



Care UPDATE



Hamilton Golf & Country Club Foundation funds bursary

Having ranked as one of the best courses in North America for many years, as well as playing host to numerous Canadian Opens, the Hamilton Golf & Country Club is known as a prominent landmark in the world of golf.

But what is more spectacular than the actual 18-hole greens and historic clubhouse, and perhaps what is much less known, is the generosity of the Hamilton Golf & Country Club's members.

Since 1970, the Club has hosted a fundraising golf tournament to benefit local charities. Originally known as the Vipond Charity Classic, and more recently renamed the Dick Borthwick Memorial Golf Tournament, this annual tournament has raised and contributed approximately \$2,000,000 to Hamilton area charities.

Proceeds from the 2015 Dick Borthwick Memorial Golf Tournament, held on September 14th, were divided among six charities and The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton was fortunate to be one the selected recipients.



Hamilton Golf & Country Club

In addition to being a recipient for the 2015 tournament proceeds, the CAS of Hamilton will also be one of the dedicated charities for the 2016 tournament.

"To say we are thrilled with this generous donation is an understatement," said Dominic Verticchio, Executive Director of The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton. "This funding will truly make a difference in the future

of youth in our care who wish to pursue post-secondary education."

This year's event raised a total of \$200,000 enabling the Club to provide each charity with an incredible \$30,000. The Society will be utilizing this donation to create a short-term award entitled the Hamilton Golf & Country Club Foundation Bursary.

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Holiday Season 2015 Wrap-Up

The 2015 holiday season was a joyous time that warmed the hearts of both those who gave and those who received.

The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton would like to extend sincere thanks to the many donors who contributed to its 2015 Christmas Hamper and Toy Room Programs. Through the community's generosity and kindness, more than 300 families in need and youth living independently were provided with a Christmas Hamper and hundreds of others were provided with gifts through the Toy Room.

A special thank you is extended to the many agency volunteers who contributed a total of 580 hours to the program. The program relies heavily on the dedicated commitment of agency volunteers who assist in greeting donors, organize donations, pack hampers and deliver hampers in the community.



It was all hands on deck when Faron Farmer (right) from Grand River Enterprises arrived at the agency in early December. Even Executive Director Dominic Verticchio (left) was called in to help unload the truckload of toys.

Thank you to all of our Holiday Program donors.



Staff at Siemens Canada in Stoney Creek got into the holiday season early this year with a number of in-house fundraisers to support three local charities during this holiday season.

The overwhelming response from staff meant the originally planned delivery had to be split in two to accommodate the abundance of gifts. Volunteers were delighted to see that many of the items were geared toward older kids and teens (who often get overlooked).

Pictured here, staff from Siemens Canada, Lisa Batty, Risha Santos, Johan Vargas, Kevin Finan and Sam Giudice.



Christmas Support Program 2015

By the Numbers

- Christmas hampers were provided to **303** families in need and youth living independently. Hampers provided recipients with gift cards, children’s pajamas and slippers, Christmas chocolate/candy, a board game/family puzzle, two toys/items for each child, and wrapping paper.
- Approximately **3,000** items from the Toy Room were distributed to families, children and youth that were not part of the Hamper Program.
- **130** private and corporate donors contributed items.
- A total of **28** volunteers supported the Christmas Program by greeting donors, sorting donations, packing hampers and shopping for hampers.
- From November 4th to December 23rd, volunteers logged an incredible **580** hours in support of the Christmas Program.
- **15** volunteers assisted in delivering **128** of the hampers to various locations in the community.
- The agency received **\$31,061.85** in monetary gifts that were used to purchase items for hampers and the Toy Room.
- A **\$10,000** contribution was received from an endowment fund at Hamilton Community Foundation.



Volunteers were the foundation of this year’s Christmas Program. It could not have been a success without their hard work and dedication. Above: Brittany Hayman, Judy Townsend (CAS Volunteer), Brittany Morgan (donor), Wendy Hammell (CAS Volunteer), Rose Tassone (CAS Volunteer) and Wenmo Jia (CAS Volunteer). Mrs. Morgan and husband Nigel, have been long-time supporters of The Children’s Aid Society of Hamilton and gave generously to this year’s Christmas Hamper Program.



“We are very thankful for the gifts and assistance you gave us at Christmas. It was very surprising. It meant a lot to us that someone else actually cared.”



Internal Restructuring to Better Serve Children & Families

After an extensive review of the agency's current internal configuration for service delivery, the Society has embarked on the restructuring of staff providing child protection services and implementation of the service remodel is currently underway.

