



HALTON
LEARNING
FOUNDATION

Supporting Students, Strengthening Schools

ANNUAL REPORT 2012



COMMITMENT to tech education



Halton District School Board is developing a multi-year plan for technological education that is designed to ensure students develop the skills and knowledge in up-to-date facilities that will empower them to take on technical challenges well into the future.

"We are pleased to be part of meeting that challenge. The growth of technical skills training in secondary schools is a necessary and vital component that will allow us to meet the growing need for a highly skilled workforce for institutional, commercial, and industrial sectors of Ontario's economy.



A \$200,000 commitment over 4 years from UA Local 67

These students, by continuing their training in post-secondary institutions or directly from our training schools or client employers, will guarantee us the next generation of top quality skilled trades workers and will keep Ontario's economy strong and prosperous."

Mark Ellerker, UA Local 67 Business Manager

MESSAGE from the chair



The support, commitment and contribution of our donors never ceases to amaze me. On behalf of the students of the Halton District School Board, I would like to personally thank each of you - our donors, sponsors and volunteers for rising to the challenge to help the youth in our community. We have had an unprecedented year, raising **\$1 Million** to ensure all our students have an equal opportunity to learn, grow and develop as contributing members of our society. Although the amount of money raised this past year is impressive; this is tempered as we see the number of vulnerable youth in our community continue to increase.

It is **inspiring to see the generosity of our community**. Your donations have made a difference to thousands of students in Halton. Halton Learning Foundation remains committed to enriching educational opportunities for students and eliminating barriers to learning. Your contributions support the various programs that we offer including: Barriers Fund which provides emergency funding for students in need; Scholarship programs which are offered to graduating students to help them continue on their life-long journey; enrichment programs, which provide funding for numeracy and literacy, arts and music, environmental programs as well as healthy and active living programs. Halton Learning Foundation provides an integral role in almost all aspects of student life.

As we look to the future, we are embarking on a new journey to better meet the needs of youth in our community. We are charting a new course and setting a new direction to better focus our resources to ensure that **every student has an equal opportunity for learning, personal growth and development**. We hope you will join us on this new journey; to help tackle the new challenges that we will surely face. We appreciate everything that you have done for us in the past ten years and we look forward to your continued support.

Jamie Schumacker, Board Chair



"With support from community, business, and industry, the future looks brighter for students as they enter a much different world than we have ever seen." says David Lewis, Coordinator, Technological Education and Pathways

2012 Halton Learning Foundation Board of Directors

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UA Local 67's donation has helped expand the VEX robotics program for Grade 7 and 8 students to approximately 300 (from 100 last year). Five high school robotics teams also had the opportunity to compete in robotics competitions as a result of the UA Local 67 donation.

TECHNOLOGICAL education

Boehringer Ingelheim is supporting technological education, a Specialist High Skills Majors program in Health and Wellness at MM Robinson High School. In addition to a financial gift, Boehringer Ingelheim has committed to work as advisors to the program and provide guest speakers in the classroom. The Health and Wellness SHSM prepares students in several areas such as healthcare, fitness, or childcare and family services. Socio-economic indicators suggests demand for students trained in these areas will rise rapidly within the next decade.

“Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd. is dedicated to serving humankind by research, developing, manufacturing and marketing pharmaceuticals that improve health and quality of life. As a local pharmaceutical company we felt a partnership with Halton Learning Foundation shows our commitment to giving the youth in our community a better opportunity to pursue career goals in the healthcare industry. By funding and supporting this initiative, we are helping students connect to the real world,” Derek O’Toole, Director Corporate Affairs and Communications, Boehringer Ingelheim.

“We are proud to be a partner on the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program. The program aligns with Suncor Energy Foundation’s funding priority around Building Skills and Knowledge for the next generation, as it will help create a workforce that is innovative and has a sustainability mindset in both industry and our community.”

Jason Vaillant, Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations at Suncor

Halton Learning Foundation welcomes a new partnership with Suncor Energy Foundation with their gift to the Specialist High Skills Major program in Energy. Suncor has also committed to work as advisors to the program, mentors to the teachers, guest speakers in the classroom, and provide tour opportunities for the students enrolled in the Energy SHSM program. Opportunities in this sector are abundant due to the aging workforce coupled with the increase in demand, as well as the growing Green Power Source industry.

Students participating in the SHSM are exposed to a variety of aspects of the industry such as power generation and distribution, renewable and alternative energy, or energy efficiency. “Building skills and knowledge related to the energy sector for future community leaders is important to developing vibrant, sustainable communities in Canada,” said Jason Vaillant, Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations at Suncor.



BARRIERS fund

Students are fortunate to have community organizations and individuals, such as the Milton Ribfest, Charity of Hope, RBC, and students and parents giving through the Give a Little, Help a Lot Toonie Campaigns at their schools, all wishing to give a hand up to students and families facing challenging times.

