

HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

History made, future intended.

Hamilton's alleyway hero



Brenda Duke in Hamilton's newest beautiful alley: "Lois Lane"

There are more than 700 alleys in Hamilton. In its oldest neighbourhoods, these alleys gave horse-drawn carriages access to homes and businesses. Today, they are transportation corridors and impromptu playgrounds, bike paths and shortcuts to school or work. Some are gang-tagged and littered with drug paraphernalia. Increasingly, they are leafy, flower-lined and bordered by public art. Brenda Duke is determined to make every one safe and beautiful.

Brenda started cleaning the alley behind her Gibson Landsdale home in 2011. The idea caught on, and she engaged more and more local residents in caring for their alleys — spaces that blight neighbourhoods when neglected, but generate pride and healthy activity when reclaimed.

Brenda expanded her effort into *Beautiful Alleys* in 2015. Since then, the group has transformed roughly 200 alleys. Some 150 volunteers do twice-annual cleanups, with support from the City of Hamilton, supplies from Hamilton Clean & Green, McMaster University researchers cataloguing progress, small grants from Hamilton Community Foundation, and in-kind support from area BIAs, businesses and community organizations.

See Alleyway hero/p.4

A clearer future for kids

Five years after its launch, a local vision screening pilot program for schoolchildren is paying high-level dividends. The Ontario government recently indicated a new mandate for public health province-wide: to address vision.

In 2012, HCF provided start-up funding to the pilot at five high-need elementary schools. It discovered vision problems in 16 percent of the children screened. Of children who needed glasses, 18 percent didn't have them. The project engaged multiple partners to provide screening space, transportation, expertise and equipment, and more than 114 Hamilton schools are now involved. HCF has supported the program throughout, including subsidizing the cost for glasses.

HCF's initial grant also helped document the project as a policy and public education tool. Now, incorporating that evidence into its broader findings, Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has mandated all public health units to address the need for vision screening.

"HCF's funding was critical to getting this project going," says Laura Laverty, from the City of Hamilton's Healthy Families Division, "and because of that, Hamilton has a head start on the province's new vision mandate."

Passion, Planning, Power

HCF WORKSHOPS HELP MAKE THE CONNECTION

Hamilton Community Foundation has an important role to play in stimulating and supporting Hamiltonians to be engaged and effective philanthropists.

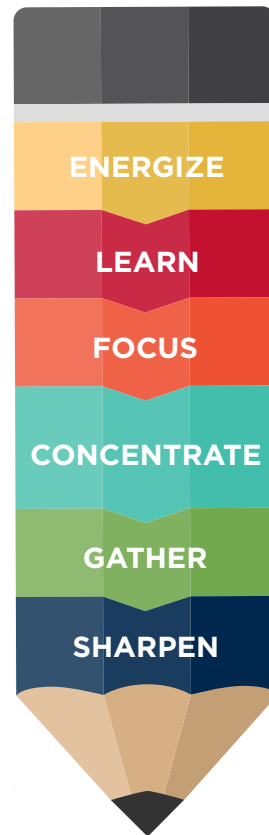
One way the Foundation is playing that role is through a new educational workshop titled *Sharpen Your Impact*. It takes participants through fun and interactive exercises that help them uncover what is important to them and why, and then to use that self-knowledge to build their personal philanthropic plan.

Sarah Wardrope attended a session hosted by Hamilton HIVE, a network for the city's young professionals. "It helped me to bring into focus the areas I am passionate about," she says, "and to identify resources I already have, like my social media networks, that I can use to start making a difference."

Sharpen Your Impact helps participants recognize that philanthropy goes beyond money, and to consider how they can focus assets such as time, connections, volunteerism and employment to maximize their philanthropic return.

Sheree Meredith, HCF's Vice-President of Philanthropic Services, says the workshop shows people how to reflect on what they are doing now — and could easily do in the future. "It helps them bring together their efforts in a way that can increase both the difference they make in the community and their own intrinsic satisfaction."

To learn more about hosting or attending a *Sharpen Your Impact* workshop, please contact Sheree: s.meredith@hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca.



A promise for the future

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO: TERRY COOKE

One of my favourite events is our annual board retreat. That's when this committed group of volunteers sits down with our senior team to think big: about what's possible for Hamilton and the role HCF can play.

This year we looked back to 2006 and a 10-year vision set out by my predecessor Carolyn Milne. Carolyn was incredibly prescient in her projections such as the city becoming a creative magnet for young adults, new HCF partnerships to create innovative housing options and even an endowment approaching \$200 million.

We then looked to 2028, envisioning the ultimate impact of current initiatives like ABACUS and the Neighbourhood Leadership Institute. Inspired by the experiences of cities in the US and UK, we also contemplated new frontiers for improving lives. Most important, we thought carefully about the skills, structure and relationships the Foundation might need over the next decade to play its role in helping Hamilton realize those possibilities.

