

Generosity & Hope Shine Through at Foundation Cheque Ceremony



Lots of smiles from those who attended the HGCC Foundation cheque presentation ceremony earlier this month with charity partners receiving their \$\$\$\$!

Heartfelt words of thanks, compassion, generosity and hope echoed through the Great Hall earlier this month as the HGCC Foundation distributed cheques totalling \$350,000 to nine local charities and community organizations.

Through The Borthwick Memorial Golf Tournament, \$360,000, and Par for a Cause, \$80,000, these two events raised a record total of \$440,000, which will positively impact the lives of thousands of people living in the City of Hamilton and surrounding areas.

Starting with these grants, the HGCC Foundation is supporting seven local charities with a three-year commitment for 2024, 2025 and 2026 in an effort to stabilize funding at a time when rising food costs, a lack of affordable housing and significant inflation are making it difficult for many individuals and families to have a roof over their heads or make ends meet at the end of the day.

Cancer Assistance Program, Empowerment Squared and TEAD Therapeutic Riding Centre are receiving funding for the first time from the HGCC Foundation, as well as The Bulldogs Foundation youth breakfast program, which has a two-year commitment.

Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton, De Mazenod Door, Hamilton Food Share, and Hamilton Music Collective are starting



Kaylee Norwood and Kristin Shuttleworth from Ancaster Community Services with member sponsor Jennifer Jewitt-Matsumoto, in the centre.

three-year cycles as returning partners. Ancaster Community Services receives ongoing annual financial support, as does Muscular Dystrophy Hamilton-Halton and The HGCC Bursary Fund.

As charity representatives accepted the cheques on behalf of their organizations, they all said a big thank-you to the HGCC membership for being so generous with their time and money in organizing and participating in the two awesome fundraisers—The Borthwick and PFAC.

Many shed some light on their daily struggles—and victories—and how difficult it is to raise funds to support much-needed and strained programs.

Since its establishment in 2012, the HGCC Foundation has raised and distributed nearly \$5 million to local charities. HGCC Club President Bill Johnston welcomed the guests and commended the groups for their commitment to making Hamilton a stronger community, starting at the grassroots. HGCC Foundation President Alan Scott provided some background about how it all works.



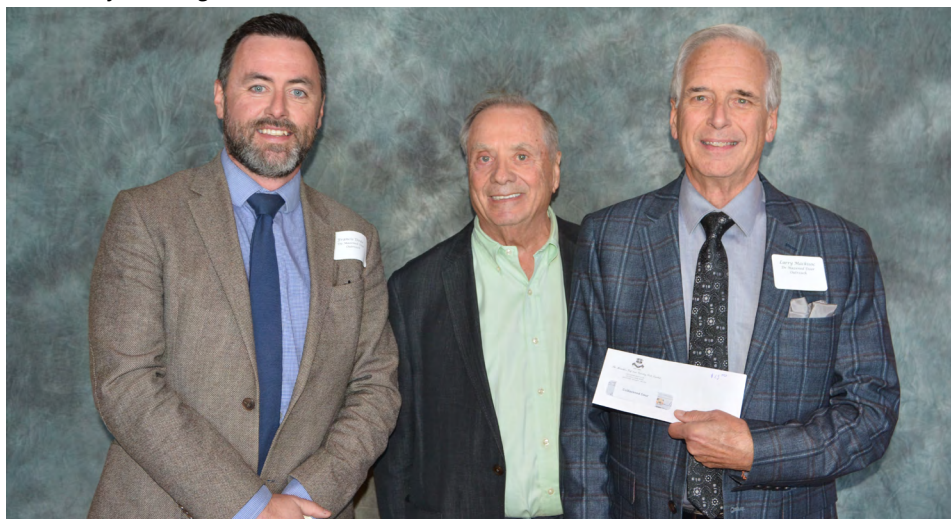
HGCC Foundation President Al Scott welcomes members and guests to the HGCC Foundation's cheque presentation ceremony.

Alan noted that all the charity partners are member-sponsored, and those sponsors become members of The Borthwick Committee. In turn, they bring new ideas, skills and enthusiasm to the committee, creating new opportunities for growth and improvement. He thanked the dedicated PFAC and Borthwick committee members for their dedication and time spent making the events – making special note that it was a record year for PFAC, bringing in \$80,000. He also took a moment to highlight the tremendous behind-the-scenes and day-of support from the HGCC staff, noting that the Foundation would be unable to have the impact it does without their time, extra hours, and commitment. Lastly, he recognized the entire membership for its support – sellout events – giving up the course – volunteering – outstanding donations and caring hearts – all driven by one of the club's strategic pillars to invest in and give back to the community where we work, live and play.

