

June 17, 2009

## **HCF announces more than \$900 thousand in grants to reduce poverty across Hamilton**

Hamilton, ON - Hamilton Community Foundation (HCF) today announced the recipients of grants totalling \$922,198 for poverty-reduction initiatives across the city. The grants cross a range of initiatives from micro-credit for low-income entrepreneurs, to housing, food security, recreation and initiatives to help youth stay in school.

The grants represent the second year of funding from HCF's *Tackling Poverty Together* program, a five-year, \$5 million initiative. The grants focus in two areas: programs addressing poverty in eight of Hamilton's low-income neighbourhoods, and broader strategies that have an impact on reducing poverty across the city.

"Poverty is complex, and these grants work to address it on many levels" says Sheree Meredith, Vice-President of Philanthropic Services. "They deal with immediate needs, many of which have been intensified by the economic downturn, and also work to combat the root causes of poverty and make long-term change."

One of the programs being funded within the broader grants is a micro-credit program for low-income entrepreneurs. Micro-credit means extending very small loans to people who lack access to conventional credit for reasons such as lack of collateral, steady employment, credit history, low financial literacy or loan requirements that are too small for a bank. The program will be run by the Social Planning and Research Council, a partner in Hamilton's Social Enterprise Network whose members include First Ontario Credit Union, Hamilton & District Chamber of Commerce, St. Joseph Immigrant Women's Centre, Today's Family and Trivaris.

"Micro-credit is one innovative way to break the cycle of poverty and build economic self-reliance for people and their families," says Ms. Meredith. "A recent pilot project extended micro-credit to help women with the costs, such as licensing, police screening, and equipment, of starting a home day care. As a result, over 100 Hamilton women successfully launched centres in their homes, creating a source of income and meeting an important community need."

A program known as "Property Elves" is one of six that will be funded by HCF in the Crown Point neighbourhood that surrounds the Centre Mall. This program will assist low-income homeowners with small repairs and property maintenance. Crown Point has a significant number of seniors living in their own homes, and this program will contribute to increasing affordable housing in Hamilton, and is also aimed at improving community pride, engagement and the sense of safety and security in the neighbourhood.

"This grant is a perfect example of the neighbourhood hub component of the Foundation's poverty-reduction program," says Ms. Meredith. "Our research and experience has shown that investing in low-income neighbourhoods is one of the most effective ways to reduce poverty. The need for Property Elves was identified by the residents themselves, and involves a range of organizations and businesses as well as local resident volunteers."

Other grants illustrating the breadth, depth and potential impact of poverty-related issues being addressed include:

- Providing children from low-income families with access to mainstream cultural and recreation programs. Research shows that recreation for children on social assistance significantly reduces their use of health and social services in as little as two years, and over a lifetime. This grant to Youth Serving Agencies Network will substantially reduce the waiting list for children whose families are receiving Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program, to receive recreational services.
- Helping the Neighbour-to-Neighbour Centre to raise awareness about growing needs on the Mountain and to increase the effectiveness of its food drives. Neighbour-to-Neighbour is seeing 100 new households registering for assistance every month, and is the only food bank on the Mountain.
- A support program for high school students, aimed at reducing dropout rates and increasing access to post-secondary education. It will provide academic tutoring, immediate financial support (such as free bus tickets), a bursary for post-secondary education, and support workers to help advocate for teens with parents, school administration, teachers and community agencies. North Hamilton Community Health Centre will run this program known as Pathways to Education. It was first implemented in 2001 in Toronto's Regent Park where results showed a 75 percent reduction in serious attendance problems and 75 percent increase in the graduation rate. Research shows that there is a cumulative lifetime benefit of \$400,000 for each graduate of a program designed to keep youth in school and support their transition to post-secondary education.

In total, some \$286,423 has been awarded for 27 new grants to programs within neighbourhood hubs, and \$312,775 to 16 grants that address city-wide issues. In addition, \$263,000 will go to multi-year hub and other city-wide grants approved last year. HCF will also spend an additional \$60,000 to assist with knowledge development and sharing, evaluation, leadership development and other support to the hubs, for a total 2009 investment of \$922,198 through this program.

