

Nature is
everywhere!
Read the story
on page 3

Hamilton Community Foundation
Spring 2023 Newsletter

LEGACY

Connecting through culture

Thanks to a new program in Hamilton, a senior has affordable housing after unknowingly losing his place on the waitlist. A newcomer finds a job where the owner speaks Arabic. A family receives furniture for their first home in Canada. And parents learn how to access government-funded medical supplies for their child.

The Sanad program is an initiative of Mishka Social Services. Supported by a grant from HCF, it connects Muslims, racialized families — and anyone needing help in Hamilton — to resources, shelter, funding and social services in a culturally informed way.



Mishka's Sanad Program helped a client install a porch lift to make his home wheelchair accessible for a family member.

Sanad, which means “support” in Arabic, is about bridging gaps and eliminating barriers.

“These are families that some organizations consider complex, which can add delays,” says Omar Mahamed, team lead. “We offer an extra layer of support that requires cultural understanding.”

Support comes in many forms. Online workshops offer families a general roadmap to programs and services, while a community service worker

addresses specific needs. Informal one-on-one conversations with workers at other social service agencies encourage cross-cultural understanding. Formal involvement with the Children's Aid Society helps Muslim youth feel culturally and spiritually at home in foster care.

Sanad has helped 72 families since last year, with referrals coming from the community, agencies, schools and hospitals. They hope to help 48 more families currently on a waitlist. Services are available in several languages.

“People don't like to come forward with their problems, but the stigma is being broken down,” Omar says. “Three people came up to me at the mosque the other day to tell me of families that needed help. We're building trust.”

A growing Circle

Hamilton Community Foundation is honoured to have been accepted as a member of the Circle on Philanthropy. The Circle is an Indigenous-led organization that works to incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing into Canada's philanthropic sector.

This membership, centered in reciprocity, provides opportunities for (un)learning and partnership. It comes with responsibility and obligations in continuing HCF's Truth and Reconciliation journey and how we work with and support Indigenous communities. HCF joins a host of philanthropic institutions on this shared work and commitment, including community foundations in Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg.

HCF membership includes a Declaration of Action that commits HCF to use its resources to work towards Truth and Reconciliation, which is part of the Foundation's broader goals to learn from and support Indigenous communities.

“Words have never been enough,” says Rudi Wallace, Vice-President, Grants & Community Initiatives. “Truth and Reconciliation requires intentional actions as outlined in the TRC's 94 Calls to Action. This membership reinforces our accountability.”

A natural penchant for giving

A mutual love for nature connected Ted and Karin Bossence. Their fund at HCF is an expression of this passion and their belief that the natural environment should be available for future generations to enjoy.

The Ted and Karin Bossence Fund supports protecting the natural environment with a focus on Hamilton, Halton and Niagara regions. A portion of their granting is directed to the Community Fund, which allows HCF to help address the most urgent needs in Hamilton and undertake its community leadership initiatives.

The Bossences met in the 1980s through the Halton Outdoor Club (then called The Halton Cross Country Ski Club) and connected because of a mutual love of hiking and cross-country skiing.

Though the couple live in Burlington, Ted thinks of himself as a Hamiltonian, having worked as a chartered accountant and lived in the city for 37 years, enjoying the natural environment of the west mountain from childhood. Hamilton Community Foundation’s fund size and efficiency were both appealing factors for the Bossences.

“We really have developed a love of nature throughout our life and want to see nature preserved rather than paved over,” says Ted.

Passions, choices and impact

A note from Andrea Buttar

Thank you all for the warm welcomes I have received in my new role as Vice-President, Philanthropic Services. It’s been a busy first few months and I’ve learned a lot! Most of all, I’ve enjoyed seeing how our donors combine personal passions and thoughtful reflection into generosity. **Here are a few things I want to share with you:**

Ask me anything! I’ve really enjoyed helping community members and donors who are looking for suggestions on less well-known grassroots and equity-deserving organizations to support. It’s been great working on this with our knowledgeable Grants & Community Initiatives team.

