



LEGACY

Listen, learn, respond

This fall, local organizations are receiving grants that touch three key areas of community need.

One granting stream helps support children's healthy development through a "whole child approach" that recognizes a student's overall development — not just their academic achievement — is especially important on their post-pandemic return to school. A second grant focus is on meeting basic needs — food, transportation, shelter — for people experiencing marginalization.

Not all the grants fund programs directly. A third granting focus was on building the capacity of local organizations who work to meet the needs of equity-deserving groups including racialized people, newcomers, people with disabilities, 2SLGBTQIA+ and Indigenous people. These grants (see sidebar) help build sustainability so the organizations can more effectively advance their missions, and include support for board, leadership and volunteer development.

Priorities for the three granting streams were refined through community consultation, research and understanding the changing community landscape. The funding came from HCF's "field of interest" funds, where donors may identify an area of interest, but trust HCF to determine the best use of the grants. This process was assisted through an open call to the community, which also prioritized small-to-mid-sized organizations whose resources to fundraise may be less.

"Unrestricted funds like these allow HCF to help with the most critical local issues," says Rudi Wallace, Vice-President, Grants and Community Initiatives. "Open calls also provide information that enhances our own knowledge about local needs and emerging strategies that can be shared across the community, including with donors."

In total, 21 organizations were funded through these grants; a complete list is available at

hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca/foi2022.

Supporting sustainability

Hamilton Community Foundation has a goal to increase the capacity and health of equity-deserving organizations and communities to address systemic barriers, through funding and non-financial supports such as convening, advocacy and relationship-building. Here are three recent grants that work toward that goal:

Somali Community in Hamilton

Established in 2004, Somali Community in Hamilton (SCH) provides services to the significant number of Somali immigrants who now call Hamilton home. These services include youth programs, legal advocacy, elders programs and employment assistance. The Foundation's conversations with SCH resulted in a successful application for volunteer training on grant proposal writing. It also includes a "grantmaking 101" workshop to help provide long-term sustainability.

Rafiki Hamilton

Rafiki Hamilton serves the city's Congolese community and other local Francophone Africans. A capacity-building grant from HCF is supporting Rafiki with charitable incorporation, leadership development for staff, and volunteer support.

Munar Learning Centre

Munar Learning Centre serves Somali communities in Hamilton by creating bridges between Somali refugees, the education system and service providers. Munar is using the grant to strengthen its board recruitment planning, administrative policy development, a fundraising plan and its application for charitable status.

Putting community first

Compassion, trust and action are a winning combination.

Last winter, Karen Turkstra read a Hamilton Spectator article about a snowstorm that had left many unhoused people struggling to stay warm. The story highlighted the first-hand experiences of those directly affected, as well as those of frontline service providers including the Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team (HAMSMaRT), an organization that provides health services to vulnerable residents. Moved by what she read, Karen contacted Marcie McIlveen, outreach co-ordinator at HAMSMaRT, and made a donation. That same day, supplies were being delivered to the people who needed them.

“This was a really incredible experience to have met a person of such dedication and knowledge and to have had an immediate impact on the problem,” says Karen. “It did not solve the problem, but hopefully satisfied an immediate and urgent need.”

But it didn’t end there. After a meeting between Karen, HAMSMaRT and HCF staff, Karen and her husband Peter made a grant from their HCF fund to support HAMSMaRT’s longer-term sustainability. The couple put no parameters on the grant’s use, nor did they request any kind of reporting, deciding instead to trust those doing the work.

“In this case, we believed that leaving it to the professionals and people on the ground was best,” says Karen. “They know where the funds are needed the most.”

News in brief

There’s always something happening at HCF. Here are some of the latest developments:

- **ABACUS II:** This summer, HCF granted more than \$2.1 million to local organizations to support students at critical stages in their education. ABACUS II addresses equity, wellness and academic achievement and expands the program’s focus from middle school alone, to the transition into and out of those years.

