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Leveraging Community Assets for Greater Impact Three Community Foundations invest in a new Children’s Aid Society (CAS) House

A new home is being added to the Halton Children’s Aid Society’s (HCAS) roster thanks to a trilateral impact investment by the community foundations of Oakville, Hamilton and Burlington.

The residential home, located in Burlington, Ont., will be one of three youth shelters that are part of HCAS’ “Bridging the Gap” program. The program helps homeless and at-risk youth, ages 16 to 24, to readily access support.

“This is a unique investment, the first syndicated mortgage by three community foundations and the first time the Oakville and Burlington Community Foundations have made a local impact loan. We are proud to have found a wonderful first project to invest our assets.” Wendy Rinella, Oakville Community Foundation, Terry Cooke, Hamilton Community Foundation and Colleen Mulholland, Burlington Foundation.

Affordable housing is an area of considerable need in the Halton region and all three community foundation’s work to fund new solutions to these systemic issues. Research from the various foundations’ Vital Signs reports has identified the lack of affordable housing as a critical need in these communities.

This investment will help Halton Children’s Aid Society (HCAS), to provide a home that will serve as transitional housing for six youth as well as a mentor. Residents will also be supported by onsite support staff. The youth-directed program is committed to helping homeless or at-risk youth achieve their goals.

The HCAS received 100 percent financing from the three community foundations for the home. Ongoing operational costs are funded in whole by The Region of Halton.

Title insurance and the appraisal were provided for free by Oakville-based FCT, the largest provider of title insurance and related services in Canada.

“Playing a role in supporting this new home allowed us to impact local youth affected by homelessness in a meaningful way. At FCT, we give back to the communities where we live and work by focusing our efforts on youth homelessness prevention. This home will help take youth off the streets – and to say that we got to be a part of that is amazing,” Michael LeBlanc, CEO, FCT.

The house and resident programming is fully operational now, with all residents receiving the support and guidance they otherwise would have gone without. The experience has been a very positive one for all community foundations involved, and serves as a great model for future investment opportunities.

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About the Oakville Community Foundation

The Foundation is in its 25th year of “Building Community Through Philanthropy”. The Foundation is a registered charity that has granted \$37 million to charities since 1994, and supports the prudent investment of over \$100 million in charitable assets. The Foundation welcomes families, businesses and residents into our philanthropic community and offers a means of making a one-time donation that can continue to benefit the community year after year, or have an immediate and significant impact. We offer everyone in Oakville the opportunity to be a philanthropist. The Foundation is one of the largest members of a national network of over 190 Canadian community foundations.



About the Burlington Foundation

Since 1999, individuals, agencies and corporate donors have partnered with us to make change happen. We understand the difference we make is greater when people work together. Burlington Foundation collaborates with donors to build endowments, give grants and connect leadership. We help people give brilliantly, build legacies, address vital community needs and support areas of personal interest.



About Hamilton Community Foundation

Hamilton Community Foundation has been working to drive positive change in Hamilton since 1954. We do this by helping people give in a way that has meaning to them and impact in the community, providing grants and financing to charitable organizations and initiatives and bringing people together to address priority issues that affect Hamiltonians. Last year HCF gave 750 grants to 296 charities, totalling \$8.2 million. We also provided loans of \$6.4 million to charities and non-profits across Hamilton.



For Media Contacts:

Grace Diffey, APR, FCPRS
Vice-President, Community Relations
Hamilton Community Foundation
G.Diffey@hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca
905-523-5600 x 260

Sarah McPherson
Director, Philanthropy & Communications
Oakville Community Foundation
sarah@theocf.org
905-844-3562 ext 302

Lori Heron
Manager, Marketing & Communications
Burlington Foundation
lheron@burlingtonfoundation.org
905 639 0744 x 223