

**Carolyn Milne Remarks  
Hamilton Children's Aid Society  
December 8, 2006**

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to bring greetings from Hamilton Community Foundation and to be able to acknowledge the important and essential role that the CAS plays in protecting our most vulnerable children in our community.

Over the years, we have supported the work of the Society through many of our donor-advised funds and the Board's unrestricted funds. We know this organization very well and we salute your staff and Board of Directors who have dedicated themselves to some of the most challenging and difficult work in our community.

Personally, I understand the extraordinary nature of your work. As a little girl, my parents were foster parents and it was not unusual to have frightened children arrive in the middle of the night or day, and over the following weeks and months, my mother would nurture them back to health and confidence, preparing them for that day when hopefully a permanent home would be found for them.

It was in those early days that I learned some important lessons - there was not a level playing field for all children and how important it was to be there for those youngsters.

Today in my role at the Community Foundation, I have the distinct privilege of working with so many Hamiltonians who simply want to give back to a community that has been good to them.

And so we are blessed to have one of those individuals with us today, Mr. Frank Miller, whose generosity has touched many organizations in our community, including St. Matthew's House and St. Joseph's to name a few.

As we worked with Mr. Miller to facilitate his estate plans, we made an intriguing discovery - he had an extraordinary bear collection with approximately 50 bears which he has been collecting since his childhood. The oldest bear dates back to the 1930's and many come from as far as Russia and Australia. Now, these are no ordinary bears. since many of the small ones have accompanied Mr. Miller on some pretty exotic trips, on the Concorde, Queen Elizabeth II and the Queen Mary.

When Mr. Miller discussed with my colleague Pam Lakin his desire to bequeath his bear collection, the Children's Aid Society was a natural choice.

Moved by the work of the CAS and the circumstances of these children, Mr. Miller decided that he had to do something now.

So as you heard, the Miller Teddy Bears will be there to comfort these little people during what has to be one of the most traumatic events for a child.

Last night when I talked with Frank, I said that I would bring one of my bears if he would bring one of his from his collection. So ladies and gentlemen, this is Whitey and he protects all my nieces and nephews who come to visit and stay overnight on the 3rd floor of our home. And Frank, I know that you'll be introducing us to your special guest.

But in the meantime, I'd like to invite you to come forward and formally express our appreciation for this thoughtful, tender act of caring.

As many of you know, we have created an aspiration in our city to be the "Best Place to Raise a Child" in hopes of preventing and reducing poverty for over 25,000 children in our community. This program will help us on our way to this dream.

In appreciation, we would like to present you with 3 new bears for your collection - Quintin, Colby and Goldrush.