While the changes will not affect the community at large, it is anticipated that the new structure will have a tremendously positive impact on the children and families being served by the agency.

For many years, the agency has operated with three distinctly unique service areas: intake services, family services (formerly ongoing services), and children's services. Under the Signs of Safety Framework it became evident that the agency's current structure was no longer conducive to the agency's goals. The realignment

will promote enhanced child protection through a strengths-based approach, anti-oppressive practice and with a focus on family-based care and permanency.

The agency's service directors began the process of review by examining what was working well within the organization and what was creating challenges – a similar process used when working with families.

A number of practice principles were used to guide the planning process including the importance of teamwork in delivering quality service; enhanced practice expertise and consistency; and, utilizing a service delivery model that supports the agency's practice principles.

The new structure will see a merger of service areas into "service clusters" linking child protection staff from intake, family and children's services together. The change is anticipated to support relationship building, enhanced communication and a model of shared decision-making producing an overall stronger team approach to the agency's work, and thus, resulting in improved service to children and families.

In addition, the agency will take this opportunity to develop areas of service specialization. A new Youth Parent Team will be created and operated on a one-year pilot basis. This team will be responsible for both intake

investigations and the provision of family services to young parents. The development of partnerships with community services specifically geared toward young mothers will be a key component of this team's success.

Staffing related to adoption will also be adjusted as part of the amendments in order to address the focus on permanency for eligible children in the Society's care. While the number of children in care continues to decline through the strengths-based approach to service delivery, the number of children in need of forever homes continues to increase. In addition, the nature of adoption work has expanded and involves consideration of a number of complex issues related to facilitating the adoption of older children, special needs youth and negotiating openness agreements/orders.

While change can at times be difficult, the Society is confident that the changes will positively affect its capacity to meet the needs of children and families in the community.

The targeted implementation date for the first stage of the reorganization plan is set for the beginning of February. The agency is very excited about the potential these changes hold for enhanced working partnerships within the agency and improved service to families and children.



Help Send Deserving Kids to Camp



Last year, 220 children in the Society's care had the opportunity to attend summer camp. Thanks to changes in government funding, children in the care of The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton are provided with the chance to spend one week at a summer camp.

Unfortunately, those residing in kinship placements (ie, with grandparents, extended family or family friends) do not receive this funding, but are no less deserving of the opportunity.

The Society would like to see all children in kinship care have the opportunity to explore new interests, make new friends, and enjoying just being a kid. Summer camp can provide all of that and more!

Donations to the Summer Camp Fund can be made online by visiting the agency's website www.hamiltoncas.com, by mail or by calling Teresa Silvestro at 905-522-1121, ext. 6414.

Tribute gifts make a great year end gift for teachers!

Dreams Take Flight

The Society extends thanks to Air Canada, the Dreams Take Flight volunteers and all of the sponsors and donors who make this annual opportunity possible.

Every spring, as children anticipate sunnier days and warmer temperatures, a number of youth are being treated to a day of fun in the sun at Walt Disney World in Florida courtesy of Dreams Take Flight.

The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton is delighted to once again have the opportunity to provide four children with the chance to fly with a child protection worker to Florida for the day where they will enjoy an all expense paid visit to the Magic Kingdom.



The national volunteer charitable organization has been providing mentally, physically, socially or emotionally challenged children with a magical day at Disney for over 25 years.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

April 10 - 16, 2016

Volunteers are the roots of strong communities



volunteer.ca/nvw2016



Golf & Country Club funds bursary

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The Society is proud of the accomplishments of its Crown Ward youth, especially those that have committed themselves to bettering their lives by obtaining a post-secondary education. Bursary donations such as the contribution from the Hamilton Golf & Country Club allow the Society to be in a position to ease the financial burden associated with a post-secondary education.

Bursary allocations will be decided by a selection committee in May in advance of the agency's Annual General Meeting held at the end of June.

CONTACT US

905-522-1121

After Hours Emergency Service:

905-522-8053

Office: 26 Arrowsmith Road, Hamilton
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1170, Depot 1
Hamilton, ON L8N 4B9
www.hamiltoncas.com

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You can do this by:

Phone: 905-522-1121, ext. 6414

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To receive agency correspondence electronically, please provide your email address.

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Crown Ward Bursary &

Educational Fund \$ _____

Summer Camp \$ _____

Wherever Needed Most \$ _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Total Donation \$ _____

The Care Update newsletter is produced twice a year by the Communications & Development Unit at The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton. Be sure to provide your email address to be kept informed of agency news and/or 'like' the Society's Facebook page (March 2016).