



# LEGACY

Spring 2008  
Newsletter



*Tackling  
Poverty Together II  
(TPT II):  
Building Strong  
Communities*

## Message from the President & CEO

This issue of *Legacy* provides a snapshot of many transitions and activities at Hamilton Community Foundation.

We are very proud of recent recognition for HCF's team! Board member and Past Chair Mark Chamberlain was named Hamilton Distinguished Citizen of the Year for his inspirational leadership and commitment to making Hamilton the best place to raise a child. Board member Dr. Chris Spence received a John C. Holland Award for professional achievement and setting an exemplary model for youth. Youth Advisory Council co-chair Megan Meredith was named Hamilton's Youth Volunteer of the Year, and two "YAC" members – Emma Hughes and Rodney Diverlus – each won John C. Holland Awards for youth achievement.

Well into the launch of *Tackling Poverty Together II: Building Strong Communities*, we are pleased to have received 64 "Letters of Intent" from organizations with collaborative, innovative ideas to reduce poverty in Hamilton. Final proposals will soon be reviewed by the TPT II Advisory Committee, and grants announced in June.

TPT II's downtown revitalization initiative – a \$500,000 investment over five years – is also well underway. Supported by Tim Dobbie, Burlington's retired city manager, an Advisory Committee is examining possibilities, and will make recommendations to the Board this fall.

Knowledge and experience over the past five years has led to a new phase of neighbourhood building and community poverty reduction. This edition of *Legacy* provides those details and our goals for the future.

Our thanks to those donors who continue to support this innovative work and the citizens of Hamilton's neighbourhoods who are determined to build a strong community.

Carolyn Milne

## HCF Continues

# Poverty Reduction

Four years of experience in tackling Hamilton's poverty challenge and six years spent helping neighbourhoods to start their own improvement projects have come together in a new Hamilton Community Foundation (HCF) initiative.

"*Tackling Poverty Together (TPT) II: Building Strong Communities*" is the offspring of the original TPT grants program and the *Growing Roots...Strengthening Neighbourhoods* program, which ended its successful run in March 2008.

"Our new thrust brings together the impact of the first phase of TPT and the grassroots nature of the neighbourhood program for even greater impact," says Sheree Meredith, Vice-President of Grants & Community Initiatives. "We're incorporating the key elements of each, which allows us to sharpen our focus on poverty reduction in this community."

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**Photos above: HCF met with neighbourhood groups across Hamilton to review the new TPT II program.**



Pam Lakin

## Staff News

# Changes to the HCF Team

### Pam Lakin Takes on New Role

Pam Lakin, Vice-President, Development, has decided the time is right to take “pro-tirement” – which means a part-time role as Director of Donor Services. “It’s the best of both worlds,” says Pam, “developing my artistic interests through painting, while continuing to help donors achieve their desire to make a difference.”

A part-time position at HCF is really a return to Pam’s roots. When she joined in 1994, Pam worked just one day a week, managing both the Finance and Development portfolios. As HCF grew, so did her involvement. “Pam has made an incredible contribution to the Foundation’s success,” says Carolyn Milne, “and we are so fortunate to continue to benefit from her expertise.”

### New Vice-President Joins HCF

Joshua Thorne joined our team in February as Vice-President, Development. His experience includes charitable gift planning roles with two Ontario universities and, most recently, with a financial services company. “I am thrilled to be working with donors and volunteers so committed to making Hamilton a great place to raise a family,” says Joshua.

Joshua is an instructor for the Canadian Association of Gift Planners and widely recognized for his knowledge of charitable planning issues. In his new role, Joshua will lead the development team to provide donor-centred services and continue to build HCF’s resources.



Joshua Thorne

### New Environmental Role

Jen Heneberry is HCF’s new Environmental Program Officer. Jen will lead the planning, implementation and evaluation of HCF’s overall environmental grantmaking and community leadership initiatives.

### Best Wishes to David Derbyshire

As *Growing Roots...Strengthening Neighbourhoods* transitions to *TPT II: Building Strong Communities*, we say goodbye to program coordinator David Derbyshire. David was instrumental in bringing HCF and neighbourhoods together over the last six years. His role included meeting with residents, social agencies and groups to identify and build on the strengths of the McQuesten, Landsdale and Beasley communities.

“This work has not only improved neighbourhood life, it has also transformed the Foundation,” says Carolyn Milne. “David’s ability to connect with people on all levels has been key, and we will miss his tireless enthusiasm.”



David Derbyshire



Theresa Phair

## TPT II: Building Strong Local Leadership

Theresa Phair was a newcomer to the McQuesten neighbourhood five years ago when she grabbed the opportunity to make her corner of the city a better place. With a grant from HCF’s *Growing Roots...Strengthening Neighbourhoods* program, she and other residents formed the “Martha Movers.” Their goal was to get people to know their neighbours and “to show them they don’t have to be afraid,” as Theresa puts it.

