

*Announcing our First Grant
in Support of*

Girls ONLY—Dream Big, Believe in Yourself

In May 2013 the first grant of the **Women 4 Change** Fund was approved. The \$10,000 grant supported expansion of Hamilton Wentworth District School Board's **Girls ONLY** program into 10 high schools beginning in the fall 2013.

Girls ONLY is a program that was originally designed for girls in grades 6, 7 and 8. "Clubs" are established in schools with the support of a volunteer staff member. Weekly meetings focus on activities that build character, self-esteem and leadership in ways that are kind and compassionate. Girls have the opportunity to talk about issues they are facing, learn skills related to effective problem-solving and conflict resolution, and reduce bullying and other negative behaviors. Academic success is supported, as is access to a caring adult within the school outside of club meetings.

Girls ONLY started with 40 girls in March 2008. Today there are over 850 girls in 27 school clubs, but the program remains limited to elementary schools. The grant from the **Women 4 Change** Fund has enabled the expansion of the program into ten high schools across greater Hamilton, supporting girls in the oft-challenging bridge from elementary to high school. The **Women 4 Change** Fund grant will support program costs in running the school clubs, as well as educational trips and an annual gathering.

"Women 4 Change is helping me grow as a philanthropist and connect with like-minded women. Together we are making a positive impact on the lives of girls and women in Hamilton."

Beth Webel, Founder, Women 4 Change