



## Happy Fall!!!!!!!

We are pleased to provide this Fall 2009 edition of TPT Connects hub e-blast to the neighbourhood hub and foundational grant recipients from TPTII. We hope you will find it informative and helpful. If you have any questions or have any information you would like to share with other grantees, please call Sharon or Tami at 905-523-5600 or e-mail [s.charters@hcf.on.ca](mailto:s.charters@hcf.on.ca) or [t.henderson@hcf.on.ca](mailto:t.henderson@hcf.on.ca). As always, we would appreciate your help in forwarding the link on to the other members of your hubs.

## News from the Foundation...

As many of you are aware, Hamilton Community Foundation is pleased to announce that beginning in January 2010 we will have a new CEO. We are very excited to welcome Terry Cooke as our new President and CEO. Terry has been president of Cooke Capital Corporation, a management consulting firm focused on leadership, strategic planning and government relations, since 2005. He previously served as president and chief operating officer with the Foxcroft Group of Companies in Hamilton, and was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth from 1994 to 2000. Mr. Cooke has extensive experience as a community volunteer with a number of charitable and other organizations, and is currently Chair of the Canadian Urban Institute. He is also active as a director with a number of corporate organizations, serving on the boards of Northgate Properties, LPF Infrastructure Fund and Horizon Utilities.

"I am deeply gratified for the confidence placed in me by the board of Hamilton Community Foundation," said Terry Cooke. "I am also awed by the generosity of spirit of the thousands of donors who make possible the work of the Foundation. Each and every day our city is made better through their giving, and enables HCF to make innovative investments in areas as diverse as poverty reduction, education, arts and the environment. I join the Foundation with tremendous enthusiasm, but at the same time, I am humbled by the enormous responsibility."

## Responding to Tough Times .....

We all know that the Hamilton community is experiencing tough economic times. I have recently been reviewing the outcomes from the neighbourhood hubs and the foundational grant recipients funded through TPT II in 2008-09. It is evident that our grantees are stepping up to the plate to help address the increased needs at this time. TPT II was designed to help address poverty by supporting poverty alleviation, prevention and reduction strategies. Some examples of what we are seeing are:

**Poverty Alleviation** – through the neighbourhood hubs residents are accessing food, clothing, furniture and even free haircuts! Access to food is also being addressed through a number of community gardens.

**Poverty Prevention** – this is a broad category which includes activities and services that support children, youth and their families from going into poverty. They involved “leveling the playing field” so that all children have access to the programs and services that help keep them in school and ultimately reach their full potential. This is an area where the hubs really shine, offering a vast array of sports, arts, and academic programs for children and youth. For youth this means finding ways to engage them in a very real way in their communities.

**Poverty Reduction** – these are the strategies that actually help move people out of poverty. In many ways this is the most challenging level of work. Reports show work in this area being done through providing educational assessments, employment related services such as job search support, income tax clinics, advocacy around income support issues, access to OW/housing services, jobs for youth and small economic development initiatives.

One of the other things we are discovering is that being designated a “neighbourhood hub” is helping to attract attention and resources – in the words of **Pat Reid**, volunteer extraordinaire ... “we’re sort of on the radar now”. Being “on the radar” is a critical step in ensuring that the voice of our more challenged neighbourhoods is heard by people in the position to make policy and systems-level change.

### **We didn’t think of this one....**

While we anticipated many of the kinds of initiatives undertaken by the hubs, we continue to be delighted with the creativity we are also seeing. One of many examples is the **Property Elves** program through the Crown Point neighbourhood hub. Using volunteers, Property Elves support local residents and businesses to improve the appearance of their homes and businesses. I’m sure this kind of help is greatly appreciated and makes a difference in how people feel about their neighbourhood.



*The “elves” at work*

## **Take the AVIVA Challenge and support your fellow hubs.....**

Aviva Insurance has offered the opportunity for grassroots initiatives to receive funding. They are running a competition whereby the most popular project ideas will have a chance to be funded with the \$500,000 Aviva Community Fund. Both the Riverdale and McQuesten neighbourhood hubs have submitted project ideas. You can go on the Aviva website and vote daily to support these entries. Please share this information and get everyone you know to vote and support the Riverdale project to improve playground space in their neighbourhood and McQuesten's efforts to expand their community garden. Congratulations to everyone involved in these submissions – they're great! The Aviva website is:

<http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/pages/aboutthecompetition>

## **Funding Opportunity**

### **Student Voice / SpeakUp — Project Applications**

The Ministry of Education is currently accepting applications for SpeakUp projects. By applying, students could receive up to \$1,500 toward a project. Visit the Ministry of Education's Student Voice website ([Ontario.ca/SpeakUp](http://Ontario.ca/SpeakUp)) to fill out an application online and to see some of the projects from last year. Application deadline is November 10th, 2009.

Examples of projects that students have led:

- Creating an arts show and a theatre group for students
- Starting a school health and wellness committee
- Supporting a community agency that works with youth

SpeakUp projects are helping students get more engaged in learning and their school community. In the program's first year, thousands of students in Grades 7-12 benefited from more than 1,200 successful projects in 850 schools.

## **TPTII 2010-2011 ....**

Planning is underway for the next funding round of TPTII. The advisory committee will be meeting in late November to receive an update and to develop recommendations about any changes in priorities or focus areas for the next round of granting. At this point, we anticipate taking recommendations to the HCF Board in January. Directly following that Board meeting a notice will be sent out via Community Information Services and our website will be updated with the current information. The deadline for proposals will be in early March 2010.

## **How are we doing? ....**

The City of Hamilton has developed some key indicators to monitor how we are doing as a City during these difficult economic times. Check them out at

<http://www.myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/CityandGovernment/CityDepartments/CorporateServices/FinanceBudgetTaxes/CommunityWellness.htm>

## Update from the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction ....

After five years of building strategies, leveraging opportunities and engaging the community in the aspiration of Making Hamilton the Best Place to Raise a Child, the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction is developing an action plan to take its poverty reduction work into the new decade.

One critical concern right now is food security for Hamilton families. Adults and children are going to food banks in numbers never before seen in this community. The Roundtable is working with food bank providers, the City of Hamilton and those who rely on food banks on a plan to stabilize the emergency food distribution system and work for long term change.

## HCF facts ...did you know...

**Grace Diffey** is the Vice-President of Community Relations for the Foundation. Part of Grace's role is to help us communicate the impact that HCF grants are having on the community. We love to receive your stories and pictures that we can share with the public through a number of HCF publications and also share with donors to inspire them about the work being done through so many wonderful organizations, groups and individuals in our community. Keep those cards and letters coming to [s.charters@hcf.on.ca](mailto:s.charters@hcf.on.ca). Thank you.

## Remember ...

"I must do something" always solves more problems than "Something must be done". (author unknown)