

Spring 2015 Update

Visiting the FAB girls!



An inspiring morning as the FAB program launches its spring season.

In addition to this, on February 25 a number of W4C contributors visited the Girls ONLY club at Queen Victoria School to learn from participating grade 6, 7, and 8 girls about the impact this program has on their lives.

Coming later this spring...

Please watch for a short online survey where we will be seeking your input on the W4C program and impact. Help shape the coming year!

To check out what women philanthropists across the country are doing visit: www.canadianwomen.org

W4C's Collective Impact

Five grants totaling **\$21,747** were made from our W4C Fund this past fiscal year. These were:

- **\$5,000** to support the expansion of the Fit Active Beautiful (FAB) program from middle school into high school
- **\$5,500** to the Girls ONLY club at Queen Victoria School where 45 girls in grades 6,7,8 meet twice weekly and also attend a 3-day camp in May
- **\$3,247** to support an overnight trip to McMaster where grade 5 girls from Queen Vic participate in a variety of programs while being exposed to McMaster and post-secondary education as future options
- **\$3,000** to support Back to School Moms, a pilot project offered by the Immigrant Women's Centre to enable newcomer Moms to complete their high school equivalency. Uniquely, this program combines certified teachers and onsite childcare, plus supportive peers
- **\$5,000** to support the expansion of "Bright Choices" – a girl-specific program for 15-18 year olds offered by Liberty for Youth. The program provides mentoring, homework help, recreational and therapeutic activities

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 close to 60 individuals as well as 3 service clubs as contributors, as well as receiving gifts from interested donors. It 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 primarily 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.

To date, we have granted \$31,747 and built the endowed fund to \$49,920 as of March 31, 2015.

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) at Hamilton Community Foundation or call 905.523.5600.