

December 18, 2008

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Charities Receive Holiday “Bonus”**  
Class Action Proceeds add \$65,000 to recent Hamilton Community Foundation granting

HAMILTON – Local charities will receive an unexpected holiday gift, as Hamilton Community Foundation distributes close to \$65,000 from the proceeds of the latest settlement in a class action lawsuit involving manufacturers of an industrial rubber product.

The settlement stems from price fixing allegations related to products like automotive weather stripping, garden and appliance hoses and electrical insulation. Because of the challenge of tracking individuals affected by the lawsuit, community foundations in selected cities were chosen to distribute the proceeds because they work with all charities for the benefit of the entire community. A total of \$256,168 will be distributed across Canada. In Hamilton, the funds will support transportation-related needs in local charities and Hamilton neighbourhoods.

“The Foundation is pleased to have been selected to transfer this gift back to the community,” says Sheree Meredith, Vice-President of Grants & Community Initiatives. “With recent grants from two of the Foundation’s longstanding funds, it means close to \$160,000 will be injected into the city at one of its neediest times.”

The transportation grants are being made to the following local organizations:

**Hamilton Food Share: \$20,196** to cover food transportation costs. This allows more of their existing funds to be available to purchase food.

**Hamilton Wentworth District and Catholic District School Boards: \$31,500 combined** to support the cost of transportation to field trips to museums and arts experiences for approximately 6,000 children in high need areas. Transportation costs normally present a major barrier to children in attending such trips.

**Campaign for Adequate Welfare: \$3,000** to support transporting members, who are primarily people living in poverty, to attend meetings and conduct outreach.

**Hamilton Transit Users Group: \$3,500** for transportation costs related to education and research projects that involve people interested in working on change around transit issues

**Living Rock Ministries: \$2,500** for bus tickets for young mothers’ wellness program, and other transportation costs related to the organization’s street-involved youth services.

**Neighbourhood Hubs: \$3,846** combined will go to the six neighbourhoods that are the focus of HCF’s poverty-reduction initiative, for transportation costs related to local needs.

“Although the focus of these grants was specifically transportation, through the work of these organizations and neighbourhoods, funds will touch a broad diversity of people and needs across the community” says Ms. Meredith. “For instance, the funds being directed to the hubs could be used to support a mom with a sick baby who has no way of getting to the doctors, or someone who has a new job, but no bus fare until they get their first week’s pay.”

The Foundation also recently announced grants totalling \$95,224 to local charities through two of its funds: The McCallum McBride Fund which supports environmental protection, aid to abused women and children hostels, and helping local organizations provide Christmas support; and the Edith H. Turner Foundation Fund which supports the healthy development of children. Hamilton Community Foundation will grant at least \$3 million next year, including a full commitment to all of its poverty-related initiatives which include a five-year, \$5 million initiative known as Tackling Poverty Together II: Building Strong Communities.

--

Hamilton Community Foundation was founded in 1954 and since that time has made grants to our community totalling more than \$51 million to organizations across sectors: health, social services, arts, environment, education and recreation. Its 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.*

-30-

**CONTACT:**

Sheree Meredith, Vice-President – Grants & Community Initiatives  
905-523-5600

Grace Diffey, Vice-President – Community Relations  
905-523-5600 x260 Cell: 905-518-4641