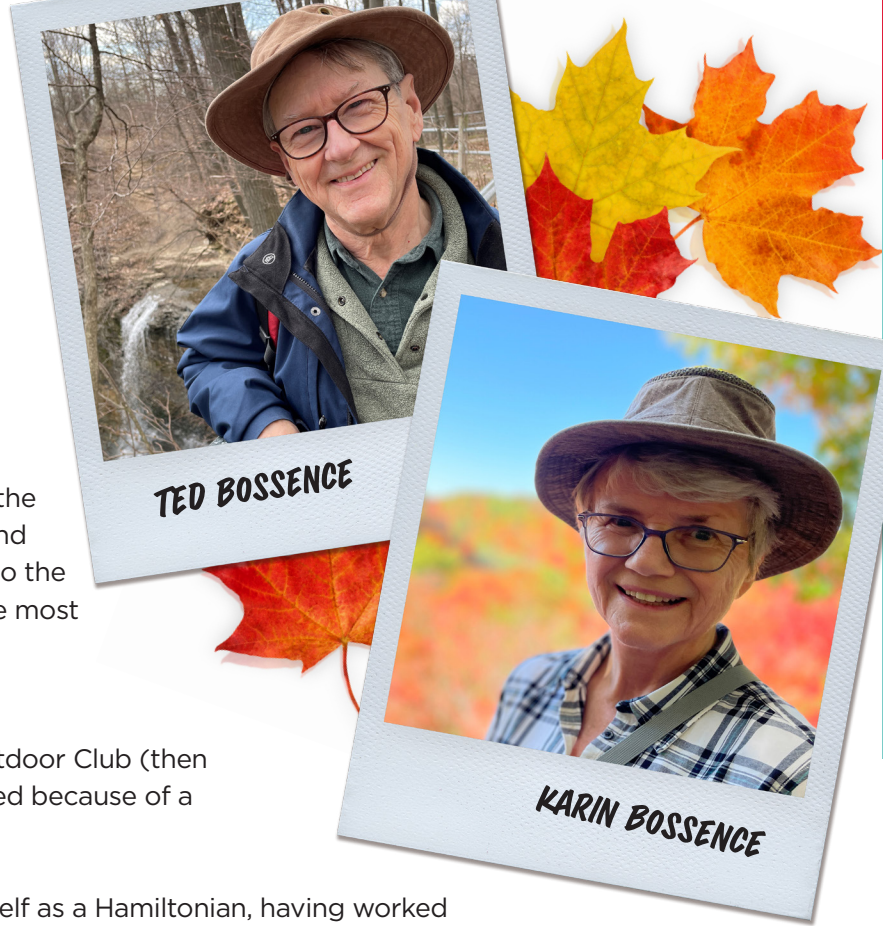
Trust goes a long way. Many donors who have an HCF fund provide unrestricted and multi-year funding to

charities, trusting them to put that support where it’s most needed in serving their communities.

You can have an impact now. HCF’s Community Fund fuels leadership initiatives like education and housing; it’s a great way to help address Hamilton’s most pressing issues. You can donate any amount and if, over time, your total donation reaches \$5,000, it can be recognized with a named fund.

I have enjoyed connecting and I look forward to many more opportunities to meet!

Do you have a question about giving to HCF? Email Andrea at a.buttars@hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca or call her at 905.523.5600 x 254



Grants at a Glance

Baby book club

More than 300 children in Hamilton’s lower city are receiving a new, carefully selected, age-appropriate book addressed to them in the mail every month until they turn five, courtesy of Imagination Library.

The program, which is designed to improve early literacy rates, was founded by Dolly Parton in 1995. It came to Canada in 2006 and has been run by the Eva Rothwell Centre in Hamilton since 2017.

“Children who are read to from a young age develop bigger vocabularies, become better readers and are more likely to succeed in school,” says Sam

Campanella, the centre’s executive director. “We aim to provide books to families who may not otherwise have the means to access them at home.”

Thanks in part to funding from HCF, the program plans to expand to 355 children by this summer, including those on a 200-child waitlist.



