

# LEGACY

HAMILTON  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

History made, future intended.

## Double Play



**A** recent Hamilton Community Foundation grant to a new partnership project called the City of Hamilton Home Improvement Project (CHHIP) is like making two grants in one.

The program brings together the City's Neighbourhood Action Strategy, CityHousing Hamilton, Threshold School of Building and the Foundation, and works toward a dual purpose: providing job skills to unemployed young people aged 18 to 29, while improving social housing space.

The participants are drawn primarily from the City of Hamilton's priority neighbourhoods. They receive two weeks of training in basic construction skills, and then put knowledge into practice helping to renovate some of CityHousing's units over the course of six months. The improvements allow the units, vacant due to disrepair, to be used again as social housing.

*See Home improvement/p.4*

## Celebrate Canada's birthday with new grants program

Canada turns 150 next year and we can help you celebrate! Grants worth up to \$5,000 are being offered through the Community Fund for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>.

Hamilton Community Foundation is a partner with Community Foundations of Canada and the federal government in this initiative to make matching grants available for local community projects.

Eligible projects should work towards encouraging participation in Canada 150 events, inspiring understanding of people and events that have shaped our community, and engaging Hamiltonians across the most diverse spectrum. HCF will give priority to projects that build and strengthen inclusive neighbourhoods and which have a lasting impact.

"Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> is a historic moment with the power to strengthen our communities and our connection to one another," says Ian Bird, president of Community Foundations of Canada. "The Fund encourages all Canadians to contribute to their communities in a way that fosters a greater sense of belonging, inclusion, and reconciliation."

Applications are accepted in two rounds with deadlines of December 31, 2016 and March 30, 2017 for projects to be funded beginning May 1, 2017. Detailed guidelines and an application form are available at [hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca/canada150](http://hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca/canada150)

## DONOR TIP:

### A great gift idea

Wondering what to give the person who doesn't need or want more "stuff"? More people are choosing to mark a special event by making a charitable donation instead of buying a gift. Your donation to HCF, in support of an issue or cause important to the recipient, can be a very meaningful way to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, honour someone's memory, or thank someone such as a teacher or coach. HCF sends a personalized e-card (that you select), telling your honouree that you've made a tribute gift. You receive a charitable tax receipt. It's simple, thoughtful and something to consider as the busy holiday season approaches.

## Ongoing influence:

### MORELLI AND DUNCAN BURSARIES HONOUR LIVES OF SERVICE

**W**hen Marsha Duncan wanted to honour the legacies of her parents and her partner, the perfect choice was HCF bursaries to provide the "extra leg up that changes everything" for young students.

Marsha's partner, Bernie Morelli (pictured with Marsha above), was the Hamilton councillor who served Ward 3 for over 20 years. Known for his colourful style, compassion and city-wide impact, he also had a passion for seeing young people succeed. That passion will live on through a bursary for business students at McMaster University.

"Bernie loved Hamilton," says Marsha. "He believed that helping students in financial need does more than just help them as individuals - it also gives them the opportunity to carry on good in the community."

Though they never had the means for post-secondary education themselves, Marsha's parents, Charlie and Mabel Duncan, shared Bernie's fervent belief that education could change lives. Marsha is honouring the couple through a bursary at Mohawk College focusing on their twin passions of engineering and early childhood education.

"My parents and Bernie all had a lifelong commitment to helping others succeed," says Marsha. "I'm proud that these bursaries will forever support what meant so much to them during their lives."



## Grants at a Glance

### Help to start a new life

**A** new program at the Ellen Osler Home in Dundas is helping women ease back into the community, before, during and after their release from serving a federal sentence.

Supported by an HCF grant, the program provides "in-reach" staff who begin working with the women before they leave prison, accompanying and assisting them during stressful times such as parole board hearings, and through the transition to Ellen Osler which can happen on short notice. Once they arrive, it supports a smoother transition in practical ways, such as helping to pay for transportation to work commitments or reconnecting with family. It also enables the women to participate in activities - recreational classes for example - that help them build stronger relationships and support beyond their involvement with the correctional system.



