

LEGACY

The art of philanthropy
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Here for Hamilton

Launched in March, HCF's three-phase Pandemic Response Fund (PRF) addresses an unpredictable and changing landscape created by COVID-19. One of its guiding principles is to recognize that the pandemic affects populations differently, often exacerbating the issues that affect marginalized Hamiltonians. This fall, the fund's third phase will assist the community with increased costs and/or revenue loss related to pandemic recovery. It focuses on reaching organizations that serve predominantly Black, Indigenous and people of colour ("BIPOC") communities, as well as small- to mid-sized organizations that have a reduced capacity to recover.

"Phase 3 responds to what the community told us would be most effective at addressing the pandemic's disproportionate effects on the health, social and economic well-being of BIPOC communities, and the impact on small, grassroots organizations," says Matt Goodman, Vice-President of Grants & Community Initiatives. "The focus intersects very much with our diversity and inclusion commitment and supports a larger, more encompassing strategy that includes expanding the reach of our granting."

PRF's first phase involved grants to 16 local charities that could quickly distribute resources related to meeting basic needs such as food security, shelter and hygiene. Beginning in April, Phase 2 helped vulnerable Hamiltonians through pandemic challenges including those caused by quarantine and closures, also helping charities to move programs online and create access to services.

The Pandemic Response Fund was launched with a \$2 million commitment by the Foundation, and was quickly augmented with over \$1 million from the community, including many first-time donors. Over \$900,000 was granted through the first two phases, with Phase 3 funding to be announced in late October.

A full list of grants from the Pandemic Response Fund is at hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca/c19grantees

Scaling up social impact

HCF and community foundation partners in London and Niagara have teamed up to connect local social purpose organizations with support from a new national funding initiative called the Investment Readiness Program (IRP).

The program is being delivered nationally by Community Foundations of Canada and other partners as part of the Government of Canada's long-term investment in social finance. The IRP's purpose is to make organizations "investment ready," i.e., able to take on additional capital investments when the federal government rolls out its ten-year, \$755 million Social Finance Fund. More importantly, the IRP will allow organizations to make a difference in new and innovative ways by participating in the social finance market. Any organization that has a social purpose as its focus – pursuit of social, cultural or environmental goals – is eligible for funding.

IRP's Round 1 saw six Hamilton organizations awarded a total of \$247,569: De dwa da dehs nye's Aboriginal Health Centre (DAHC), Amity Goodwill Industries, Welcome Inn, Wesley Urban Ministries, YWCA Hamilton and St. Matthew's House. IRP Round 2 recipients will be announced this fall.

"We're thrilled at the local response for this national funding opportunity," says Executive VP, Finance & Operations, Annette Aquin. "The IRP and overall social finance investment aligns with what HCF has been doing in impact investing both locally and globally since 2010."

The art of philanthropy

For Callie Archer, self-expression through art connects people of all ages: she believes that children, teens and adults all benefit from art by pushing the limits of their creativity, building their self-image and inspiring them to accomplish other goals.

To recognize and support the importance of art in the community, Callie has found another form of self-expression: her philanthropy. She has chosen to give to HCF's Arts Endowment Fund, attracted in part because each donation is matched, doubling her impact.

Art was not always part of Callie's life. Since retiring, she has taken it up both as a restorative and connecting practice. "Art is healing and something I have fun doing," says Callie. "It can provide a form of therapy that is needed in the community."

Callie's philanthropy includes supporting a number of Hamilton's arts organizations, and she donates her own artworks to charities. A long-time human rights advocate, she says that while art "doesn't get as much support as some other basic life needs, it is another piece of the puzzle that allows people to connect."



Photo courtesy of The Hamilton Spectator

Callie Archer works to create calm through her art

Your will: more than a legal document

Hamilton Community Foundation has joined forces with advisors and charities across the region to demonstrate the power people have to create positive change through a gift in their will.



The Will Power campaign educates Canadians on the difference they can make by donating through their wills. The goal is to open up \$40 billion in estate gifts to charities by 2030.

Hamiltonians are committed to creating a vibrant, diverse and inclusive community: Will Power enables us to connect more people, ideas and resources to create change through their wills. Learn more at willpower.ca. or call Jill Anderson at 905.523.5600.

Meeting challenges today and beyond

Message from President and CEO: Terry Cooke

"When you're going through hell, keep going." It's a line sometimes used when discussing this seemingly endless pandemic, but one that reflects a position of privilege and easy access to resources. For many Hamiltonians, COVID-19 means a struggle just to maintain ground, and multiple barriers to moving forward. The pandemic's wide-ranging impact has been particularly devastating to the lives of those long subjected to systemic inequity.

In this issue, we touch on some of the ways the Foundation is helping to mitigate the pandemic's disproportionate effects. You'll read about grants supporting students, tenants and mental health, as well as an update on our Pandemic Response Fund.

The next phase focuses on assisting communities of Black, Indigenous and people of colour.

