

September 17, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Local Food Banks to Share \$50,000 Gift
HCF community knowledge a catalyst for grants**

HAMILTON – Neighbourhood food banks will receive a much-needed cash injection, as Hamilton Community Foundation (“HCF”) distributes a one-time grant of \$50,000 from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation. HCF was chosen to assist The W. Garfield Weston Foundation in making the grants because of its work in helping to reduce poverty in Hamilton.

The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, a private family foundation, is responding to the economic downturn with trustee-initiated grants to charitable organizations addressing immediate needs for food, shelter and clothing. HCF was approached to bring its knowledge of Hamilton’s needs and its charitable sector, to recommend and administer the grants on The W. Garfield Weston Foundation’s behalf.

“We are so grateful to The W. Garfield Weston Foundation for recognizing this crucial need in Hamilton, and proud to have been selected to transfer this gift,” says Sharon Charters, HCF’s Manager of Grants. “These grants will support small food banks and community cupboards that don’t have the capacity to undertake awareness and food-raising on their own, but which fulfill a critical need in supporting people in their own neighbourhoods.”

Six food banks will share the \$50,000 grant: Welcome Inn Community Centre, serving north Hamilton will receive \$15,000, while five other food banks, situated in neighbourhoods which are the focus of Hamilton Community Foundation’s poverty-reduction work, will each receive \$7,000. The programs to be supported are the food bank operating from the Eva Rothwell Community centre on Wentworth Street North in the Keith Neighbourhood; an emergency food voucher program in Jamesville (James Street North); a food bank operated from Lightway church in the Riverdale neighbourhood (east of Centennial Parkway, north of Queenston Rd.); the Roxborough food bank in the east Hamilton neighbourhood of McQuesten (east of Parkdale), and a food cupboard operated by Community Access to Child Health (“CATCH”) centred around Mount Albion Road north.

Based on HCF’s recommendation, a grant will also be made directly by The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, to the Neighbour-to-Neighbour food bank serving the Mountain community.

Hamilton Community Foundation was founded in 1954 as Ontario’s first community foundation. Like all community foundations, HCF has three main roles: working with donors to build funds for the future of Hamilton, granting to the widest possible range of organizations and initiatives, and fostering community leadership. Since it was founded, Hamilton Community Foundation has made grants to our community totalling more than \$55 million, including approximately \$4.1 million last year.

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