The announcement was made today at the Report to Community for the Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty Reduction, of which Hamilton Community Foundation is a co-founder and lead partner with the City of Hamilton.

Hamilton Community Foundation was founded in 1954 as Ontario's first community foundation. Like all community foundations, HCF has three main roles: working with donors to build funds for the future of this community, granting to the widest possible range of organizations and initiatives and fostering community leadership. Since it was founded, Hamilton Community Foundation has made grants to our community totalling more than \$55 million, including approximately \$4.1 million last year. .

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(Backgrounder with complete list of grants, attached)

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## **BACKGROUNDER: Grant Announcement by Hamilton Community Foundation**

### **Overview**

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

Grants announced for 2009 focus in two areas:

#### **1. Neighbourhood Hubs**

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 residents.

For 2009, 27 grants totaling \$286,423 are targeted to reducing poverty in eight neighbourhoods: Keith, McQuesten, Wever, Jamesville, South Sherman, Community Access to Child Health (CATCH), Crown Point and Riverdale (see attached for geographic boundaries.)

In addition, \$143,000 will be distributed in previously-approved multi-year grants to hubs.

#### **2. Foundational Grants**

These grants support work that addresses poverty reduction at a broader level, and that will have impact beyond a distinct neighbourhood. They either provide support across the neighbourhood hubs, work towards policy or systems change, or support target populations whose needs could not be addressed in a geographic model, e.g. seniors. For 2009, an emphasis was placed on programs which address poverty issues exacerbated by the economic downturn.

For 2009, 16 grants, totaling \$312,775 have been awarded as foundational grants. Another \$120,000 will be distributed in previously-approved multi-year foundational grants.

HCF will also spend an additional \$60,000 in 2009 to assist with knowledge development and sharing, evaluating strategies and their impact on reducing poverty, leadership development and other technical support, such as community planning for the hubs. This equates to total second-year spending of \$922,198 by Hamilton Community Foundation under this program.

### **About Hamilton Community Foundation**

Hamilton Community Foundation was established in 1954 as Ontario's first community foundation. Like all community foundations, HCF has three main roles:

- Building resources for long-lasting solutions. We work with donors to build funds that ensure vital futures for communities.
- Supporting all aspects of community life. We grant to the widest possible range of organizations and initiatives.
- Fostering community leadership. We bring people together from all parts of the community to stimulate new ideas, build participation and strengthen community philanthropy.

Since it was founded, HCF has made grants to the community totalling more than \$55 million, including 4.1 million approved last year. HCF is a member of Community Foundations of Canada, and one of 165 Canadian community foundations. Together we are one of the largest supporters of Canadian communities, providing \$176 million in support of local priorities and organizations last year.

# Tackling Poverty Together (“TPT”) 2009-10 Grants

## 1. Grants to Neighbourhood Hubs

### **Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) Neighbourhood:**

King St. E. north to Greenhill Ave. Mount Albion Rd. east to Centennial Parkway

<b>Green Venture - Community Garden</b>	\$5,000
To provide children, families and seniors with a variety of activities related to reducing food insecurity.	
<b>Wesley Urban Ministries - CATCH a Community</b>	\$54,000
Support for continued development of CATCH as a neighbourhood hub.	
<b>Wesley Urban Ministries - Small Project Funding</b>	\$4,000
To enable resident-led small project funding in the CATCH neighbourhood hub.	

### **Crown Point Neighbourhood:** the area surrounding the Centre Mall

<b>Crown Point Community Planning Team - Community Building Project - Neighbours Helping Neighbours</b>	\$2,250
Property Elves program which organizes teams of volunteers to complete yard work, small repairs or painting for residents and business owners.	
<b>Crown Point Community Planning Team - Crown Point Soccer Association/New Hope Sports</b>	\$5,000
To develop a summer soccer league for children in the Crown Point community.	
<b>Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club - Crown Point Youth to Youth</b>	\$6,580
To support a Youth-to-Youth program which uses older youth to mentor younger ones to help them voice their opinions on issues of concern or interest and then to take action on those issues.	
<b>YWCA Hamilton - Girls Day-In</b>	\$3,000
Support to offer a series of three, half-day workshops for girls in grades 7 and 8.	
<b>YWCA Hamilton - Teen Mom Drop-In</b>	\$5,000
To support a teen mom drop-in facilitated by local residents.	
<b>Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club - Small Project Funding</b>	\$5,000
To enable resident-led small project funding in the Crown Point neighbourhood hub.	

