



SHIFRA HOMES INC.

May 2020 Issue

SHIFRA IN THE SPRING

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



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Providing Hope

THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS

“Shifra Homes has provided a safe haven where young women who are expecting a child can live without stress and fear... they provide hope and the building blocks for putting together a new life with baby for these young mothers.”

- Jane McKenna, MPP.





Business Excellence

WINNERS IN NOT-FOR-PROFIT

In 2019, the Burlington Chamber of Commerce awarded Shifra Homes with the Business Excellence Award in the Not-for-Profit Sector!

Award nominations were based on overall business excellence and the criteria included community contributions, entrepreneurship, and much more. We were honoured to have been identified by our community for this award.



Green Benefits Group

Green Benefits Group sponsored our moms and babies and gifted them with unforgettable presents for Christmas. The girls felt so loved over the holidays thanks to donations like theirs.

Julie Rock Photography



Julie Rock has been a dedicated volunteer for years, offering her photography services for free for our mothers and babies. We are so grateful for her fundraising events and efforts in sharing our message with the community.



Our Delightful Dentists

We are incredibly thankful to Dr. Vella and Cedar Springs Dental, as well as Dr. Surya and Associates Family Dentistry. Dr. Vella's generosity is astounding as she's treated our young mothers, not simply as clients, but like family. Dr. Surya's continued support of Shifra Homes through her annual Charity Barbecue helps fund our work while giving our moms and babies a chance to enjoy fun summer activities with them.

Shifra in the News

As Featured on Context with Lorna

**"THEY ARE CHANGING THE FUTURE
ONE BABY AT A TIME"
- LORNA DUECK**



This year we received the amazing opportunity to interview with Lorna Dueck on her Context television show. In the episode Speaking out for Vulnerable Children, our Executive Director, Nancy Romic, was able to inform the audience about the love that Shifra Homes instills in young mothers, the circumstances that bring them to our doorstep, and the community needs for these women and babies.

Thank You!

Boehringer's Best



Boehringer Ingelheim sent their best and brightest to help refresh Shifra Homes by painting, posting wall decals, and building shelving units. They even helped us create a vegetable garden for our nutrition program in our backyard! We are so grateful for their tireless work and wanted to thank them for everything they accomplished.

The Purse & Shoebox Projects

This year we received amazing donations from The Purse Project and The Shoebox Project for Shelters. The volunteers donated beautiful purses and wrapped shoeboxes filled to the brim with love, care, and necessities for our young mothers.



The Purse Project
Fill a Purse with LOVE and a woman's heart with HOPE
HALTON & WATERDOWN



Thank You Volunteers

As always we would like to highlight our outstanding volunteers. We can't do what we do without them!

Anna Farbis
Audrey Vandermeulen
Bill Leggit
Candace Jagt
Cathy Lanc
Craig MacPherson
Dana Burjaw
Diane Johnstone
Elaine Armstrong
Dr. Elizabeth Vella
Heather & Terry Vanderkruk

Julie Rock
Karon Van Hartingsveldt
Katherine Bondy
Kathryn Czarnik
Kinga Rozanski
Klara Brunetta
Lorna Dueck
Rachael Wentworth
Rocio Rodriguez
Ron Faubert
Stephen Pustai

Our Generous Sponsors



An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Jamal Family Law



Nancy Romic

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I often find myself wondering how do we measure life? Is it through great achievements? Through my time at Shifra I have come to realize that life is not measured by personal achievement but by enabling others to achieve. As I continue to reflect on my time with these young women and their babies my heart swells with gratitude for this realization. Supporting these women to achieve success and overcome innumerable hardships has been the greatest achievement in my life.

During my time at Shifra, I have witnessed the unfathomable neglect and abuse these young women carry with them. These stories paint a picture of children who have been let down by everyone in their lives who were supposed to protect them. These mothers often arrive with three distinct similarities: years of neglect and abuse, a hungry stomach, and a mouth full of cavities. I wonder why nobody took the time to see this young girl with fear in her eyes who doesn't know that she deserves better. Seeing the state of these young women as they enter our Home emboldens me to do everything I can and together, we can rewrite the stories each one of them is living.

Each young woman that enters our home is greeted and treated with unconditional love. My first words to them are often expressing my sadness for their experiences and then comforting them. We tell each mother that we are here for her and that together we are going to make a positive change. We emphasize that coming to Shifra means that they are getting a new lease on life and that their past no longer dictates who they are or what they will become. Working with these women to overcome these hardships has taught me a number of life lessons. The one that really sticks with me over the years is the importance of patience. With love and patience, the planted seed over time grows into a beautiful flower for all to admire. We see each one of these young women as a seed that only needs the right mixture of love and patience for them to grow into that beautiful flower that for too long has been without the proper nutrients to bloom.

I am so grateful for the opportunities to work with such a loving and supporting community of volunteers and donors. I have wholeheartedly said that if it wasn't for this network, Shifra wouldn't be where it is today. Each one of you has created a community that I am thankful to be a part of. Your support has empowered these mothers and their precious babies to become what they never thought they could be. Our mothers have become registered nurses, architects, social workers, and more!

I would like to humbly thank everyone for their support and donations. Your benevolence and generosity empowers these young women and secures a bright future for their children. Each one of you reading this has made a difference in their lives, providing hope for their hearts. Finally, your actions have secured your signature in the happy story being written in their new book of life!

With gratitude and humility,
Nancy Romic
Executive Director

