

LEGACY



Putting a home in reach

Hamilton's skyrocketing real estate market makes home ownership a distant dream for many people. A new program from Hamilton East Kiwanis Non-Profit Homes (HEK) is helping to put that dream within reach for many of its tenants, supported by an HCF impact investment.

HEK has been providing affordable housing in Hamilton since 1982. Recently it has turned its focus to raising capital for additional housing by helping current renters become homeowners through shared appreciation mortgages. The Foundation's investment matches commitments by HEK and, through the City of Hamilton, provincial-federal funds from the Investment in Affordable Housing and its predecessor programs to create a "shared appreciation pool." The pool is an innovative way to assist the buyers with down payments, one of the most significant barriers to home ownership for people with low incomes. It provides current renters with the option to purchase their homes. Residents can stay where they live — in some cases, where they have lived for decades — and build equity through home ownership.

When the initial mortgage matures, owners can opt to sell their homes or renegotiate, with the partners sharing in the appreciation. If a renter chooses not to purchase their home, HEK works to ensure that alternate affordable housing will be made available. The units may be offered to other clients, followed by people who qualify for the affordable home ownership program.

Using the shared appreciation model to finance the purchase of existing homes is an innovation, and one that supports current residents.

"The goal is to give people the opportunity to own as much equity as they can as soon as they can," says Annette Aquin, Executive Vice-President, Finance & Operations. "In turn, neighbourhoods are preserved and, by keeping these units and reinvesting the proceeds in new development, HEK is adding to Hamilton's affordable housing stock."

A gendered look at COVID-19

A new report commissioned by HCF's Women 4 Change giving circle provides a window into the disproportionate effects of the pandemic on local women. The report combines qualitative and quantitative data to paint a picture of gendered inequality in the city.

Interviews with six local women illustrate their lived experiences coping with the pandemic and, combined with quantitative data, provide considerations for policy solutions. The report explores themes like health distress, economic stress, caregiving and unpaid labour, and intimate partner violence.

"Women have absorbed a greater proportion of job loss, health risk, poor mental health outcomes and caregiving responsibilities," says author Huyen Dam, PhD. She says her research aims to help the community shape effective local responses to the pandemic's effects.

Recommendations include reducing health inequalities, supporting labour force re-entry, and support for women transitioning between various phases of life such as career changes, parenthood, retirement and starting post-secondary education.

You can read the full report on the [Resources page](#) of our website: www.hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca

Engaging community through art

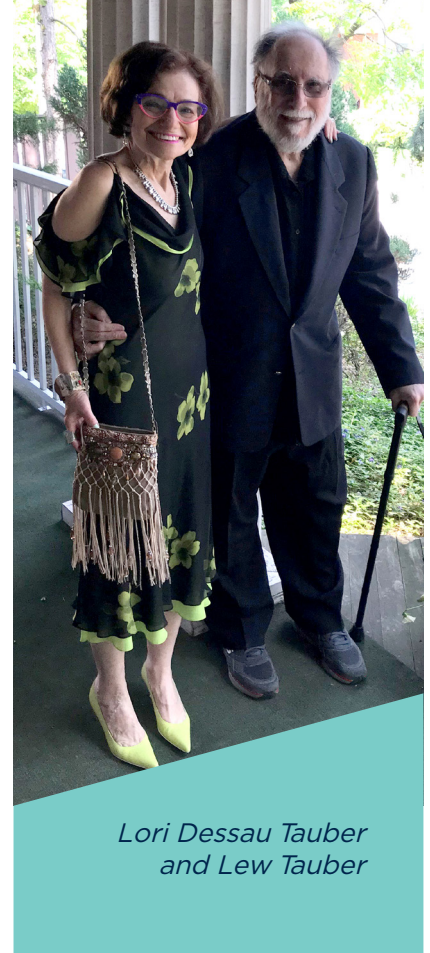
Lori Dessau Tauber and Lewis Tauber first envisioned an HCF fund as part of the couple's Our Millennium project. They established the Hundred Waters Fund to support artists who are making innovative connections with their community, naming it in tribute to the ideas and work of Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser, whose belief in the power of art and architecture to improve everyday life was a guiding principle for the couple.

"It is the partnership idea Lew and I thought was vital and interesting — the creative ways artists can support and engage community to improve quality of life," says Lori.

Since Lew's passing in August 2019, Lori looks back and finds even more meaning in the way they established and grew the fund together.

"Lew's imagination was sparked by Hundertwasser," she says, reflecting on his art, book, coin and stamp collecting, curation of an international mail art show, and his book about the artist. "This fund is a very personal legacy." She remembers Lew on birthdays and anniversaries by encouraging friends and family to donate to the fund, which also supports the Community Fund.

"Our grants are small so far," says Lori, "but even a small grant can be very powerful if it's just what someone needs at the right moment."



*Lori Dessau Tauber
and Lew Tauber*

The importance of self-reflection

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO: TERRY COOKE



You don't have to be an avid news follower to know that the forces of populism are swirling around the world – including Canada – creating unrest and sometimes dangerous and destructive attitudes toward marginalized communities.