Member sponsored by Sheila Drury, the Cancer Assistance Program (CAP) is celebrating its 30th anniversary on November 14 at LIUNA Station, and tickets are available. Simply put, it's a free program for anyone who needs financial assistance. "Your support of \$25,000 a year over the next three years will make a huge difference for our charity," says CAP Executive Director Debbie Logel Butler. "Sustainable gifts like this make all the difference. We have a long wait list that is only getting longer, and we're struggling to meet those needs, so thank you very much."



Debbie Logel Butler & Dusty Vacon from Cancer Assistance Program with member sponsor Sheila Drury on the right.



Francis Doyle and Larry Mackisoc from De Mazenod Door Outreach with member sponsor Joe Guagliano Sr. in the centre.

"Thank you, HGCC Foundation, for all you do," said De Mazenod Door Outreach COO Larry Mackisoc after being introduced by member sponsor Joe Guagliano Sr. "We are currently providing a daily average of 525 meals through our non-denominational outreach program at St. Patrick's Church in downtown Hamilton," he said, noting that towards the end of a month that number goes as high as 700-plus meals per day as people run out of money. "We just served our millionth meal earlier this month. The need has doubled in the last few years, and it's only becoming more desperate. The line-up is endless, but I can tell you the people in it are thankful for your support."

Eighteen years ago, Todd Fraleigh stumbled across Empowerment Squared. He went on to become a member of the organization's board of directors, so sponsoring the group seemed like a natural next step. Empowerment Squared helps new Canadians adapt to their new home through free programs offered at Empowerment Squared Central on King William Street and Empowerment Squared East on Arrowsmith Road in Hamilton.

"We were inspired and moved by the generosity, compassion and care of HGCC and the diversity of causes you support. Thank you for being exemplary community leaders. HGCC's generous gift enables us to amplify our impact through our programs. We are truly grateful for this," says Stacia Vong-Hogeterp, Senior Director, Development and Community Partnerships at Empowerment Squared.

"This committed gift of \$60,000 enables our organization to continue to sustainably provide barrier-free programs to newcomer and marginalized youth, including wrap-around and culturally relevant support. Our mission is to empower these youth with tools and skills to reach their full potential and thrive through programs such as Homework Circle, School Readiness, Systems Navigation, and Sports and Recreation, to name a few," she added.

HGCC Foundation first supported Hamilton Music Collective's An Instrument for Every Child (AIFEC) program a decade ago, and it has grown significantly since then.

"Sustainable funding is key because it keeps you going once you have established your programs. You want to keep moving forward and growing and to do that, you need committed support," says Program Director and CEO Astrid Hepner.



Member sponsor Todd Fraleigh with Stacia Vong-Hogeterp and Joana Fejzaj from Empowerment Squared.



Member sponsor Dan Miller, with Astrid Hepner from Hamilton Music Collective, and founding board member Ted Charuk.

2024 is the first of a three-year commitment at the following levels for each of the charities listed below

Hamilton Food Share - \$40,000
 Cancer Assistance Program - \$25,000
 DeMazenod Door Outreach - \$25,000
 Hamilton Music Collective AIFEC - \$30,000
 Empowerment Squared - \$20,000
 Habitat for Humanity - \$20,000
 CCASH Kinship Program - \$30,000
 TEAD Therapeutic Riding Centre - \$15,000

Additional On-going Annual Donations

Ancaster Community Services - \$20,000
 HGCCF Bursary Foundation - \$35,000
 Muscular Dystrophy Canada - \$10,000 (Revenue Sharing)

It launched in ten public and separate schools in 2015. Today, AIFEC operates in 15 priority schools, with 800 elementary children receiving free weekly music/instrumental lessons.

"Learning to play an instrument and creative expression through music has a huge impact on a child's mental wellness. Our dedicated teachers tirelessly strive to impart musical knowledge and ignite a passion for music as a tool for expression and discovery, fostering self-confidence, self-esteem and emotional wellness that extends far beyond the classroom. Music is 'food for the soul' because it has the power to evoke deep emotions, reduce stress, and connect us to our inner selves and others," Astrid adds.

Ted Charuk, a founding member of the collective, and Paul Lloyd, a director, sit on the collective's board of directors. The (AIFEC) program is member-sponsored by Dan Miller.