You'll also read about a new program to encourage Canadians to consider how their wills can benefit society, about more ways to connect with the Foundation and an inspiring story about a donor and the healing power of art. It reminds us that, outside the pandemic, life and the things we cherish still continue.

I hope you find this issue both heartening and thought-provoking. I would love to hear your comments. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy.

Grants at a Glance

In this issue, we feature a selection of grants from HCF's Pandemic Response Fund.

A full list is available at hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca/c19grantees

Body Brave

When the pandemic kept people indoors, front-line organizations had to adapt to continue to help vulnerable people. With support from Hamilton Community Foundation, Body Brave, a local charity that helps women with eating disorders, changed to online virtual programming to ensure it could stay connected to its clients.

The grant helped Body Brave increase its capacity to meet a growing demand for its services. This included additional administrative support for urgent medical assessments, increasing psychotherapy resources to allow for more treatment groups and individual check-ins, and increasing capacity for communicating with clients and caregivers.

"People have been saying that they are so stressed that they're going back to their eating disorder to cope," Dr. Karen Trollope told *The Hamilton Spectator* in a recent article. Eating disorders carry the highest mortality rate of all psychiatric illnesses, with a high risk of suicide. Women and girls make up a large majority of these cases.



The language of tenant rights

Even in normal times, relationships between tenants and landlords can be fraught with tension. For many, the pandemic increased both the likelihood of job loss and inability to make the rent.

Throw language barriers into the mix and it can be a recipe for inequity and injustice. As the crisis emerged, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic stepped up with a multilingual education campaign to make sure tenants knew their rights.

In March, the Superior Court of Justice suspended residential evictions when the provincial government declared a state of emergency. However, tenants who hadn't paid the rent could still receive eviction notices. A grant from HCF supported the Legal Clinic to produce a series of workshops and bright yellow posters in seven languages to answer tenants' questions on their rights in evictions, including what to do when faced with an inability to pay rent during the pandemic.



Keeping students on the right track

The pandemic has made education a challenge for all students, especially those who need additional assistance. With in-person tutoring impossible, many students risk falling further behind. An HCF grant is helping Learning Disabilities Association of Halton-Hamilton (LDAHH) to provide the math and early literacy supports these learners need, through one-on-one online tutoring.

The program keeps students on track with a tiered approach that matches students with tutoring based on their level of need. It ensures accessibility by piggybacking on the internet access and technology provided by Hamilton school boards. LDAHH executive director Alison Brindle joined us recently on Vital Signs to talk about the pandemic-related challenges of keeping students with learning disabilities connected to the supports they need.

"The gap in learning for our students has increased," says Brindle. "Every child with a learning disability is different and needs individualized support."

More ways to stay in touch

Watch VSTV on *your* schedule



One way we connect with our community is through the Vital Signs TV show on Cable 14. It brings viewers up close and personal with HCF, as Terry Cooke and guests delve into a variety of issues affecting Hamiltonians.

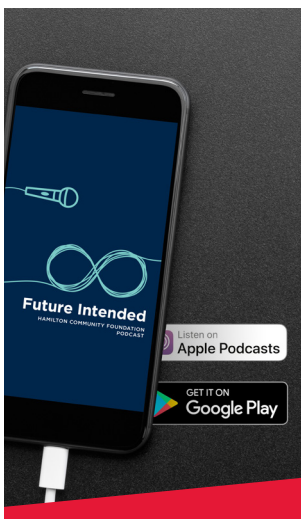
We're honoured to have received a Cable 14 Community Impact Award this season, where we discussed topics ranging from the rise of hate groups in Hamilton to the need for a universal basic income. We've featured stories and people behind successes like Hamilton's booming local film industry and how Syrian newcomers are settling in our city. The show also introduced viewers to thought-provoking guests like local faith leaders who discussed the links between faith and philanthropy.

Since April, we've been pandemic-safe, recording the show via Zoom. You can stream new episodes Mondays at 5:30 p.m. on Cable 14, and, thanks to a new partnership with the station, watch on demand at Cable14NOW.com. Follow us on social media to hear about upcoming episodes.

Good listening

We love to share stories about the many people and organizations doing incredible work in Hamilton. Our newly launched Future Intended Podcast gives us another opportunity to do just that while providing listeners with inspiring narratives as they go about their day. In this first season, you'll hear from staff, volunteers and clients from organizations including The Owl Foundation, Cycle Hamilton, YWCA Hamilton and the Bruce Trail Conservancy. We also revisit some great conversations from our coffeehouse chats - in case you missed them - and until we can get together in person again.

Visit hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca/podcast to stream and download episodes.



HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

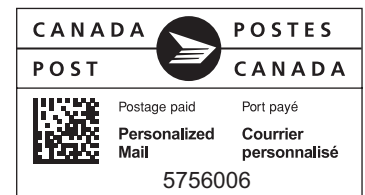
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