

# Meeting ever-changing community needs



## UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

*When you establish an Unrestricted Fund, your gift addresses a broad range of local needs – including future needs that often cannot be anticipated at the time your gift is made. Hamilton Community Foundation evaluates all aspects of community well-being: arts, economic development, education, environment, health and social services, neighbourhood revitalization, and more. At HCF, the unrestricted fund is known as the Community Fund. The flexibility of your unrestricted gift to the Community Fund enables the Foundation's team to respond to Hamilton's most pressing needs, now and forever.*

*Currently, the focus of Community Fund granting is Tackling Poverty Together, an \$8.4 million commitment from 2004 to 2012 to alleviate, prevent and reduce poverty in Hamilton.*

### How it works

- You make an unrestricted gift to Hamilton Community Foundation during your lifetime or through a bequest in your will. You can give cash, appreciated stocks, real estate, or other assets.
- We set up a special fund in your name, in the name of your family or business, or in honour of any person, organization or life event that has meaning to you. You can also give anonymously if you prefer.
- You receive tax benefits in the year your gift is made.
- Our board, working with our professional staff, determines the areas of community need that would benefit the most through grants from the fund.
- We handle all the administrative details.
- Your gift can be placed into an endowment that is invested over time. Earnings from your fund are used to make grants addressing community needs. Your gift can be a permanent source of community capital, helping to do good work forever.

## Making a Difference Every Year

For Bill and Petra Cooke, giving to HCF's Community Fund was a way of making annual gifts that touched the local community. When Petra passed away in 2006, her love of community was remembered with the creation of the Petra Cooke Memorial Fund.

"You can see results right here," says Bill. "Everybody knows somebody who needs help and there is a lot of satisfaction knowing that people in our area are benefiting from the projects the Foundation supports."

Bill and Petra settled in Hamilton from the UK in 1964; Bill worked for 34 years in production at The Hamilton Spectator, Petra was a nurse. Active in many local organizations, their family is also firmly rooted in the Hamilton area.

As a steady donor to the Community Fund, Petra had said her message for others was that "it is focused on the local community and the results are tangible. We're very happy with the Foundation and we'll continue to support it no question."

Her family continues that support through the Petra Cooke Memorial Fund, a named fund in HCF's Community Fund.

**To read more stories of donors who chose Hamilton Community Foundation, visit [www.hcf.on.ca](http://www.hcf.on.ca)**



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## Hamilton Community Foundation

Our mission is to strengthen Hamilton's quality of life as an inclusive and sustainable community by acting as a catalyst and by connecting people, ideas and resources through community philanthropy.

We do this by:

- **Building resources for long-lasting solutions.** We work with donors to build funds that ensure vital futures for our community.
- **Supporting all aspects of community life.** We grant to the widest possible range of organizations and initiatives.
- **Fostering community leadership.** We bring people together from all parts of the community to stimulate new ideas, build participation and strengthen community philanthropy.

**Knowledge – of philanthropy and the community – is what sets us apart.**

- **We know Hamilton's long-term issues and opportunities and align donors' philanthropic interests.**
- **We create innovative solutions and partnerships to advance community goals and maximize donors' impact.**
- **We provide expert, professional, reliable, flexible services.**

### Contact us:

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Charitable Number: 13052 7427 RR0001

## Unrestricted Fund

### More benefits

Because you set no restrictions on the use of your gift, it enables Hamilton Community Foundation's board and experienced staff to do what they do best – assess community needs and respond by issuing grants to the charitable organizations that undertake our community's most critical work.

Unrestricted funds help HCF to support long-term solutions; respond quickly to immediate needs; and meet changing social, cultural, educational, or environmental necessities in our local community.

You may give your gift now or through your will or other estate planning strategy. If you endow your gift, it becomes a permanent resource for the community.

Hamilton Community Foundation was founded in 1954. Since then, HCF has made grants to our community totaling more than \$55 million. Last year, HCF granted approximately \$4.1 million to Hamilton organizations involved in health, social services, arts, environment, education and recreation.

We are part of Canada's community foundation movement, represented by more than 160 community foundations from coast to coast. Together, we help Canadians invest in building strong and resilient places to live, work and play.