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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **New Funding Available for Youth-led Projects**

### **Hamilton Community Foundation announces grants for young volunteer groups**

HAMILTON - Hamilton Community Foundation wants to hear from young people with ideas for making a difference. The Foundation has announced grants of up to \$2,500 for youth-led projects that improve the local community, neighbourhood or school.

"Kids have great ideas for community improvement, but they often lack the financial resources to make their ideas happen," says HCF's Vice-President of Grants & Community Initiatives, Matt Goodman. "These grants can help them achieve a tangible impact, and set the stage for lifelong community engagement."

The grants are available to youth between the ages of 11 and 25 and youth must participate as volunteers. The Foundation will provide half of the project costs up to a maximum of \$2,500, provided that the project team can find matching support in the community. Community support can be cash, or in-kind support.

"In kind support means what the community can give or donate to your project," says Goodman. "It can include things like food for volunteers, use of a building, vehicle or equipment, tutoring or mentoring. Eligible expenses that the Foundation will cover include things like project materials, promotional costs, transportation, food and lodging for volunteers."

The program is run by the Foundation's Youth Advisory Council (YAC), a corps of young volunteers. The projects are proposed by youth throughout the community and YAC members assess the proposals and recommend those to be funded. The projects range widely; those funded last year included a mentoring recruitment campaign, an educational program on mental health, a global citizenship conference and a fair on renewable energy.

Project proposals will be accepted until March 4, 2011; projects must be completed by November 30, 2011.

HCF's Youth Advisory Council provides young people with an opportunity to work together with HCF as they raise funds and make grants in our community to benefit other youth. YAC members learn about Hamilton's strengths and needs, get involved in the community, gain leadership and provide a youth perspective to the Foundation's work.

For more guidelines and application forms for Youth-Led Community Action Projects, visit HCF's website at [www.hcf.on.ca](http://www.hcf.on.ca); or contact YAC advisor Linda Hughes at [l.hughes@hcf.on.ca](mailto:l.hughes@hcf.on.ca).

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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 by working with donors to build funds, granting to the widest possible range of charitable organizations and initiatives and fostering community leadership. 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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