

# LEGACY

## Mini-forests, big impact

Two years ago, the first mini-forests took root in Hamilton.

Purposefully designed, mini-forests consist of densely planted native tree species that mimic the complexity of a naturally evolved forest. The reason? To restore biodiversity.

Two recent grants from HCF support the mini-forests project from Green Venture. One supports planting new trees and stewarding existing mini-forests. Another helps fund research to measure growth, soil structure and ecological outcomes.

At the heart of this project is the “Miyawaki method” — named after Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki — which involves planting native tree species at very high densities. The result, which has been successfully applied all over the world, is a diverse forest that develops over a relatively short period.

By next spring, Green Venture hopes to plant 600 trees at Johnson Tews Park and 100 more across the grounds of Dundas Central Public School. The project also involves education workshops and engagement with students at the school.

Researching the efficacy of the Miyawaki method in Hamilton is also key to Green Venture’s success, since there are no established best practices for mini-forests in Canada yet. Green Venture plans to evaluate its existing mini-forests and other examples in Canada, as well as to conduct research to determine how the community perceives the value of the project.

“Restoring biodiversity is crucial for Hamilton,” says Rudi Wallace, Vice-President of Grants & Community Initiatives. “A greater tree canopy in our community is important and we’re glad to support this environmentally focused project that also engages residents.”

## In it for the long run

Good things come to those who wait. For a recent opportunity in HCF’s impact investment portfolio that wait will be 22 years, as it provides “patient capital” to help acquire two local residential properties and secure 31 units of permanent affordable housing.

Patient capital refers to investments in projects that take time to reach their potential. Although HCF won’t see the full return on investment until 2044, this project, at King Street East and Tisdale Avenue, fits into the Foundation’s strategy to rebuild a healthy affordable housing sector today. The \$1 million investment with New Market Funds — a fund management firm focused on opportunities that benefit communities — will help to secure properties that might otherwise be acquired by the private sector. As New Market’s Derek Ballantyne told the CBC, “It helps low-income tenants have some predictability over what the rents will be like over the longer term and, obviously, some stability in their housing.”

Recent data underscores the importance of retaining Hamilton’s affordable housing stock. The Foundation’s latest Vital Signs report shows that Hamilton lost more than 15,000 affordable units in the private market (rent \$750 per month or under) between 2011 and 2021. More than 9,000 units that rent between \$750 and \$1,000 per month were also lost.

Yulena Wan, HCF’s Vice-President of Finance & Operations, says that the ability to provide patient capital is one benefit of an endowment. “While no single offering can solve the problem, it is important that we act on what is possible,” says Yulena. “HCF’s endowment model makes us uniquely positioned to use more of our capital for good.”

# A charitable harvest



For Joan Lindley, or “Grandma Joan” as she likes to be called, farming has been not just a way of life, but a generational legacy — one that includes philanthropy.

The Lindley family supports the Hamilton Spectator Summer Camp Fund at HCF which funds summer campships for children whose families could not otherwise afford the costs.

This charitable endeavour reflects the passions of Joan’s late husband, Peter, or “Pickin’ Pete”, who attended camp as a boy. His desire was for other kids to be able to have the same opportunity to bond with nature, engage in healthy competition and develop outdoor skills.

The Lindleys have been farming in Halton and Wentworth for eight generations, specializing in strawberries and pumpkins. Although her son Joe now operates the Lindley Farm and Market on Fiddler’s Green Road, “Grandma Joan” still likes to help, in addition to following charitable pursuits.

“If you have made a success of your life’s work, giving back is a satisfying gift,” says Joan.

# Terry Cooke to retire

It is with mixed emotions that we announce that Terry Cooke will retire late next year. Terry began his tenure as President & CEO of Hamilton Community Foundation in January 2010 and has had a 40-year career of leadership across public, private and charitable sectors.

“Terry led the Foundation through a period of remarkable growth in both its assets and community impact,” says Cheryl Jensen, HCF Board Chair. “Drawing on his knowledge, experience and relationships, he spearheaded a new awareness of HCF and mobilized more of its resources for the community’s benefit.”

“The end of 2024 will mark 15 years that I have had the privilege of serving as President & CEO of this great and historic Hamilton institution,” says Terry. “It will coincidentally be the year that I turn 65. I am so very proud of the work that we have done together in building on its 70-year legacy of leadership, innovation and community impact that has been so widely recognized, both nationally and globally.”



