

June 23, 2008

### **\$1.1 million in grants announced to reduce poverty and improve neighbourhood life**

Hamilton, ON - Hamilton Community Foundation (HCF) today announced more than \$1.1 million in grants in its ongoing work to reduce and prevent poverty in Hamilton. The grants are focused in two areas: improving the quality of life in Hamilton's low-income neighbourhoods and broader strategies that have an impact on reducing poverty across the city.

These grants represent the first round of funding from HCF's Tackling Poverty Together II: Building Strong Communities program announced last fall. Under this initiative, \$5 million is being invested in poverty-reduction programs over the next five years. The commitment builds on \$3.4 million granted by HCF under the first phase of "TPT" which ran from 2004 to 2007.

Fourteen grants, totalling \$597,675 will address projects in six neighbourhoods: Jamesville, Keith, McQuesten, South Sherman, Wever, and an area surrounding the Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) centre on Quigley Rd. The grants are focused on "community hubs" – or collaborative efforts between many neighbourhood partners such as community agencies, businesses, public institutions such as schools and faith-based organizations, and citizens. The grants include funding for programs and services that cross all sectors and all ages, operational support, assistance to further develop the hub and small grassroots projects, spearheaded by residents in response to the needs they see in their own neighbourhoods.

"Neighbourhoods are a prime focus for the Foundation's investment through TPT II: Building Strong Communities" says Sheree Meredith, Vice-President of Grants and Community Initiatives. "Poverty in Hamilton is more concentrated in certain neighbourhoods. Our research and experience shows that investing in hubs is one of the most effective ways to address poverty."

Ms. Meredith says that the hubs in which the grants are focused, are in various stages of their development, enabling great opportunities for sharing knowledge about successful poverty reduction. "Four of the neighbourhood hubs – Jamesville, McQuesten, Keith and "Wever" (Sanford Ave. surrounding the Cathy Wever School) –would be characterized as well-developed," she says. "In McQuesten for instance, they have engaged many community partners, in multiple sites throughout the neighbourhood. Grants to this neighbourhood include those to support skills training for children, recreational development, outreach to seniors from diverse backgrounds, and to provide leadership and funds for resident-led projects.

“Two other hubs – South Sherman and CATCH – are at an earlier stage, and granting is focused on supporting their development.”

In addition to hub grants, HCF announced \$555,167 in 15 foundational grants. Foundational grants address poverty at a broader level, including programs that support more than one neighbourhood, policy and systems changes, or specific groups, such as seniors, whose issues are not neighbourhood-specific. Foundational grants announced include a program to assist people living in poverty to save towards home ownership, education or starting a small business, engaging youth in low-income neighbourhoods to lead poverty-reduction activities and a project to support waste reduction and the use of public transit and .

“The 29 grant recipients demonstrate excellent potential for sustainable impact on reducing poverty” says Ms. Meredith. “They showed well-rounded strategies to address the issue beyond children and youth, and to incorporate not only health and human services, but also the environment, arts, education and recreation as a means to improving neighbourhoods.”

Beyond the \$1.1 million in grants announced today, TPT II: Building Strong Communities includes an additional commitment by HCF of \$100,000 for each of the next five years, towards making Hamilton a prosperous city through a downtown core revitalization strategy. The first of these grants will be announced this fall. HCF will also spend an additional \$225,000 to assist with knowledge development and sharing, evaluation, leadership development and other technical support to the hubs, for a total first-year investment of \$1.3 million through this program.

Hamilton Community Foundation was founded in 1954. It receives donated funds from generous citizens, invests those funds to generate income, and makes grants from the income earned. HCF also brings people together to convene solutions to Hamilton's most pressing challenges. HCF has total assets of approximately \$120 million and since 1954 has made grants to our community totalling more than \$51 million. Last year, Hamilton Community Foundation made grants of approximately \$6.2 million to Hamilton organizations across sectors: health, social services, arts, environment, education and recreation.

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(Backgrounder with complete list of grants, attached)

**CONTACT:**

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

Grace Diffey, Vice-President – Community Relations  
905-523-5600 x260

## BACKGROUND: Grant Announcement by Hamilton Community Foundation

### Overview

*TPT II: Building Strong Communities* is a five-year, \$5 million initiative (2008-2013) deepening HCF's ongoing work to reduce poverty in Hamilton. *TPT II: Building Strong Communities* represents phase II of HCF's original "Tackling Poverty Together" commitment in 2004 to devote the majority of its unrestricted funds to reducing, preventing or alleviating poverty. Just over \$3.4 million was awarded in TPT I.

Of the \$5 million total available in TPTII: Building Strong Communities, \$4.5 million will be available for grants in two areas: a) strengthening neighbourhood hubs and b) foundational grants. For 2008, just over \$1.1 million is being granted in these two areas

### Neighbourhood Hub Grants

Poverty in Hamilton is more concentrated in certain neighbourhoods. In such cases, neighbourhood development through "hubs" has been shown to be an effective way to address poverty. A *neighbourhood hub* can be defined as a collaborative effort between many neighbourhood partners such as community agencies, businesses, public institutions such as schools and faith-based organizations, and citizens.

For 2008, 14 grants totaling \$597,675 are targeted to strengthening these neighbourhood hubs

**Keith Neighbourhood Hub** (boundaries: Barton St. north to the bay, Victoria St. east to Milton St. The Eva Rothwell centre is located on Wentworth St. North.)

