

Fall 2016 Update – Mark Your Calendars!

Fall's First Salon – Wed. Oct. 5th, 7-8:30 p.m.

Our first educational evening this fall begins with an opportunity to learn more about Hamilton's Neighbourhood Leadership Institute (NLI) through a discussion with women who have developed and participated in this program. Learn about the successes, barriers and impact that this innovative program has had, and explore together how W4C could provide meaningful support to women in similar circumstances.

Celebrating Women's Philanthropy – Join us for breakfast on November 16th

Each year we invite W4C contributors and their guests to celebrate women's philanthropy during national philanthropy month. The date has been set for this fall.

**Wednesday, November 16th
7:45-9:30 a.m.**

Liuna Station- King George Ballroom

This year's theme is *"Driving Positive Change is an Art"*. You will be treated to inspiring presentations and discussion with three local artists who are tackling social justice and gender issues using their art as a vehicle. Come prepared to be inspired and energized. An invitation will be forthcoming.

Interested in taking a 'Deeper Dive'?

Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey this spring asking about your interest in delving deeper into specific areas. We hope to begin this fall with an opportunity to learn more about Aboriginal girls and women in our community. Watch your email for more information in September.

Join us for an important discussion on evolving our grantmaking strategy.

**Monday, November 28th
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Location TBD**

With approximately \$90,000 available to grant this year we have an amazing opportunity to expand W4C's granting impact. Please join us on November 28th when Sharon Charters will take us through the process of revisiting needs identified by local research, developing a framework from which we can identify opportunities to make an impact, and exploring how we can develop a strategy that draws on a mix of our resources (\$\$, time, influence, etc.) to make transformational change. A night not to be missed!

Please share W4C with others you know



Have you noted on your LinkedIn profile that you're a W4C contributor?

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** currently has 60 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 \$66,747 and built the endowed fund to \$67,267 as of March 31, 2016.

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.