These forces are part of the context in which Hamilton Community Foundation operates. Our values direct us to support those who face exceptional challenges and marginalization; it's why the Foundation was created and why we've deepened our commitment to challenges like poverty reduction and education.

But we can always do better. We have an intentional focus on diversity and inclusion, aided by three external reviews since 2008, with the community giving feedback on our practices, policies and relationships. The results drive an action plan that is helping to shape our

approaches to granting, community leadership, investing, Board and staff education and recruitment.

And, we continue to learn. The philanthropic realm is undergoing a critical self-examination to uncover structures and practices informed by historical inequities. On that note, I invite you to read two pieces, linked from our website. The first is recent research from Carleton University and the Network for the Advancement of Black Communities that points to a historical underfunding of Black communities by Canadian philanthropy. The second, an editorial from Andrew Chunilall, CEO of Community Foundations of Canada, that challenges us to hold ourselves up to the mirror.

Both are thought-provoking. Both remind us we can never become complacent.

Grants at a Glance

Supporting students

Hamilton's high-school graduation rates have improved over the past decade, but there are still pockets of the city where students struggle. With HCF support, Munar Learning Center will expand its already successful after-school programming for Somali-Canadian students using the award-winning Pathways to Education model.

Some 80 students aged 10 to 17 at Hess Street Public School, Dr. Davey Elementary School and Bernie Custis Secondary School will receive one-on-one and group literacy and numeracy support, including six hours of tutoring a week. Building on already successful relationships with families, program volunteers — which include parents — will attend parent-teacher interviews, connect with teachers regarding student progress, track student attendance, encourage parent participation and help students set academic and social goals. Students with learning disabilities will receive individualized action plans. The program is promoted by downtown mosques and local youth-serving organization Empowerment Squared, which helps recruit volunteers.

Mental health for all

Maintaining mental health is a challenge for many people and COVID-19 has made it worse. Fifty percent of Canadians say their mental health has deteriorated, according to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. In Hamilton, Shalem Mental Health Network has seen demand for its services increase 25 percent. Still, many can't afford to get help.

With support from HCF, Shalem's Counselling Assistance Program will allow 150 children, youth, couples, families and seniors on the margins and struggling with poverty and housing, to access psychotherapy sessions at a reduced cost.

Sessions are offered by video call unless there are safety, privacy or technology concerns that warrant in-person, socially-distanced meetings. Treatment plans identify sources of ongoing support once sessions are completed. Clients are asked to contribute a small sum to increase their own engagement in the process.

The short-term interventions used by Shalem staff have been shown to result in strong outcomes, balancing quality of care and cost.

Transforming Hamilton for trans-feminine folk

If you were assigned male at birth but identify as a woman, you may consider yourself trans-feminine. While some safe spaces exist where Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ Hamiltonians can spend time with peers, a program run by Compass Community Health (CCH) is helping to address a gap in support for trans-feminine people in the city.

An Edith H. Turner Foundation Fund grant is helping CCH, along with key partners Kyle's Place and spectrum, to create three trans-feminine peer support groups: one for youth, one for adults, and one to encourage intergenerational sharing.

The idea came from members of the trans-feminine community. The groups will be run by two peer facilitators who will receive training and ongoing support from several organizations, including the AIDS Network and YWCA. Along with CCH staff, these agencies will also support both the development and the health of peer facilitators whose work makes them susceptible to vicarious trauma and burnout. In turn, the agencies will benefit from hearing trans-feminine perspectives. Ongoing feedback will shape program delivery and ultimately help address gaps in trans-feminine research.

News in brief

- We're proud to be a local partner in the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative, a new federal government program to help create safe and vibrant public spaces, improve mobility options and provide digital solutions for communities and neighbourhoods in response to COVID-19. Read more at hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca.
- The Edith H. Turner Foundation Fund recently granted almost \$500,000 to local organizations for projects supporting education, health, and stable homes and families, as well as HCF's pandemic response in Hamilton.
- Stay tuned for a new Vital Signs report in partnership with the Hamilton Spectator and Cable 14 coming this spring. It looks at Hamilton's overall vitality, highlights important local research data, and identifies significant trends for our city.

Welcome aboard!



Rudi Wallace has joined us as Vice-President, Grants & Community Initiatives. Rudi comes to HCF from the Victoria Foundation's grants team, where his work included collaborative partnerships and social justice initiatives to address community needs. Says Rudi, "I've enjoyed meeting and learning from local community organizations and partners who continue to help me understand both the challenges faced by Hamilton's diverse communities, as well their vibrancy and resilience."



Derek Watts has joined us in Finance & Administration after several years in the accounting field. A lifelong Hamiltonian, Derek is a graduate of both McMaster University and Mohawk College. He is a chemical engineer and is working towards a chartered professional accountant designation. "Even as a relatively new member of the HCF team, I can see the impact we make on the Hamilton community each day," says Derek, "and I am proud to be a part of this great organization."

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