Par for a Cause Chair Melanie Oster thanked the HGCC community for its outpouring of support for this year's Women's Section. She shared that the Bulldogs Foundation breakfast program will provide 10,000 morning meals to children daily at 20 high-needs Hamilton schools in 2024. "No child should go to school hungry or worry about where their next meal will come from. This program allows children to focus on learning rather than hunger and positively impacts their lives, so they can enjoy school and feel good about their education and future," she said.

For over 46 years, TEAD Therapeutic Riding Centre has been delivering a unique form of therapy for 1000's of children and adults with various physical, cognitive and emotional challenges," said Sue Schramayr, Chair of the TEAD Board of Directors. "In riding a horse, we turn "I wish" into "I can." For someone in a wheelchair who cannot walk, the horse becomes their legs, and they learn to balance on that horse while riding in the arena on a smooth, level surface. Once balanced on their horse, we take our riders outside on our 92-acre property. Here, they ride up and downhill, on grass, gravel and trails, feel the wind on their face and experience the feeling of freedom as their horse takes them places they could only dream of going otherwise."

In a typical month, they support 120 families with 15 specially selected and trained equines, 200 volunteers, and ten full or part-time staff at a property near



Bulldogs Foundation board member Jeff Paikin accepting a cheque from PFAC Chair Melanie Oster.



Sue Schramayr and Sarah Ernest from TEAD with Jeff Paikin representing sponsoring member Dave Lumsden.



Member sponsor Sheean Patel with Radhika Subramanyan and Ashley Mitchell from Hamilton Food Share.

Mount Hope. The \$15,000 a year from the HGCC Foundation will be used to subsidize private lesson costs, making them more accessible to the diverse community they serve, including individuals with complex needs who can only participate through one-on-one support. They are member-sponsored by Dave Lumsden.

Sean Ferris, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Hamilton, had a wonderful smile as he thanked HGCC members, organizers and the club for their support and talked about Habitat's next building project in the city. The \$60,000 over the next three years will be a cornerstone as Habitat builds ten affordable homes on Dawson Avenue and engages thousands of volunteers in the project.

"We are very appreciative of the Hamilton Golf and Country Club, the HGCC Foundation, and Ken Lancaster, who sponsored our application. It was an honour to attend the event and be in the company of so many fantastic community organizations," Sean shared. "This funding will support the engagement of Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) students from the Public and Catholic high school boards. These students, under the supervision of their teachers, will work to build our ten homes on Dawson Avenue in old Stoney Creek and gain hands-on experience in various (non-regulated) aspects of home construction. So not only will this funding support affordable housing for ten Hamilton families, but it will help educate our next generation of tradespeople."

The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton will receive \$30,000 a year for the next three years, targeted at stabilizing its Kinship Program. Executive Director Dawn Zan explained that it is a model of care in which children needing out-of-home placements are placed with family members or other individuals known to the child/family. It has been shown to create better outcomes for children and youth, however it can be a financial challenge for many grandparents and others to take on this role. "By keeping families together, Kinship is the best way to ensure that children receive care that is culturally appropriate and is recognized as a best practice for Black and Indigenous children," she said.

Kevin Harrison, Director of Strategic Partnerships at Muscular Dystrophy Canada, said it is an honour to be among the recipients of a great event like The Borthwick. The local branch supports



Sean Ferris and Donna Redford from Habitat for Humanity Hamilton, along with member sponsor Ken Lancaster, in the middle.



Donna Zan and Roger Ali from Hamilton Catholic Children's Aid Society with member sponsor Deb Lancaster, in the middle.

about 200 families in Hamilton, where the need is high. "It costs a fortune to care for a loved one with a disability. Many of the people we support are too sick to work, so we assist with purchasing equipment to help them in their daily living." The association has a partnership with The Borthwick where it provides several auction items with the proceeds split between the two organizations.

Where the need is greatest goes the largest grant, as the HGCC Foundation has pledged \$120,000 over the next three years for Hamilton Foodshare, which is member-sponsored by Sheean Patel. "We are so honoured to be here," said Ashley Mitchell on behalf of Hamilton Food Share.

"Every \$1 donated provides \$5 in food to feed the 17,600 local people who visit Hamilton food banks each month – 6,000 of whom are children."

Operating for over 30 years, Hamilton Food Share is the city's Emergency Food shipping and receiving hub and Emergency Food Systems Coordinator for the network of agencies it supports. She said that by providing food resources to 16 member agencies and operating 22 emergency food programs, over 4.6 million pounds of nutritionally rich food is delivered to food banks and hot meal programs, ensuring that people living in poverty have access to healthy, good food for themselves and their families.