 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Six 4 Six initiative provides oral and mental health granting across Canada**

Hamilton Community Foundation a partner in national philanthropic initiative

HAMILTON, ON – A philanthropic partnership between Green Shield Canada (GSC) and Hamilton Community Foundation (HCF) will bring a total of $6 million to six Canadian communities, including Hamilton, for priority projects related to oral and mental health.

The “Six 4 Six” community granting initiative marks GSC’s 60-year history of social responsibility and charitable giving. Hamilton Community Foundation is helping GSC to design, implement and evaluate the national initiative which will fund oral and mental health programs beginning with Hamilton, Windsor-Essex region, Calgary and the Atlantic Region.

”Hamilton Community Foundation is both extremely proud and humbled that an organization like GSC, with its long and generous history of philanthropy, has chosen us to advise them on a truly innovative and leading granting strategy,” says Sheree Meredith, HCF’s Vice-President of Philanthropic Services. “In supporting this strategy we will work as community foundations do: by using research and stakeholder input to identify a community’s strengths, needs and priorities in oral and mental health, and then to grant to initiatives that will have the greatest impact.”

GSC’s goals in selecting oral and mental health are to have both immediate and long-term impact, including bridging the gap in affordable and accessible dental services. In mental health, the company wishes to continue its desire to increase the range and availability of support.”

Steve Bradie, GSC’s CEO and President, says that “Six 4 Six” marks 60 years of corporate philanthropic leadership. “Back in 1957, the GSC founders identified the need for affordable pre-paid health benefits and met this need with Canada’s first pre-paid drug plan. Ever since, we've made "giving back" a concept we live and breathe by. Now looking ahead, “Six 4 Six” reinforces GSC’s ongoing commitment to helping those most in need.”

*About Hamilton Community Foundation*

*Hamilton Community Foundation has been working to drive positive change in Hamilton since 1954. We do this by helping people give in a way that has meaning to them and impact in the community, providing grants and financing to charitable organizations and initiatives and bringing people together to address priority issues that affect Hamiltonians. Last year HCF spent a total of $8.2 million in grants and community leadership including 755 grants to 296 charities.*

*About Green Shield Canada*

*As Canada’s only national not-for-profit health and dental benefits specialist, GSC offers group and individual health and dental benefits programs and administration services. But our reason for being is the enhancement of the common good. We seek out innovative ways to improve access to better health for Canadians. From coast-to-coast, our service delivery includes drug, dental, extended health care, vision,hospital and travel benefits for groups, as well as programs with a focus on individuals. Supported by unique claim management strategies, advanced technology and exceptional customer service, we create customized programs for over two million plan participants nation-wide. greenshield.ca*

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