### **Jamesville:** the area surrounding James St. North which is part of the Beasley neighbourhood

<b>Hamilton Artists Inc. - Community Programming</b>	\$11,000
To support cultural programming relevant to members of the neighbourhood.	
<b>Hamilton Association for Residential &amp; Recreational Redevelopment Programs - Jamesville Community Centre</b>	\$42,000
To support staffing costs at the Jamesville community centre.	
<b>The Ethiopian Association in Hamilton - The Ethiopian Youth and Children Fedel League Summer Camp</b>	\$4,800
To support operating a summer camp program out of the Jamesville Community Centre.	
<b>Christ's Church Cathedral – Small Project Funding</b>	\$5,000
To enable resident-led small project funding in the Jamesville neighbourhood hub.	

### **Keith Neighbourhood:** Barton St. north to the bay, Victoria St. east to Milton St.

<b>North Hamilton Community Health Centre – Nutrition Project</b>	\$5,600
Support for food-related activities at the Eva Rothwell Resource Centre, which include an after-school snack program, weekly cooking programs for children and youth, monthly Community Kitchens for adults in the Keith neighbourhood.	
<b>Robert Land Community Association - Small Project Funding</b>	\$5,000
To enable resident-led small project funding in the Keith neighbourhood hub.	

## Tackling Poverty Together (“TPT”) 2009-10 Grants

### Grants to Neighbourhood Hubs cont’d

**McQuesten Neighbourhood:** 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

<b>Community Skills Training for Children of Hamilton-Wentworth o/a STAR - Growth Phase 2 Project</b>	\$3,000
Support for staffing expansion in order to offer additional programming for children and youth.	
<b>Hamilton Association for Residential &amp; Recreational Redevelopment Programs - McQuesten Community Centre</b>	\$35,000
Supports staffing costs at the McQuesten community centre.	
<b>Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club - McQuesten Boys' and Girls' Club</b>	\$16,128
Supports an afterschool recreation program at St. Helen's School in the McQuesten neighbourhood.	
<b>Niwasa Head Start Preschool - Niwasa Early Years</b>	\$8,000
Supports expanding parent-child programming at the Wesley Centre on Delena	
<b>YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington - Virtual YMCA Program at Roxborough School</b>	\$20,000
Supports continuing a part-time Virtual Y program at Roxborough Park School	
<b>Wesley Urban Ministries - Small Project Funding</b>	\$5,000
To enable resident-led small project funding for the McQuesten neighbourhood hub.	

#### **Riverdale Neighbourhood:**

Centennial Parkway east to Lake Avenue; Queenston Rd north to the bay

<b>Lightway Church - Lightway House Food &amp; Furniture Bank</b>	\$5,000
Supports purchasing food and toiletry items for their food and furniture bank.	
<b>Social Planning &amp; Research Council of Hamilton - Riverdale Hub Engagement Worker</b>	\$4,065
Supports hiring a part-time community engagement worker to provide communication and other assistance to the new local planning team	
<b>Wesley Urban Ministries - CATCHville</b>	\$12,000
Supports a parent-child drop-in program in the Riverdale community	
<b>Social Planning &amp; Research Council of Hamilton - Small Project Funding</b>	\$5,000
To enable resident-led small project funding in Riverdale	

**South Sherman Neighbourhood:** Sanford Avenue area surrounding Cathy Wever school

<b>St. Giles United Church - Small Project Funding</b>	\$5,000
To enable resident-led small project funding in the South Sherman hub.	

**Wever:** Wentworth St. east to Sherman Ave, escarpment north to Cannon St

<b>Rotary Club of Hamilton - Small Project Funding</b>	\$5,000
To enable resident-led small project funding for the Wever neighbourhood hub.	