The Movers became known for a popular summer street party and also started the Martha Zone – an after-school program for children. Besides the benefits to young children, Theresa also saw the comfort level increase between neighbours and teens involved as Martha Zone leaders. “The chance to contribute has been very important in building the self-esteem of these kids,” she says.

Now Theresa is taking her energy and experience to a new level as chair of the recently-formed McQuesten Planning Group – a collective of residents and local service providers. They hope to qualify for future support from HCF to develop into a neighbourhood hub. Theresa thinks they have already made a good start. “To me, a hub is not a physical location – it’s the community itself and the people in it, coming together and making a difference. We’re going to make some huge changes.”

# Theatre Friends Ensure The Show Will Go On

For HCF donors Joan Robertshaw and Everard Hambro, a mutual love of the theatre sparked both their 50-year friendship and their interest in Hamilton Community Foundation.

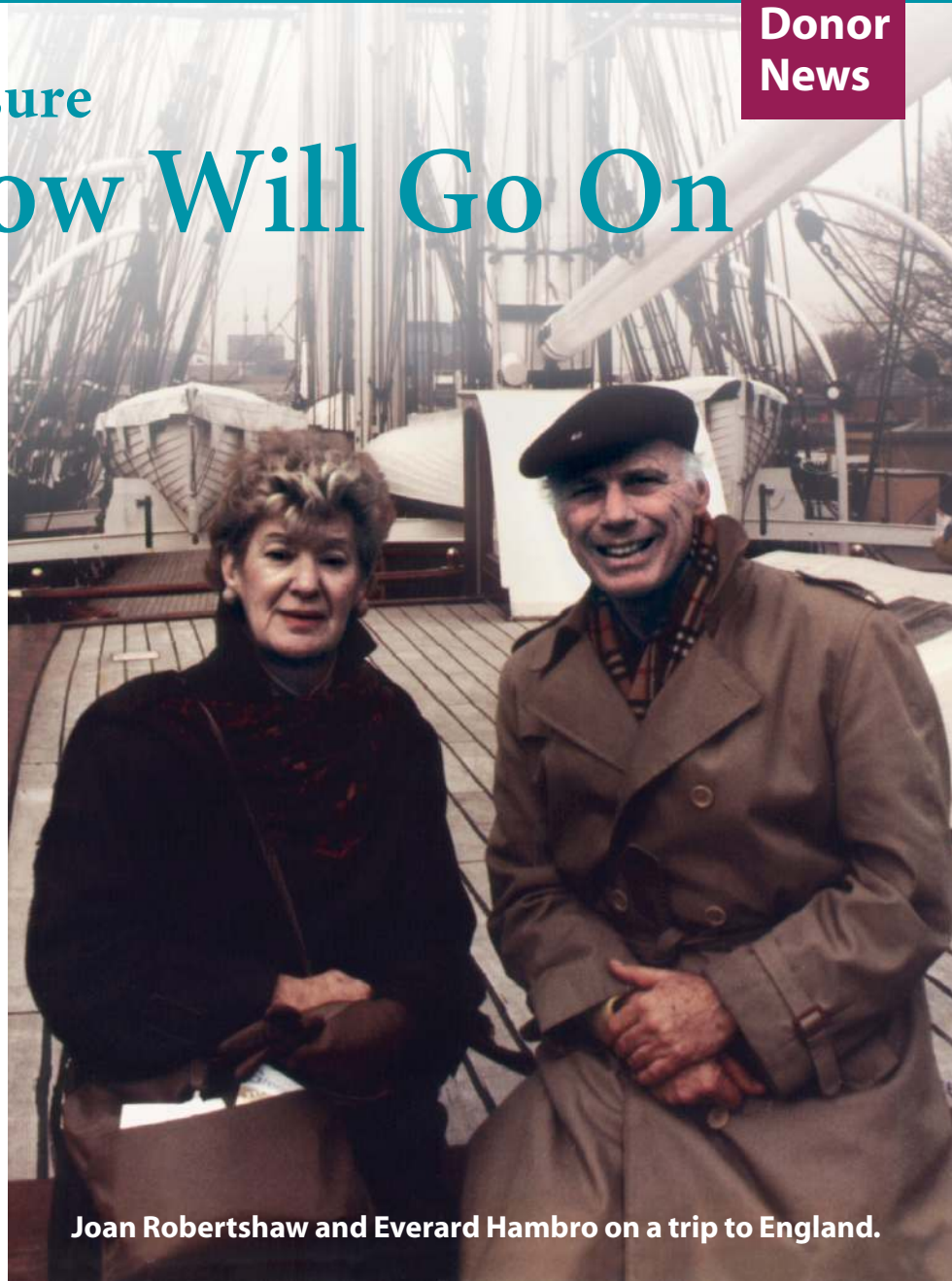
Joan met her husband Alf, and in turn, Everard, as members of Hamilton's Players' Guild, North America's oldest continuing amateur theatre. All three shared a passion for performing arts, and were involved in theatre on stage and behind the scenes.