ABACUS is HCF's initiative to improve graduation and post-secondary access rates by focusing on students in the middle-school years. To support the critical role of teachers in this goal, Hamilton Community Foundation launched a new small grants program - up to \$500 - for Grade 6, 7 and 8 teachers to provide enrichment activities that support overall ABACUS objectives.

Including exciting ventures like a hands-on opportunity to design, test and build pneumatic and hydraulic systems, to experiencing pre-1850 Canadian history at Battlefield Park, to publishing a student-produced community newspaper, the first round drew almost 70 applications from teachers across the city, reflecting a wide range of projects that share an academic focus and a goal to improve student achievement.

*Teachers take note:* the next application deadline for ABACUS Teacher Grants is March 1, 2017. Check it out at [ABACUSatHCF.ca](http://ABACUSatHCF.ca)

### Infant food bank fills a gap

Essential Aid, a Hamilton organization focused on nutrition for children under four, is filling a critical gap in the food bank system by stocking a wide range of infant formulas.

The nutrition needs of infants are unique and many formula-fed infants can't tolerate a change. Traditional food banks are unable to provide a selection of formula as it is expensive and product donations are difficult to acquire. By offering multiple formulas, Essential Aid assists families in immediate need - no proof of income is required as the organization believes that an emergency can happen to anyone. The infant food bank is seeing an ever-increasing demand; HCF's grant will help to meet the needs of an average 200 children monthly.

Essential Aid also offers a breastfeeding support program which provides education, one-on-one support from a volunteer nurse, and supplies. Last year, the organization provided emergency formula, diapers and breastfeeding equipment to 1,765 children, many of whose families were referred by other local food banks.

## Community: HCF is on the right track

### MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO: TERRY COOKE

Every three years, the Foundation engages in strategic planning. It helps us understand evolving community needs, priorities and the role we should play. It helps set our direction, our goals and flag course corrections.

Of course, listening to the community is the most important step in this exercise. Last summer, we talked with community representatives, donors, Board, staff and others connected to our work. We surveyed 500 people across Hamilton to probe their expectations and attitudes on philanthropy. And we looked at other cities, like Cleveland, who are successfully working through similar issues.

The verdict? Stay the course. The community likes the path we're on. Hamilton Community Foundation

is seen as a catalyst, a collaborator, and a thought leader. Most important, the feedback reaffirmed that we're playing the right role, that we're addressing the right priorities and that we need to maintain both our focus and discipline.

Each of the Foundation's priorities - improving educational outcomes, strengthening neighbourhoods, aligning our assets with mission, and providing expertise for a changing donor demographic - is a stretch goal and each strengthens our city.

Thank you, Hamilton, for partnering in those priorities, encouraging us daily and recognizing that long-term change takes time.

## ABACUS Update



“Mathstronauts” uses state-of-the-art technology to foster a love for science, technology, engineering and math in middle-school students. It’s one of 13 programs supported in HCF’s latest ABACUS granting. Some \$2.6 million in ABACUS grants have been approved since the initiative was launched last year. They expand extracurricular programming based on goal setting, academic improvement and mentoring to help middle-school students consider their future beyond high school and take the steps to get there.

Beyond its granting component, ABACUS includes Grad Track, a pilot program of more intense support for a small group of students that was recently launched at Hillcrest and St. Patrick schools. ABACUS also looks at removing systemic barriers that prevent students from accessing post-secondary education. Read more: [ABACUSatHCF.ca](http://ABACUSatHCF.ca)

## Home improvement

One of CHHIP’s goals is to break down barriers to quality employment training opportunities. Along with providing the practical short-term supports that are often needed to work in construction – things like boots, a hard hat and a bus pass to get to the site – CHHIP also helps participants look to the longer term. It offers the opportunity for participants to obtain high school credits and connects them with resume preparation, job search and employment counselling services once the program is completed.

There’s also an intrinsic value to the work, as participants have reported increased self-worth and self-confidence to enter the job market. As participant Robin Pringle recently told the CBC, “you get to see your hard work at the end of the day and you can say ‘look at what I did’. And that’s a good feeling.”



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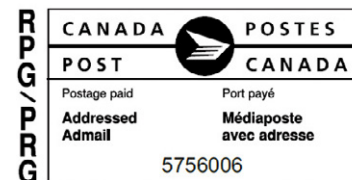
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