Our city is poised for many opportunities and there will no doubt be challenges as well, but whatever lies ahead, one thing is certain: the Foundation will be there in a powerful way, for Hamilton, forever.

Grants at a Glance

Code for advancement

Women are flexing their coding muscles at a free 12-week coding bootcamp held at the Eva Rothwell Centre this fall.

The program, supported by HCF's Women 4 Change and organized by the Industry Education Council of Hamilton and CitySchool by Mohawk, teaches women not currently in school to build websites and applications. Guest speakers and visits to Mohawk College provide inspiration and practical information about educational pathways.

The bootcamp addresses an important need in Canada. "With cumulative hiring requirements expected to reach as many as 232,000 by 2019," reports the Information and Communications Technology Council, "attracting and retaining top female talent in this highly competitive market has never been more critical."



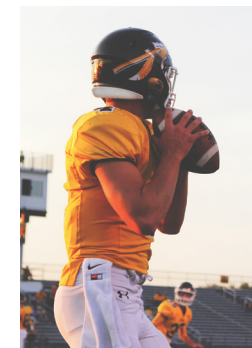
Heads up!

Brain Smart: Let's Play Safely is a research project that is tackling youth concussions head on.

Concussions can have a lasting impact on all areas of a young person's life: cognitive, social, physical and emotional. The project's objectives are to reduce concussion risks in organized youth sports and increase knowledge of concussion management by coaches, athletes and parents, while encouraging safe participation. The initial focus is on the sports with the highest concussion rates: hockey and football.

The project is funded by a Community Health and Education Research grant, led by McMaster's CanChild Centre for Disability Research. Partners include the City of Hamilton, minor sports associations, Brain Injury Services, Lifemark Physiotherapy and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board.

The project's five phases include a baseline survey about concussion incidence, knowledge, attitudes and existing protocols; helping teams to develop or refine their concussion management systems; outreach and education sessions for teams and players; a follow-up survey; and sharing results. The plan is to eventually expand the research to all minor sports in Hamilton.



Positive connections

Next summer, local SoBi bikeshare hubs will be transformed by art, and in the process, will increase the artists' connection to community.

The artists will be participants in *Proof Positive*, a collaboration between Centre[3] for Print and Media Arts and the Regional Rehabilitation Centre that teams two local experts with up to 30 people who are undergoing physical and mental rehabilitation. The participants will learn the fundamentals of printmaking, drawing, painting and photography while producing their own work on the theme of transformation. The program will be hosted at Centre[3]'s James North studio and the rehabilitation centre at the Hamilton General Hospital.

Access to creative opportunities for self-expression is important for people whose disabilities may prevent them from going outside the rehabilitation centre and thus may isolate them. With support from an HCF Creative Arts grant, participants will use art to connect and share with the community, breaking down barriers to inclusion and sparking conversations at SoBi stations across Hamilton.

Keep in touch

There's a lot happening at the Foundation, and we don't want you to miss any of it:

- Stay up-to-date on the latest developments with our new e-newsletter *@The Foundation*. Just click the *subscribe* button on our website (hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca).
- Watch our monthly Cable 14 TV show, *Hamilton's Vital Signs* with host Terry Cooke, or catch up on past episodes through our YouTube channel (youtube.com/HamFdn).
- Watch many HCF events live or catch up on the ones you miss through Facebook (facebook.com/HamCommFdn). Fall 2017 events include a panel discussion about Jane Jacobs with three urban experts; sharing experiences in building community wealth with the Democracy Collaborative; and a presentation by People for Education's Annie Kidder on research and advocacy in public education.
- Visit our website to read a special report called *Hamilton Millennials and Community Belonging* that looks at the impact of precarious work on Hamilton's millennials and their sense of belonging.

Alleyway hero

Cont'd from p.1

Brenda credits some of her success to HCF's Neighbourhood Leadership Institute (NLI). She says the 10-week course "refined her skills" and made her work more effective. She developed networks and learned more about dealing with conflict. She remains a valued NLI alumni, mentoring other community leaders. "NLI is always there for you," she says. "It's continual learning. I recommend it to other leaders and help in any way I can."



Lois Pantalone with Brenda. Her restaurant, *The Trocadero*, backs onto Lois Lane.

As she gears up for the next cleanup, Brenda has an ambitious goal — to put *Beautiful Alleys* out of business. "When residents take over the care of their alleys, you don't need our group to come in," she explains. Already, the number of "new" alleys needing help is going down — a sure sign her leadership is making a difference.

HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

120 King Street West
Suite 700, Hamilton ON
Canada L8P 4V2

Tel. 905.523.5600

Fax. 905.523.0741

Twitter @HamCommFdn

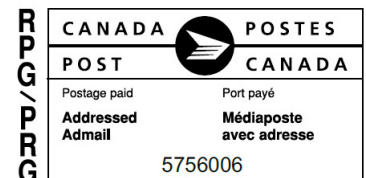
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