When Alf passed away, Joan wanted performing arts groups to continue to benefit from his dedication. "I did my research," she says, "and decided to donate through the Foundation. I liked the fact that the capital is there forever to do the work you were interested in during your lifetime. Your legacy continues."

Joan is building a field of interest fund to support the arts and heritage organizations. When the opportunity arose, she shared the prospect of an endowment through HCF with Everard. He too wanted to ensure ongoing financial support for the arts.

"I was talking to Joan about preparing my will," says Everard. "I only have one sister, and she doesn't need the money. Joan brought me to the Foundation and I can't think of a better place, knowing that the money will always be there to continue to do good works."

Everard is building a field of interest fund to support access to the arts, first established through a bequest in his will. He has since set up his fund to make grants during his lifetime. In particular, he is interested in those choosing the arts as a career. "Finances are often a problem for those entering the arts," he says. "I want to be able to help these individuals during my lifetime as well as after."



Joan Robertshaw and Everard Hambro on a trip to England.

## Donation Tip: *Tell a Friend!*

One way to help grow community philanthropy is to share your passion and inspire others to give. Consider referring a friend to HCF who shares your interests. Chances are the common pursuits and aspirations that drive your friendship may help spark the philanthropic impulse just as they did with Joan Robertshaw and Everard Hambro (see story above).

Hamilton Community Foundation staff can help you – and your friends – establish funds that support your interests forever. To learn more, please contact Joshua Thorne, Vice-President, Development, at 905-523-5600 ext 235.

# Outcomes of TPT I

**From 2004 to 2007, grants totalling \$3.4 million were given to support projects aimed at preventing, reducing or alleviating poverty in Hamilton. Evaluation showed that in the first three years alone, more than 9,000 Hamiltonians felt the impact of these grants, for example, through improved literacy and math skills among children, affordable home ownership, and policy changes resulting in better incomes for vulnerable populations.**

**HCF board member Eric Girt, who is Deputy Chief of Hamilton Police Service, says the Foundation's focus on poverty reduction and neighbourhood development also makes for a safer city. "These are intervention strategies that help to prevent crime before it gets started. The neighbourhoods have the capacity to build on their assets and find solutions to their challenges. The solutions aren't necessarily enforcement-based policing solutions – they are about long-term, sustainable change."**

## HCF Continues Poverty Reduction – continued from page 1

HCF is investing \$5 million to improve the quality of life in low-income Hamilton neighbourhoods, and funding strategies that address poverty at a broader level. The program also includes a \$500,000 investment in downtown revitalization.

Neighbourhood investment will focus on supporting "hubs." Sheree describes a hub as a collaboration that offers an opportunity for public institutions, service providers and citizens to tackle neighbourhood issues. "A hub serves all ages, is geographically-based and residents help define its purpose and programs," she says.

HCF led the way on the poverty reduction challenge back in 2004 when it announced that the majority of its unrestricted funds (gifts not earmarked for a particular fund or cause) would be directed to a single cause for four years: poverty reduction, prevention and alleviation. It was the first community foundation in Canada to do so. At that time, Hamilton's poverty challenge wasn't yet on the community radar – the launch of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction was more than a year away.

From 2004 through 2007, TPT I awarded just over \$3.4 million to community agencies working in health, social services, arts, environment, education and recreation.

Meanwhile, the *Growing Roots...Strengthening Neighbourhoods* program was quietly building capacity in four of Hamilton's most challenged neighbourhoods: Beasley, Landsdale, McQuesten East and McQuesten West. Residents were assisted in applying for HCF grants and in the logistics of establishing neighbourhood improvement projects.

In TPT II, community agencies, businesses, institutions and others will partner with residents of low-income neighbourhoods to apply for HCF grants aimed at bringing people together in hubs to develop poverty-reduction strategies. Throughout January and February 2008, HCF met with more than 100 agencies and individuals to review the criteria and process for the new grants. Proposals are being submitted now, with grant approvals to be announced in June.

"It's a logical transition from the former neighbourhoods program and the first phase of TPT," says Carolyn Milne, President & CEO. "TPT II demonstrates that HCF is making a long-term commitment to poverty reduction in Hamilton, with refinements that reflect what we've learned over the past four years."



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For Hamilton, For Ever

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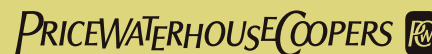
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