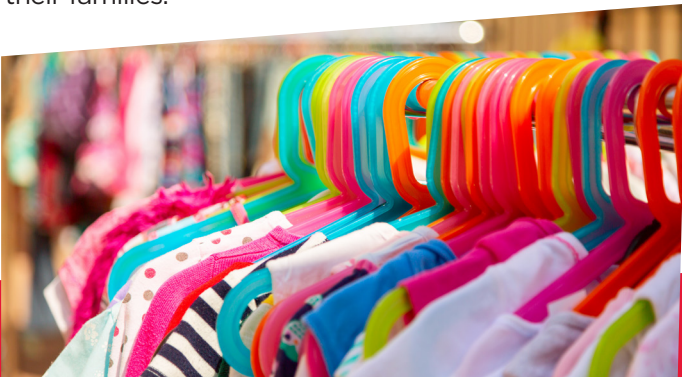
One-stop infant shop

In this store, everything is free.

Barton Street’s Baby Depot Boutique on Barton Street is a one-stop shop for families struggling with the costs of supplies for a new baby. Last year, more than 150 families hard-hit by the pandemic and rising inflation were able to select all the diapers, gently used clothing and other essentials they needed during their baby’s first year.

Customers are referred by local social service agencies and shop by appointment. “It’s about dignity of choice,” says Stephanie Greenaway, program co-ordinator.

“We need to show our neighbours they are not alone,” says Maggie John, who founded The Baby Depot in 2013 and is excited by the transition from a hamper program to a shopping experience. “By choosing the clothing for their baby and picking the stroller, crib and toys, they feel encouraged in their role as caregivers to provide healthy and stable homes for their families.”



Nature is everywhere



The GO Explore Nature Education Program connects urban Hamilton students to nature, often for the first time.

Run by the Hamilton Naturalists’ Club, the program combines in-class learning and two field trips: a neighbourhood walk that gives students the tools to find nature close to home, and a trip to the Sheelah

Dunn Dooley Nature Sanctuary where they will use what they learned during the neighbourhood walk to look for plants and animals. Both excursions see students participating in stewardship activities, including garbage cleanup, managing invasive plants and planting native species.

The program aims to spark a passion for nature in students, turning them from learners into conservers.

“Students can’t develop a conservation ethic if they have no connection to nature,” says Jen Baker of the Naturalists’ Club. “The project shows them that nature is everywhere and they can help in a meaningful and practical way.”

News in brief

There's lots happening at HCF — here's some of the latest

- The Foundation granted more than \$12 million for the year ending March 31. Grants covered the arts, environment, health and human services, education and recreation. You can read the stories behind some of the grants at hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca/impact.
- The Community Services Recovery Fund is a \$400 million investment from the Government of Canada to support charities and non-profits as they focus on adapting for pandemic recovery. Three national funders — Canadian Red Cross, Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), and United Way Centraide Canada — are working together to deliver the “CSRF” across the country because of their national reach and local knowledge. HCF is administering approximately \$1.3 million locally; grants will be announced later this spring.
- HCF is also one of a number of community foundations who are administering a third round of the Investment Readiness Program on the federal government's behalf. This program supports social purpose organizations to improve their investment readiness, in advance of the Government of Canada's social finance fund launch.



HCF's Rudi Wallace welcomes Dr. Rick Monture to discuss Six Nations history on a recent episode of Vital Signs.

- Stay tuned this spring for a new local report by Dr. Brian Doucet, about displacement along the LRT corridor. The report, supported by HCF is helping to inform our strategic goal to “increase investment and support for affordable housing development in Hamilton.” In early summer, you can also look for a new housing-focused Vital Signs report.
- Did you know that the Foundation now produces two episodes of Vital Signs every month on Cable 14? That's twice as much community discussion on issues that affect our city's vibrancy. Watch new episodes Mondays at 6:30 p.m. on Cable 14 or stream them (as well as past episodes) at cable14now.com.

HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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

Tel. 905.523.5600

Fax. 905.523.0741

@HamCommFdn

hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca



RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
PORT DE RETOUR GARANTI

We respect your privacy

Hamilton Community Foundation does not rent, sell or trade its mailing list. Please contact us at any time if you do not wish to receive further mailings from us.
hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca/privacy