

ISSUE  
2014



# Shifra Homes

Spring  
Newsletter

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## Announcements!

We've been at full capacity since August 2012 and we are currently running stronger than ever. And although we have a waiting list of residents, we are always available for assistance in finding another shelter or home in the meantime.

## New Mailing Address

We've also changed our mailing address to:  
3350 Fairview St.  
Suite #3-226B  
Burlington, ON  
L7N 3L5

## Re-Designing

In addition, we're excited to inform everyone of the new changes we're incorporating here at Shifra Homes. We've restructured our program and its design and we're hoping to get a fresh start during this spring season.

## Shifra Homes is getting a new look for the spring!



After this long winter, we're excited to see some sunshine! We're also happy to announce that we are undergoing some changes in our overall presentation to the community. We're refurbishing Shifra Homes' operations and creating a new design. These changes are being made to increase our ability to provide for our residents and reach out to the greater community with more impact.

These changes will be reflected in our brochures and website, and within our Home's program.

### OUR MISSION

Shifra Homes' mission is to provide a safe haven, and an empowering environment that promotes dignity and a sense of hope for young homeless pregnant women. We aim to provide support and resources, and to protect and nurture new life.

### OUR VISION

To see young pregnant women healthy, supported, safe and empowered, and equipped with the necessary life and relationship skills they need to build happy successful lives.

To see a decrease in the number of homeless pregnant teens and young women in the Halton region.

### OUR VALUES

We believe women have the right to personal dignity and the right to feel safe.

We believe these women have the right to personal autonomy in making decisions, and act to guide and support them in planning for the future.

We believe that creating a supportive environment for these women is essential.

## FAQ's about Shifra Homes

Here are some answers to our frequently asked questions

### How many women does your program help?

Our house comprises of 4-5 rooms, so we can serve a maximum of 5 women and 4 babies.

### What is Shifra Homes?

Shifra means "beautiful" and was the name of a midwife who protected and nurtured life. *Exodus 1:15*. Shifra Homes is a registered non-profit charity for young women between the ages of 16 and 25. We nurture and protect new life by providing a safe haven for young, pregnant, homeless women with support for the baby and both parents.

### Does Shifra Homes have a waiting list?

Waiting lists for admission vary. Please contact our office at (905) 681-9633 to inquire about the status of admittance.

### May residents continue attending school or maintain their current job upon admittance to the program?

Yes. Each client's resident plan includes a schedule comprising of work/school/volunteering, prenatal programs, as well as other resource programs during their stay.

### How long can a resident stay at Shifra Home?

A resident can come in at any time during their pregnancy and stay on for up to 6 months after her child is born.



This past year has included many changes and additions to our family here at Shifra Homes. Since our last newsletter in Spring 2013, we welcomed Emma Katherine on May 7<sup>th</sup>, and Alexandria on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

In the fall we welcomed Marlie Amelia on September 1<sup>st</sup>, River Moors on September 16<sup>th</sup>, and Grayson William on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

We had a wonderful Christmas Party filled with lots of laughs and good food.



## A year in review

We've welcomed many new girls and babies in this past year, and we're eager to share

The new year brought us Chelsea Sophia on February 8<sup>th</sup>, and Gabrielle Marie-Anne on March 12<sup>th</sup>. And we just recently had Valerie on May 27<sup>th</sup>!



This year has definitely been a busy one, filled with new faces, new opportunities, and new prospects. We are truly blessed for having such a successful year, and we're looking forward to what's to come.



## Change for Change!

We're pleased to announce that we're running our Spring Baby Bottle Campaign for this Mother's Day and Father's Day!

We're so grateful to our Shifra Angels and other sponsors and supporters. Visit our website or contact us to become a Shifra Angel today!

If you're interested in other ways to help, consider these options:

- **Making a financial contribution**
- **Donating gift cards** (Shoppers Drug Mart, Wal-Mart, Fresh Co., No Frills, Metro, Fortino's, etc...)

*Gift cards are used for purchasing food, diapers and essential baby items or items for programming.*

- **Volunteering**
- **Running a "Change 4 Life" Baby Bottle Campaign at your workplace or church** (contact us for details)

- **Donating items** *Please note that we have limited space for donations and ask that you contact us for details about our current needs.*

## Rest In Peace, Gina Perry

We extend our deepest sympathies to the Perry family. Recently, heaven gained a new angel in Gina Perry's passing. One of her requests was that friends and family send some support to Shifra Homes.

We are extremely grateful for these compassionate donations, and it is so warming to see how many hearts Gina touched and inspired. These donations have been assisting us in providing for our girls.



## OAKVILLE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Shifra Homes gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Henderson Family Trust at the Oakville Community Foundation, a registered charitable public foundation serving the Oakville Community.

The Oakville Community Foundation was founded in 1994 and is a conduit between the passions of philanthropic families and the needs of the community.

They support individuals, families and corporations who come from all walks of life, economic backgrounds and charitable interests that have one thing in common - a desire to make a difference today and leave a legacy tomorrow in Oakville.

The OCF receives and pools charitable gifts for endowments that benefit and strengthen the community at large by supporting all charitable sectors.

## To our supporters

Under Nancy's guidance, Shifra Homes has been expanding and spreading our mission and goals to the greater community. And as a result, we have been receiving an outpouring of support from everyone. We are so grateful to all of our sponsors and donors.

*Thank you!*



### Message from the Executive Director

What once seemed as an unattainable lifelong desire of sharing the joy of pregnancy and childbirth with a daughter of my own has now been fulfilled 11 wonderful times with 11 diverse, inspiring mothers. Within the past two years, Shifra Homes has welcomed more than a dozen pregnant, homeless women into our home. The opportunity to aid these women in their development as young adults and as mothers has been an incredible blessing and journey.

I am ever thankful for the privilege of being Shifra Homes' Executive Director but most importantly for the involvement it entails. I am devoted to these women, in making sure that they be provided with adequate medical assistance, legal aid, educational services, and an appropriate, comfortable, safe environment; increasing their chances of positive growth and understanding of the life skills necessary to the world of motherhood. Our mission strives to provide these mothers with mental, emotional, physical and financial help.

However, while it is me in the office, it is not without help that we have achieved wonders for these women in need. Your continued support does not go unnoticed; please accept my heartfelt appreciation for your involvement with Shifra Homes, within the lives of the young women we assist, and their miracle babies. Without the help, care, donations and dedications of this supportive community, the participating churches and each and every one of our generous donors; our mission would not be possible.

Every child is a gift and blessing from God and I can honestly say that I feel so blessed to be a part of the lives of these young women and their precious babies.

## Contact Info

### Main:

Office: (905) 681-9633

Fax: (905) 681-9572

### Staff:

Nancy Romic - Executive Director

Email: [nancyromic@shifrahomes.com](mailto:nancyromic@shifrahomes.com)

### Mailing Address:

3350 Fairview St. Suite #3-226B

Burlington, ON

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**Note:** Our Mailing Address is different from our physical address. If visiting Shifra Homes for the first time, please call us at (905) 681-9633 for our address and directions. Effective since October 1, 2011, Shifra Homes has been at a new location in the Appleby and New Street area.

For program related inquiries including volunteering, student placement, fundraising and community awareness:

**Email:** [info@shifrahomes.com](mailto:info@shifrahomes.com)



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