

## Winter 2015 Update

### Our Winter Program

Join us for the following W4C educational events. Each provides an opportunity to learn more about the impact our grants are having in the community and develop a deeper understanding of the issues affecting women and girls as well as strategies that make a difference.

More information about the educational sessions is available on our website at [hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca/w4c](http://hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca/w4c)

Date	Topic	Location
Wed, Feb 25 10-11:30am	A visit to Queen Victoria School to meet with girls in the Girls ONLY program supported through our grant	Queen Victoria School 166 Forest Ave.
Sat, Apr 11 9:30am-12:30pm	Join the kick-off assembly and learn about the FAB program	Bennetto Recreation Centre 450 Hughson St. N.
An evening with Dr. Bernice Downey, originally scheduled in February, has been postponed until the fall due to a conflict with her teaching schedule.		

**Please RSVP no later than a week in advance of each event by emailing Rose at [r.taylor-weale@hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca](mailto:r.taylor-weale@hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca)**

As well, let us know if there is a potential W4C contributor you would like to bring as a guest.

### MARK THE DATE

YWCA WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS DINNER  
April 16, 2015

### Granting Update

Two grants totaling \$10,500 have been made this year.

#### **Fit, Active, Beautiful program \$5,000**

Our grant enabled the FAB program that has been successfully run for a number of years to expand into a high school. The program uses the experience of training for a 5km run as a basis for helping girls develop other life skills. Building relationships, goal-setting, healthy lifestyle choices and leadership are all components of this program.

#### **Queen Victoria School \$5,500**

The Girls ONLY club is comprised of 45 girls from grades 6, 7 & 8. They meet twice weekly, participating in a program that mixes a range of activities (e.g. crafts, cooking) with community outreach (e.g. random acts of kindness, compassion in action). Our grant will support the regular club activities as well as the opportunity for the girls to attend a 3-day camp in May. The Girls ONLY club is a critical component of a variety of programs offered at Queen Vic to support personal development, academic success, health and leadership.

Learn more about Girls ONLY programs on our website.

*There remains approximately \$13,000 left to grant from the W4C fund prior to March 31.*

## *What is Women 4 Change?*

**Women 4 Change** was established in 2012 by a group of ten founders who joined with Hamilton Community Foundation to inspire and enable the women of Hamilton to be leaders in philanthropy while focusing on improving the lives of local girls and women. Built on four pillars - Learn, Inspire, Invest, Transform - **Women 4 Change** now has over 50 contributors and is a giving circle of diverse and dynamic people who are pooling their philanthropic resources to have increased impact together.

## *How will we make a difference?*

**Women 4 Change** contributors are provided with an opportunity to learn about their community, about strategic grant making, about organizations serving women and girls, and about each other. Through active participation, contributors become informed and collaborative philanthropists.

Central to how grants are made is the dual focus of 1) aiming to inspire and enable the women of Hamilton to be philanthropic leaders and 2) focusing on improving the lives of girls and women in this community.

It is no surprise that early research undertaken by this group shows that there are women and girls in this community in desperate need of additional supports to thrive. Answering the question 'why is this important?' becomes very easy when looking at the impact that can be made when we come together to make a difference. Through these efforts it is anticipated that more women in this community will embrace their role as 'philanthropic leader'.

In this first stage, it was agreed that grants from the **Women 4 Change** Fund will be made to programs that:

- Contribute to the healthy development of girls during a significant transition point;
- Offer the potential to change the trajectory of girls at risk; and
- Build leadership/skill development.

For more information on the granting criteria for the **Women 4 Change** Fund at Hamilton Community Foundation visit [www.hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca/w4c](http://www.hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca/w4c)

## *How can I get involved?*

To become a contributor to **Women 4 Change** those interested make an annual donation of \$1,500 (\$500 for contributors 35 and under). Donations are split to provide \$1,000 for immediate granting, \$350 to build an endowment fund and \$150 to cover administration costs (split accordingly for \$500 contributions). Throughout the year, a number of opportunities are provided where contributors are invited to learn more about strategic philanthropy and issues related to women and girls, and what will lead to transformative change in these areas.

To learn more please contact Sheree Meredith ([s.meredith@hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca](mailto:s.meredith@hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca)) at Hamilton Community Foundation or call 905.523.5600.