- *Hamilton Public Library* – to offer a summer reading program from the Eva Rothwell Centre - \$9,000 over three years
- *Robert Land Community Association* – to sustain and enhance programming offered through the Eva Rothwell Centre and support small resident-led projects - \$114,000 over three years

**McQuesten Community Hub** (McQuesten West – Queenston Rd. north to the CN tracks, Parkdale Ave. east to Woodward Ave. to; McQuesten East – Queenston Rd. north to the CN tracks, Woodward Avenue west to , the Red Hill Valley).

- *McQuesten Community Planning Team* – to support resident-led small projects and leadership development - \$5,000
- *St. Matthews House – Roxborough Senior Centre* – to undertake outreach to seniors from the diverse community - \$12,000 over three years
- *YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington – Virtual Y Program* – to support the establishment of a part-time Virtual Y program at Roxborough School - \$20,000
- *Community Skills Training for Children of Hamilton Wentworth o/a STAR* – to support the hiring on an Executive Director - \$59,000 over two years
- *Hamilton Association for Residential & Recreational Redevelopment Programs* – to support the hiring of a Centre Supervisor for the McQuesten Community Centre - \$45,600

**Wever Neighbourhood Hub** (Sanford Avenue area surrounding Cathy Wever school)

- *LANA – Landsdale Area Neighbourhood Association* – to support community events and an afterschool cultural program - \$20,825
- *Wever Community Development Committee* – to support existing programming and develop new programs that meet the needs of all age groups within the community - \$160,500 over three years

**Jamesville Neighbourhood Hub** (the area surrounding James St. North which is part of the Beasley neighbourhood)

- *Hamilton Artists Inc* – to support the organization to offer cultural programming to target groups including Aboriginal people, youth and the elderly - \$5,000
- *Hamilton Printmakers Arts Association* – to support existing and new printmaking programs for all ages within the Jamesville community - \$50,000 over three years.
- *Hamilton Association for Residential & Recreational Redevelopment Programs “Jamesville Community Centre”* – to support staff positions at the Jamesville Community Centre and small resident-led projects - \$50,550

**South Sherman Community Hub** (Wentworth St. east to Sherman Ave, escarpment north to Cannon St.)

- *St. Giles United Church* – to support the development of a neighbourhood hub in the South Sherman neighbourhood and support resident-led small projects - \$18,200

**Community Access to Child Health (CATCH)** (King St. E. north to Greenhill Ave. Mount Albion Rd. east to Centennial Parkway.

- *Social Planning & Research Council*, to support the development of a neighbourhood hub in the Quigley Rd. area of Hamilton - \$28,000

## Foundational Grants

These grants support work that addresses poverty reduction at a broader level, and that will have impact beyond a single hub. They either provide support across the neighbourhood hubs, address policy or systems change or support target populations which could not be addressed in a geographic model e.g. seniors.

For 2008, 15 grants, totaling \$ 555,167 are awarded to:

- *Adult Basic Education Association* – support to provide educational assessments, information and referrals through the neighbourhood hubs - \$20,000
- *Art Gallery of Hamilton* – support to pilot a training program for 10 artists-educators in partnership with Settlement & Integration Services Organization (SISO) - \$7,167
- *Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Social Action* – support to establish a peer mentoring project for individuals receiving Ontario Works (OW) or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) assistance - \$80,000 over two years
- *Cathedral High School* – support to assist disadvantaged students with adequate nutrition, personal items and transportation costs - \$28,000
- *Culture for Kids in the Arts* – support to work in partnership with Wesley Urban Ministries, the YMCA and Today's Family to provide quality arts programming in afterschool programs and to train at-risk youth to act as facilitators/mentors for younger children - \$50,000 over two years
- *Environment Hamilton* – to support the expansion of the School Waste Management Initiative and Transit Boosters, a program to encourage the use of public transit - \$50,000

- *Hamilton Council on Aging* – to support Phase II of the Seniors Helping Seniors to Access Financial Entitlements initiative - \$30,000
- *Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board (Passport to Hamilton)* – to assist with subsidizing the costs of children in their highest need schools to visit Hamilton museums - \$10,000
- *Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (Anti Poverty Task Force)* – to provide support for disadvantaged students attending high needs/compensatory education schools. The grant will be used to subsidize transportation, nutrition, and clothing costs. - \$50,000
- *Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (Art Smart)* – will provide the opportunity children in compensatory schools to see at least one live musical performance, one live theatrical performance and one museum by the time they have completed grade 3 - \$15,000
- *Mohawk College* – support to establish a Centre for Service Learning and Student Leadership. The Centre will help to identify, develop, promote and support service learning opportunities within the neighbourhood hubs - \$35,000
- *Student Open Circles* – support for the Community Volunteer Action program which provides teams of volunteers from McMaster University to service providing organizations in Hamilton - \$15,000 over three years
- *Welcome Inn* – to support the SavingsPLAN program, an individual development account initiative, to assist people living in poverty to save towards home ownership, education or starting a small business.
- *Wesley Urban Ministries* – to provide grassroots community organizing in challenged neighbourhoods - \$100,000 over two years
- *Youth Engagement & Action in Hamilton (YEAH)* – under the sponsorship of the YMCA, this initiative will focus on engaging youth in poverty reduction strategies within each of the hubs - \$40,000

HCF will also spend an additional \$225,000 to assist with knowledge development and sharing, evaluation of strategies and impact on reducing poverty, leadership development and other technical support, such as community planning for the hubs. This equates to a total first-year investment of \$1.3 million by Hamilton Community Foundation under this program.

TPT II: Building Strong Communities also includes an additional commitment by HCF of \$100,000 for each of the next five years, towards making Hamilton a prosperous city through a downtown core revitalization strategy. The first of these grants will be announced this fall.

## **Hamilton Community Foundation**

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