family to turn to, she feared she and her baby would become “just another statistic.” Growing up in the foster system, she knew how easy it was to fall through the cracks. She searched for help, but many shelters had closed or couldn’t provide what she needed. Just as she was about to give up, someone referred her to Shifra Homes. “That moment changed everything,” she said. “For the first time, I felt hope like there was a light at the end of a very dark tunnel.” The first few days at Shifra were overwhelming, but the staff and residents welcomed her with open arms. “It quickly felt like a family, somewhere I was safe, seen, and supported.” At Shifra, MB learned life skills she’d never been taught—how to care for herself, maintain her space, and build a future. With every small victory, the team was there to cheer her on. She graduated high school with straight A’s just three weeks before giving birth, obtained her driver’s license, bought her first car, and was accepted into every college she applied to. “I had lost myself in survival mode,” she said. “But Shifra helped me find myself again not just as a mom, but as a woman with dreams, worth, and the strength to build a better life for my child.” – MB



FULL CIRCLE MOMENT OF SHIFRA’S IMPACT

Last year, the Executive and Program Director had the honor of witnessing a full circle moment by attending the wedding of one of our former residents. Now living a stable, fulfilling life, her journey is a powerful reminder of the lasting impact Shifra Homes has on young women’s lives.



ZONTA 50TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

On April 20, 2024, the Zonta Club of Oakville marked its 50th anniversary with a vibrant 70s-themed celebration at the Burlington Convention Centre. As part of their milestone event, they generously raised and awarded \$50,000 to Shifra Homes. We are deeply grateful for Zonta’s extraordinary support and their continued commitment to empowering women and girls. This transformational gift will directly impact the lives of young, homeless, pregnant women by helping us provide safe shelter, wrap-around supports, and programs that nurture both mother and child.



THE OAKVILLE, MILTON AND DISTRICT REAL ESTATE BOARD

We are deeply grateful to OMDREB and President Anthony Danko for choosing Shifra Homes as their charity of choice last year. Thanks to their incredible generosity, we received \$29,000 funds that are already making a meaningful impact on the lives of young, homeless, pregnant women and their babies. Thank you for standing with us and supporting our mission.



NANCY ROMIC

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on another successful year at Shifra Homes, I'm filled with deep gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together. This year marks a significant milestone in our journey, the opening of our third home. We now have 17 beds.

What began as a dream to provide safe shelter and compassionate support for young, pregnant women has grown into a thriving network of care, empowerment, and hope. The opening of our third home is not just an expansion of space it's an expansion of possibility. More women will now have a safe place to call home, and more babies will be welcomed into a supportive, nurturing environment.

This achievement is a testament to the dedication of our staff, the trust of our residents, and the unwavering support of our community, volunteers, and donors. You are the heart of Shifra Homes, and none of this would be possible without you.

This year, I was humbled to receive the King Charles III Coronation Medal and the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce Social Impact Award – honours that reflect not just my personal journey, but the collective mission we've built together at Shifra

As we step into this exciting new chapter, we remain committed to our mission: to walk alongside each young mother with compassion, dignity, and the belief that she has the strength to build a brighter future.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we are changing lives one home, one mother, and one child at a time.

With immense gratitude,
Nancy Romic
Executive Director



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The contribution of volunteers at Shifra Homes is crucial to our daily operations. Their devotion, time, compassion, and affection towards our residents, babies, and staff is truly invaluable. We are incredibly grateful to have such an exceptional group of volunteers who have a positive impact in our lives.

- Carol-Ann O'Toole
- Andrea Bremer
- Craig Mackherson
- Julia England
- Helen O'Brien
- Rita Van Oosterhout
- Kim Clarke
- Kathryn Small
- Ed Small
- Juliana Gonzalez
- Marjorie Steeles
- Stephanie Reid
- Sarah Sims
- Clinton Howell
- Karen Bradley
- Mana Golnazi
- Elaine Armstrong
- Jane Liu
- Tracey Mazzocato-Dupuis
- Celia Cleary-Yu
- Lisa Toth
- Pastor Becky
- Kashia Knowlton
- Liz Lydon
- Mike Polisak
- Vicky Caza



2024 GRANTS

1. LAWSON FOUNDATION
2. ONTARIO REALTORS CARE
3. OMDREB
4. BURLINGTON DADS
5. THE HALTON REGION
6. UNITED WAY HALTON/HAMILTON
7. WAGE
8. SMITH FAMILY FOUNDATION
9. ZONTA OAKVILLE
10. MAYCOURT CLUB OF OAKVILLE
11. YPI CANADA
12. STARBUCKS
13. BURLINGTON FOUNDATION
14. OAKVILLE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
15. GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SUMMER JOBS
16. 100 WOMEN WHO CARE MILTON

OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



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