Imagine it’s your smile, the one facial expression that can affect your mood, that has caused people to snicker and laugh at you because your teeth are crooked, crowded and stick out. Your family cannot afford the dental work. Then it starts - the taunting and teasing. The incessant bullying causes you to miss school, not make friends and spend more time alone. You’re missing school because you just can’t face it anymore.

This year a school staff member arranged pro bono dental work for a student to get braces. The HLF Barriers money supported the dental hygiene products. She has since blossomed! She has not missed classes and she has just secured a job. The student has reported that she is complimented often for her smile. She came to school as a grade 10 student with 7 credits and has since achieved 11 credits and is pursuing co-op credits through her new job. Her academics have soared along with her confidence.

Over 1100 students were approved last year to receive help with basic amenities like food, clothing, shelter, school expenses and a variety of other unique situations that affect a student’s ability to wholly participate in the life of a student attending school. When children lack the basics it impacts their ability to learn.

“A student has left home due to an abusive home life. The student is now receiving student welfare and living independently at the age of 16. Income is limited. Money will be used to purchase cafeteria vouchers.”

“Mom called me to say she did not send her three children to school today because she does not have any food for lunches or snacks.”

“The family has no money to buy new clothes for the children who are outgrowing the old ones. With the cold weather coming the children need winter attire. This family struggles to keep the basics of a safe place to live and food to eat.”



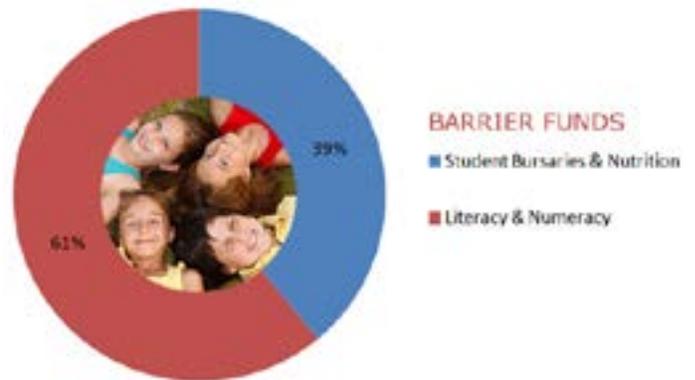
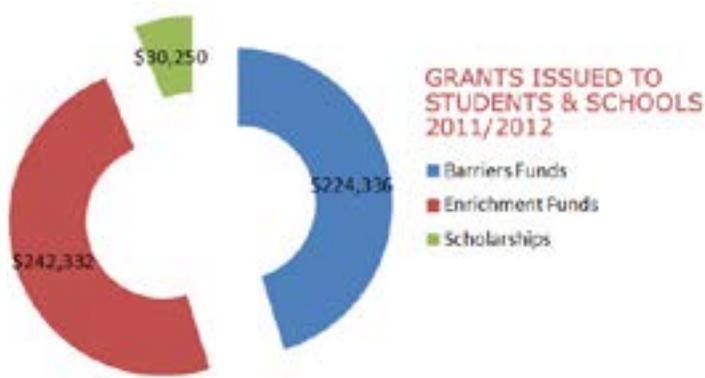
SCHOLARSHIP support

Many of the bursaries and scholarships offered by the Halton Learning Foundation assist students who face a variety of challenges accessing post secondary education. Kathy Charteris was a special woman who was passionate about the students she helped as a school social worker. **The Kathy Charteris Memorial Scholarship** is awarded annually to a graduating student at White Oaks SS who has utilized or benefited from in school social work resources.

The Beta Sigma Phi Memorial Scholarship has also helped a student in need this year. *“It was our pleasure to present the award to a most deserving student who is trying to make a better life for herself,” said Gail Sindrey, President.*

“I was unsure how I was going to pay my tuition deposit and the scholarship made it all less stressful. I will put 100% of my effort into my studies not just for myself but the ladies at the Sorority who believed in me.” Scholarship Recipient

GRANTS awarded



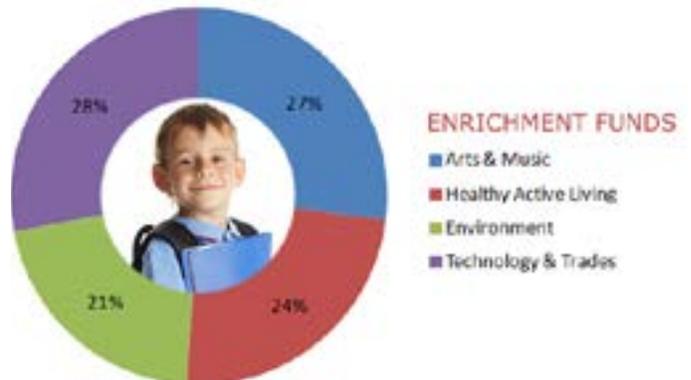
SUPPORTING STUDENTS, STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS



Elementary Students: 35,822
Secondary Students: 18,138,

Elementary Schools: 81
Secondary Schools: 17

Schools are located in Halton Region:
Oakville, Burlington, Milton, Georgetown and Acton



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