



# LEGACY

## Home for good

For too many members of our community, housing is precarious. Some are often one eviction notice away from losing their homes. A new series of grants at Hamilton Community Foundation is supporting frontline organizations to prevent that from happening.

Last year, the Foundation launched SCAFFOLD, a multi-year commitment to affordable housing. The strategy comprises several components, including supporting new construction, keeping affordable units out of the private market and eviction prevention.

Earlier this year, HCF made grants to several local charities working to prevent evictions, including Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, ACORN, Hamilton Housing Help Centre, St. Matthew's House, Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg, Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, Living Rock, Hamilton Child and Family Supports (formerly Children's Aid Society of Hamilton), and Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton.

Eviction prevention is multi-faceted, so supports vary depending on the clients being served. These organizations provide a broad range of services including: partnering with outreach workers at local shelters to assist in navigating interactions with the Landlord and Tenant Board, connecting seniors with professional cleaners to address hoarding, financial support for youth who are behind on rent, Indigenous food sovereignty programming, and educating tenants on their rights and how to apply to legal support programs.

"These grants respond to the growing need for support considering the housing crisis and increased homelessness risk for folks facing the daily challenges of poverty," says Rudi Wallace, VP Grants & Community Initiatives. "We're supporting programs that help people fight unfair evictions and also that deliver direct services to vulnerable tenants. That means fewer people at risk of becoming unhoused."

## Trusting in our community

Sometimes trying something different can reveal new possibilities and strengthen relationships. A participatory granting pilot at Hamilton Community Foundation aims to achieve just that.

Participatory granting is a form of trust-based philanthropy that shifts decision-making power to those most affected by the funding. It is based on the philosophy that foundations should share power to produce more equitable outcomes.

Data suggests that traditional philanthropy has underfunded historically marginalized communities. For example, a report called *Unfunded: Black Communities Overlooked by Canadian Philanthropy* found that Black-serving organizations received only 0.7 percent of all grants distributed by community foundations in Canada in 2017 and 2018.

HCF's participatory granting pilot invites community members to form a granting circle that determines community needs and allocates funds to support capacity-building for equity-deserving community-led organizations. This approach leverages the knowledge and expertise of these organizations to make the most positive impact on the lives and health of their communities.

The pilot targets organizations representing the following communities:

- 2SLGBTQ+
- Black
- Deaf and disability
- Indigenous
- Racialized
- Women, girls and gender diverse

To learn more, visit:

[hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca/pgp](https://hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca/pgp)

## Inspired to keep giving

Beatrice Kemp spent a career doing good in Hamilton. That commitment continues in the form of a new HCF fund reflecting her passions for helping children and animals.

Beatrice worked for 30 years with Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton. She served as its executive director and was inspired by the very children the organization served. "Social work became a vocation and protecting children enriched me in ways I never imagined."

**Having been born and raised in Hamilton I feel an allegiance to our city and so it was a natural fit to establish a fund through Hamilton Community Foundation.**

Her fund, The Bobbles Fund (named after a beloved cat), also supports animals at risk, reflecting Beatrice's lifelong connection to family pets. "Animals bring out the best in me – certainly my protective and nurturing instincts – but their presence also calms me," she says.

Beatrice's commitment to the community made the Foundation a perfect fit for her philanthropy.



## Equity, diversity and inclusion at HCF

Hamilton Community Foundation has a dedicated focus on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in every aspect of its work.

Last fall, local EDI experts at Intersecting: Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression Consultant gathered constituent feedback to measure our efforts, looking at how we reflect Hamilton's diversity along with perceptions of inclusion and equity at HCF.

Across almost all key demographic indicators, HCF has shifted the needle since 2018, with a much more diverse board, staff and senior management team better reflecting the communities we serve. While our donor base is more diverse than in the last scan, the Foundation continues to work towards creating a place where people can see their gifts of time, knowledge and resources valued.

More than 90 previous grant applicants responded, giving high marks to HCF's support for diverse communities, its respect for local knowledge and skills, and its ability to match community needs with donor interests. There was a strong improvement in perceptions of HCF as a diverse organization itself, the fairness of the grants process and, in particular, its understanding of issues affecting Indigenous communities.

"There were many positive and encouraging comments from all groups surveyed," says Cole Gately, who led Intersecting's work. "We were impressed that, while there may be room for improvement in a few areas, overall people deeply appreciate HCF and its work in the community."



## Grants at a Glance

### Closing the mental health gap

Long wait times for refugee claim hearings often mean asylum seekers do not receive mental health services, despite research indicating that newcomers experience higher rates of serious mental health issues than citizens and people with permanent Immigration status.

Thanks to support from HCF, Hamilton's Immigrants Working Centre will address this gap with a new program that connects 250 asylum seekers with mental health services.

The organization has operated a successful newcomer mental health program since 2020, supporting over 500 people and playing a vital role in crisis management,

settlement counselling and education for newcomers. This is the first time, however, IWC has been able to extend these supports to asylum seekers.

"There's no other settlement-focused organization providing this service for refugee claimants in Hamilton," says assistant executive director Anni Kelly. "The Immigrants Working Centre currently has hundreds of active refugee claimants accessing our services who could benefit from mental health support."



### A space of their own



An afterschool space that is just for youth – this is the proven strategy that BGC Hamilton-Halton is using to help kids in its neighbourhood.

The BGC Youth Centre, supported by a grant from HCF, is designed for youth aged 14 to 24 and provides a safe, welcoming space to explore interests, gain skills, access support and connect to peers, caring adults and the community.

The site has been open since 2021, but is more important than ever, given how the pandemic has compromised youth social connection, mental health and education. It offers a mix of informal socializing and structured programming five days a week immediately after school and in the summer. Youth are engaged in developing programs, planning trips and designing a space where they feel welcome.

### Connecting rural seniors

In a constantly changing world, learning never ends.

A new educational program in rural Flamborough connects seniors to helpful learning opportunities and one another.

The program is facilitated by Flamborough Information & Community Services and targets isolated, vulnerable, financially disadvantaged and disabled seniors. Holding the sessions in proximity to areas where rural seniors live is an important consideration, since many seniors are uncomfortable driving distances and look for program opportunities close to home.

An HCF grant supports eight one-hour sessions, held from January to October, at locations throughout the community, and will be offered by local subject matter experts. Planned topics include wills, scams and healthy living.

The program fills a gap for rural seniors who do not have easy access to opportunities for learning and social engagement.



# Making a donation in your will

Making a will is an important step in ensuring the responsible transfer of an estate. It's also a perfect way to make a lasting charitable impact. A small percentage of an average estate is a significant donation and can make a big impact in the community.

By donating in a will, the estate also benefits from the tax receipt and HCF simplifies the process of making a single gift that can support multiple charities. Whether you choose to donate to an existing fund at HCF, like the Community Fund, or create a new fund, HCF can help you plan now for the legacy you want to create.

**For more information, contact Shylah Zimmerman, Director, Philanthropic Services, at [s.zimmerman@hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca](mailto:s.zimmerman@hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca) or 905.523.5600 x264.**



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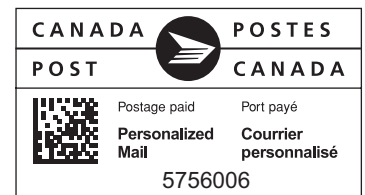
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