# Grants at a Glance

## Playing it safe

All kids need a chance to play, especially those coming out of domestic violence situations. An Interval House program is connecting vulnerable children and youth to recreational activities in a safe and affordable way.

Last year, the program was offered only to shelter residents. Now, an HCF grant is helping to expand it to all rural and urban Hamilton families who are escaping domestic violence and abusive situations and accessing Interval House services.

When families are experiencing violence, children may not be able to enroll in community-based programs and sports. This can negatively affect their connection with peers as well as their physical, emotional and mental health.



Safety and cost are significant barriers to participation in community activities for these children. The Interval House program ensures affordability through partnerships with recreation organizations and access to equipment and transportation. Partnerships with Hamilton Police Services and the Children’s Aid Society also ease safety concerns.

## Granting for student success

Hamilton students have been busy over the past year:

- Building a meditation garden with Indigenous elders
- Visiting Brock University to make 3D models, animated films and video games
- Learning the principles of flight at the Hamilton Warplane Heritage Museum
- Using LEGO sets to construct Mars Rovers
- Acquiring diverse and multicultural library resources

These are just a few examples of fun and educational activities made possible, in part, by Small Grants for Teachers, an ABACUS program in which middle-school educators can apply for a grant up to \$500 for projects that enhance students’ learning experiences. The program has provided more than \$172,000 in funding since 2016.

ABACUS is HCF’s 10-year commitment that focuses on the transitions to and through the middle-school years to increase the likelihood that young Hamiltonians graduate high school and access post-secondary opportunities.

## Breathing easier

Researchers at St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton are hoping lung cancer patients will live longer, healthier lives thanks to an “electronic nose” that uses their breath to tell if cancer has returned after surgery.

Lung cancer is responsible for more deaths in Canada than colorectal, breast and prostate cancer combined. Surgery is the favoured treatment, but recurrence rates are high. Currently, hospitals screen for lung cancer recurrence using expensive, time-consuming, uncomfortable CT scans, which expose patients to risky levels of radiation.

A research grant from HCF’s Community Health, Education and Research Fund is supporting the study of a new method at St. Joseph’s called a liquid biopsy that is less expensive, painless, radiation-free, and can be conducted from the comfort of a patient’s home. Best of all, it may lead to earlier recurrence detection than a CT scan.

If successful, St. Joseph’s would be the first Canadian medical centre to use liquid biopsies to detect lung cancer. The two-year project will continue until summer 2025.





# Vital Signs: Affordable Housing

In September, the Foundation launched its Vital Signs report on affordable housing. It includes recent data on interconnected factors such as rents, housing supply, income supports and homelessness.

The report launch featured an expert panel talking about the challenges and, more importantly, possible ways to mitigate the affordable housing crisis.

You can read the report at [hamiltonvitalsigns.ca](https://hamiltonvitalsigns.ca) and watch the launch at [cable14.com](https://cable14.com).

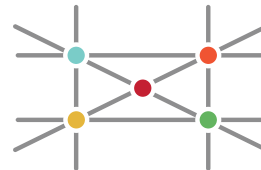
## Introducing SCAFFOLD

Just as there is no one person, sector, organization or level of government that can solve the current crisis in affordable housing, there is also no single solution to this systemic problem. That is why HCF supports initiatives across the housing continuum from supportive housing to affordable home ownership.

Beyond granting, our work includes attracting additional funding, building coalitions, innovative financing, policy advocacy, supporting affordable housing property acquisition and preservation (see page 1), and funding and sharing research.

This winter, HCF will release its comprehensive affordable housing strategy, a 10-year, \$50 million commitment that brings together our resources based on research, consultation and the work of leading housing policy experts.

We're calling this strategy SCAFFOLD: Supporting Affordable Housing Efforts.



# SCAFFOLD

HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
*Supporting Affordable Housing Efforts*

Just as scaffolding delivers the right support at the right time in a construction project, SCAFFOLD, will guide HCF's decisions on where our philanthropic capital will have the most impact and the best roles we can play.

We invite you to learn more about SCAFFOLD as it takes shape over the coming months, and to visit [HamiltonCommunityFoundation.ca/SCAFFOLD](https://HamiltonCommunityFoundation.ca/SCAFFOLD) for more information on our support for affordable housing.

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