

# SPRING AT SHIFRA

“Spring is about new beginnings and new life. At Shifra we continue to nourish, love, and help young mothers and their precious babies flourish and bloom.”



## Welcome Spring!

Hello Everyone! Spring is here and we are so excited. We made it through one of the toughest years to date. Thank you for all your support, donations, love and prayers. Despite living through a pandemic our home has been constantly full. We have been working non-stop to provide a safe shelter, love, and support for young, homeless mother's and their precious babies.

“The effects of the pandemic are not only physical. Social distancing and isolation is impacting livelihoods, safety and mental health, and it's often the most vulnerable in our communities who are the hardest hit.”  
-Nancy Romic, Executive Director

## New Look!

We are happy to announce we've updated our website! New year, new look!  
[www.shifrahomes.com](http://www.shifrahomes.com).

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## 2020 BABIES

**Madison-** February 14th

**Nevaeh-** April 20th

**Juliet-** July 21st

**Malachai-** August 18th

**Chanel-** September 29th

**Langston-** October 12th

**Amaya-** October 25th



# Impacts of Covid

Covid-19 has impacted small business, charities, non-profit organizations, and the livelihoods of individuals all around the world. Shifra Homes has been affected in several ways. First, we had to shut our doors to our volunteers and students which put more pressure on our staff. Our students and volunteers aid in taking care of the home, provide an abundant amount of support for the mother's and their babies, and help staff with any miscellaneous work. This was a difficult transition for our residents as their daily support was no longer available to them. In addition to losing extra help, our former and current residents missed out on programs and opportunities such as in-house tutoring, access to public health nurses and more. Secondly, we had a significant decrease in funding. Our annual Baby Bottle Campaigns were all cancelled. Shifra Homes relies heavily on donations and support from our community. Shifra not only supports its current residents but takes pride in caring for past residents who have transitioned out of the home and into the community. This pandemic has made it difficult to continue supporting our former mother's and babies. Nonetheless, we are thankful for the support we continue to receive during these tough times that allows Shifra to help the most vulnerable members of our community.

## 2021 WOMEN *of* DISTINCTION Awards The Courage of Covid



## YWCA - Women of Distinction Awards

Women all around the world have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Women hold a higher percentage (approximately 56%) in the 5Cs occupations; caring, cashiering, catering, cleaning, and clerical functions. The YWCA held an event that awarded and honoured women in the Hamilton and Halton Region for their courageous work during Covid. Nancy, our Executive Director, was nominated for the "Community Champion" and "Lifetime Achievement" award by her fellow community members, staff, and former residents. The nominators recognized her resilience and hard work in providing a safe home for young, homeless, pregnant mother's and their babies.

*“She is a warrior; she is nurturing; she has very high expectations and she will never let anyone take the easy way out; she never allows anyone's past mistakes to prevent positive outcomes; she loves fiercely; she will walk through fire and back for a young mom and her child.”*

-Cathy Lanc, Volunteer



# Thank You For All Your Support

We would humbly like to thank **United Way of Halton and Hamilton, Burlington Foundation, The Oakville Community Foundation and Zonta Club of Oakville** for their **Emergency Covid Funding** and support during an unprecedented time. Your funding has allowed Shifra Homes to stay open and continue to support these vulnerable young women and babies.

We would also like to thank every individual and organization who has donated their time, effort, gifts, handmade goods, or has helped in any facet, you are truly a part of the Shifra family. You have made a difference in our community and changed the lives of so many young women and their babies.



## Thank you to our Volunteers

“To our outstanding volunteers thank you for all your continued love and support of our mission. Without you, Shifra's work would not be possible!”

- Karon Van Hartingsveldt
- Dr. Elizabeth Caruana
- Heather Vanderkruk
- Elaine Armstrong
- Audrey Vandereulen
- Ron Faubert
- Terry Hepburn
- Bill Leggit
- Lorna Dueck
- Cathy Lanc
- Diane Johnstone
- Craig MacPherson
- Sandee MacGregor
- Alex Glugosh
- Andrea Bremer
- Dana Burjaw
- Becky Lang



## OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS



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**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

**Bethel Christian Reform Church**

**Central Burlington Women's PROBUS Club**

# NANCY ROMIC

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Every so often in life we face enormous challenges, however with those challenges we are presented with opportunities.

The year 2020 will go down in history for all of us. The year of the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple lockdowns, wearing masks, and trying to maintain some normal in a chaotic time.

We had a baby due shortly after the pandemic was declared. I remember feeling anxiety, wondering how I was going to keep everyone safe and bring this precious new baby into this world. Our young women did not understand why they had to be locked in the home. We had to cancel students and volunteers that normally visited every day.

We had numerous Baby Bottle Campaigns scheduled that had to be cancelled. These campaigns bring in a reliable stream of funding. We were so fortunate to receive emergency Covid funding from The United Way, Burlington Foundation, The Oakville Community Foundation, and Zonta Club of Oakville. This allowed us to keep the doors open and provided us with much needed funding to support all our young women and babies.

The young women that walk in through our doors are always amazed at all the donations and support that Shifra Homes receives from the community. It makes them feel special. We often take things for granted. We assume that every child has access to food, shelter, safety, and care. Shifra Homes works diligently to provide all the necessities of life for these women and babies.

In all the chaos my Dad lost his battle with ALS. I was so fortunate that I was able to get there in time to see him and tell him how much I loved him before he slipped away the next morning. He waited for me despite his suffering.

How can I properly ever articulate how thankful I am. I have witnessed so many little miracles at Shifra. The biggest miracle was seeing how the heart of the community supported us during a very challenging time. It is challenging times like these that teach us to appreciate everything, never take anything for granted and most importantly to find joy and pleasure in the simple things in life.

Please accept my immeasurable gratitude for always lifting our wings and allowing Shifra Homes to serve these young women and precious babies. Words do not seem adequate for my gratitude.

Nancy Romic

Executive Director