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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$1.7 Million gift will open the door to health care careers

HAMILTON – Frank C. Miller, a local philanthropist, has made a \$1.7 million gift to Hamilton Community Foundation that will annually enable eight young students to enter a career in health care.

Mr. Miller's gift will create four bursaries for nursing students at Mohawk College, and four for medical students at McMaster University. Inspired by a nurse who cared for him in hospital close to 20 years ago, Frank Miller had originally contemplated creating the awards through a gift in his will, but recently decided that he wanted to see the funds at work during his lifetime.

"Education is one of the most important factors in preventing poverty and one of the most important determinants of health, but increasingly, costs can be a barrier to post-secondary education," says Terry Cooke, president & CEO of Hamilton Community Foundation. "By helping to remove that hurdle, Mr. Miller's gift will help set these young people up for a promising future."

A lifelong Hamiltonian, Frank Miller was an entrepreneur who brought the city its first coin-operated laundromat after seeing the concept on a visit to New York. After growing the business extensively, Mr. Miller sold it and chose to share his good fortune with the community through many philanthropic endeavours, including a number of health care projects.

Mr. Miller established the Frank Charles Miller Charitable Fund at Hamilton Community Foundation in 2000. This new gift is intended to provide half the cost of tuition and other fees for each of the students selected. It is focused on young people who need financial assistance to pursue nursing or medicine, and who have a willingness to participate in the Hamilton community.

An avid collector of teddy bears, one of Frank Miller's most well-known gifts through this fund has been to the Miller Teddy Bear program at the Hamilton Children's Aid Society. Through this program, every child coming into protective care receives a bear to help provide comfort and assist the child protection workers gain the child's trust.

"Frank Miller has had a long-time desire to give to his community in appreciation for what he has been able to achieve, and intends that his gift to the community foundation will also support several other charities who serve less fortunate citizens," says Terry Cooke. "His gift is an example of a recent trend in local philanthropy. There are an increasing number of Hamiltonians who plan to leave a gift to the Foundation in their will, but who now also want to see their philanthropy at work in the city during their lifetime, creating a legacy now and having an impact forever."



Hamilton Community Foundation connects people's philanthropic objectives with the community's needs to help them make the difference *they* want to make. We do this in three ways:

- Working with donors to build funds that meet their philanthropic and financial objectives.
- Granting to the widest possible range of charitable organizations and initiatives.
- Fostering community leadership by bringing people, knowledge and resources together around the community's needs and opportunities.

Since it was founded, Hamilton Community Foundation has made grants of more than \$59 million to the community, including approximately \$4.0 million last year

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