- **Impact investing:** On National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, HCF announced a \$1.5 million investment in Raven Indigenous Impact Fund II, which invests in Indigenous businesses across Turtle Island.
- **Vital Signs TV:** A new season of Vital Signs kicked off in October on Cable 14 with episodes about human trafficking in Hamilton and diverse voices in community theatre. You can watch new episodes free at cable14now.com.



Community-centred philanthropy is an approach that prioritizes the needs of communities when making charitable donations. This story is a great example of that philosophy — a donor recognized a community need and trusted in the organization to identify the best course of action.

Shylah MacIntyre, Acting Director, Philanthropic Services

Grants at a Glance

Growing community

Come play in the dirt!

That’s the invitation Hamilton’s kids received from the Children’s Garden, a resident-led project that has transformed a corner of Gage Park into a safe place where children of all ages can play freely outdoors, connect with nature and grow flowers, herbs and vegetables.

The garden opened earlier this summer with contributions from landscape architects, community volunteers and City of Hamilton staff.

Supported by a grant from HCF’s Environmental Endowment Fund, the garden hosts pop-up education



sessions, planting events and field trips, as well as opportunities for spontaneous play. Children, their families, gardeners and community members take care of planting, maintenance and the harvest. An Indigenous-led section features the Three Sisters Garden and a medicine garden and is intended to be an inclusive space for strengthening Indigenous presence, health, community and knowledge sharing.

“Working together in a children’s garden helps instill togetherness and a common purpose,” say founders Juby Lee and Hazel Cho. “While children are learning a lifelong love of growing things, we can create community.”

PAWS for a cause

There’s a saying that pets leave paw prints on our hearts.

Unfortunately, the times when the companionship of animals is most beneficial can also be the times when some owners find it most difficult to afford their care.

PAWS (Progressive Animal Welfare Services) is a volunteer-run organization that facilitates access to medically necessary veterinary care and removes barriers to social services for Ontarians with animal companions. Clients include those who are unhoused, fleeing violence, receiving government assistance and experiencing a health crisis. In response to a sharp increase in applications locally, HCF is supporting the PAWS Essential Medical Fund for Hamilton through the Vera & Percy Tomlinson Fund that includes a focus on animal welfare.

The program provides subsidies for vaccinations, neuters and spays, prescriptions, vet-recommended diagnostic tests and emergency procedures. Applicants must meet certain criteria, and payment goes directly to the vet clinic. It is also well-timed, given the Hamilton Spectator’s recent report that high inflation is prompting more families to give up their animal companions.

Mentoring diversity in the arts



Red Beti Theatre is helping the next generation of producers find both their voices and their audience.

Hamilton’s only Indigenous, Black and People of Colour (IBPOC) theatre, Red Beti commissions and presents live performances created and

written by Canadian IBPOC women. One of those women is Narika Reddy. In 2021, HCF provided a grant from the Alfred and Joan Robertshaw Fund for the theatre’s mentorship program, which saw this up-and-coming producer build her skills in project management, technical production, budgeting, grant writing, contract development and negotiation.

Under the guidance of artistic producer Claire Burns, Narika helped three playwrights develop their scripts and organized a staged reading of the pieces at the inaugural Decolonize Your Ears online festival—all during a global pandemic.

As Narika shared in a blog on the theatre’s website, “The challenges we faced were definitely out of the ordinary. I left with more knowledge in terms of adapting original ideas to newer ones, which would later serve our audience, sponsors and partners more efficiently.”

“

I've always been impressed by the work of Hamilton Community Foundation and have seen first-hand the positive impact in the community. I really look forward to connecting with donors, the board and staff team and learning about how we can work towards equity and inclusion in all aspects of our work together.

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Andrea Buttars, Vice-President, Philanthropic Services



Welcome aboard!

HCF is thrilled to welcome Andrea Buttars (she/her) as the new Vice-President of Philanthropic Services. Andrea joins HCF with a stellar record of local non-profit and community leadership, most recently with Wesley Urban

Ministries. She has a special passion for Hamilton and nurturing philanthropy throughout the city and believes strongly in donors' ability to make a positive difference through the Foundation.

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