**Total new 2009 granting to neighbourhood hubs:** **\$286,423**

# Tackling Poverty Together (“TPT”) 2009-10 Grants

## 2. Foundational Grants

<p><b>Adult Basic Education Association</b> <i>“Expanding Academic Assessment and Referral Pilot Project for Hamilton Hubs”</i> Supports Educational Essential Skills/GED assessments, as well as information and referrals to youth and adults living in the CATCH, McQuesten and Jamesville neighbourhoods. The goal is to forward people to appropriate programs for skills development towards getting a job.</p>	\$20,000
<p><b>Living Rock Ministries</b> <i>“Food Bank Expansion”</i> Support expanding their food bank hours, strengthening volunteer base and fundraising around food bank and increasing cultural food options in the food bank.</p>	\$5,000
<p><b>Neighbour to Neighbour Centre</b> <i>“Food Raising Enablers”</i> Supports purchasing marketing materials and food storage tools to meet increased need.</p>	\$5,000
<p><b>North Hamilton Community Health Centre</b> <i>“Pathways to Education”</i> Support implementing a community based after-school support program for high school students as part of the Pathways to Education initiative.</p>	\$15,750
<p><b>Sexual Assault Centre</b> <i>“Multicultural Women's Sewing Circle”</i> Supports enhancing and expanding the Multicultural Women’s Sewing Club.</p>	\$10,000
<p><b>Social Planning &amp; Research Council of Hamilton</b> <i>“Hamilton Social Enterprise Network - Micro-Credit Peer Lending Program”</i> Supports establishing a micro-credit peer lending program for low income entrepreneurs. The project will pilot a peer lending circle program as a method to deliver small loans to entrepreneurs, including new immigrants, who lack access to conventional credit.</p>	\$5,500
<p><b>St. Joseph Immigrant Women's Centre</b> <i>“Drive to Work Project”</i> Supports the "Drive to Work" project which will provide in-class driving classes and subsidies for the cost of obtaining the G1 Driver's License for low-income women.</p>	\$7,200
<p><b>Threshold School of Building</b> <i>“MTCU Certification”</i> Supports obtaining certification from the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities allowing Threshold to access federal government training initiatives and funding related to skills training.</p>	\$11,000
<p><b>Welcome Inn Community Centre of Hamilton</b> <i>“Hamilton Feeding Hamilton - Welcome Inn Food Bank”</i> Supports purchasing a chiller container for storing fresh produce</p>	\$4,000
<p><b>Youth Serving Agencies Network</b> <i>“YSAN Grow”</i> Supports providing 200 children living in poverty with access to mainstream cultural/recreation programs.</p>	\$20,000
<p><b>Theatre of Liberation Community Project - TLC Project</b> Supports afterschool program for children in the Landsdale community.</p>	\$17,325
<p><b>Hamilton Council on Aging - Seniors Making Connections in the Hub</b> Supports community development work within the hubs to continue efforts in making seniors aware of their financial entitlements.</p>	\$24,000

## Tackling Poverty Together (“TPT”) 2009-10 Grants

### Foundational Grants cont’d

<p><b>Environment Hamilton</b> <i>“Moving is Not an Option”</i> Supports continuing to assist low-income communities to address their environmental concerns and improve their quality of life.</p>	\$50,000
<p><b>Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board</b> <i>“Passport to Hamilton and Cathedral High School - Outreach Program”</i> Supports high-need schools within the Catholic School Board.</p>	\$28,000
<p><b>Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board</b> <i>“Anti-Poverty Task Force”</i> Supports children in poverty within the public school system.</p>	\$50,000
<p><b>YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington</b> <i>“Youth Engagement &amp; Action in Hamilton”</i> Supports their work of engaging youth in the neighbourhood hubs.</p>	\$40,000

**Total new 2009 granting to system-wide foundational grants:** **\$312,775**

### Summary

#### Neighbourhood hub grants

- |   |                                       |           |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| • | New – 2009                            | \$286,423 |
| • | Previously approved multi-year grants | \$143,000 |

#### Foundational grants

- |   |                                       |           |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| • | New – 2009                            | \$312,775 |
| • | Previously approved multi-year grants | \$120,000 |

Knowledge sharing, evaluation, technical support	\$60,000
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**Total Tackling Poverty Together granting for 2009-10** **\$922,198**