



HALTON
LEARNING
FOUNDATION

HALTON LEARNING FOUNDATION
2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT
Supporting Students and Strengthening Schools
of the Halton District School Board

OUR STORY

Halton Learning Foundation was established in 1998 as a not-for-profit corporation with the purpose to initiate and provide support for education-related programs, projects, and services, which are not provided through traditional education funding sources.

To date, Halton Learning Foundation donors have seen over \$4.1 million directly support students-in-need and strengthen schools of the Halton District School Board. Eliminating economic barriers to learning for students, engagement of students, and providing resource support for schools is the vital mission of Halton Learning Foundation.

Halton Learning Foundation supports students and schools in Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Oakville, and Burlington.

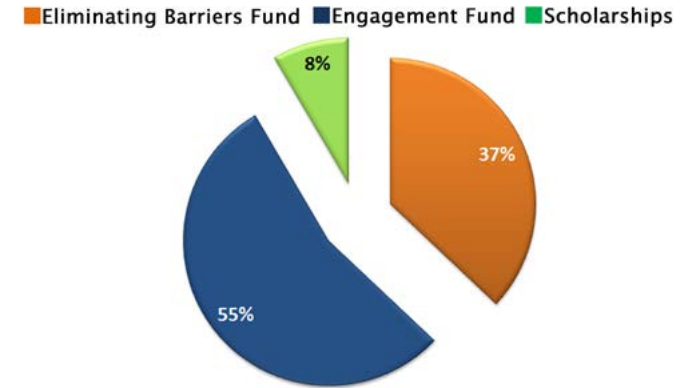
Halton Learning Foundation's vision is to ensure that all students of the Halton District School Board have equal opportunities for engagement, participation and success.



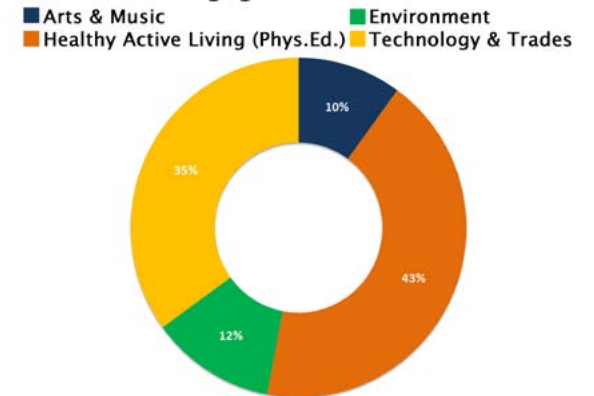
Halton District School Board Profile 2013/2014

Students: 61,639	Schools: 103
Elementary Students: 42,748	Elementary Schools: 84
Secondary Students: 18,937	Secondary Schools: 19

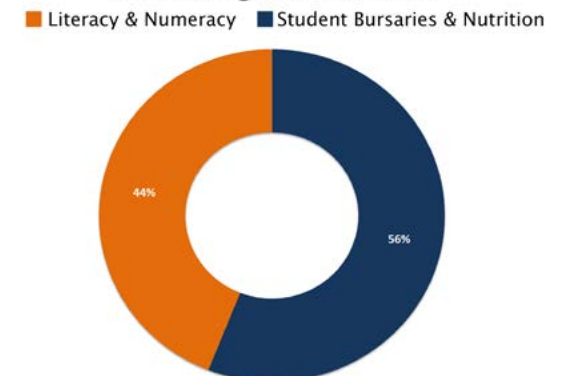
2013/14 Grants to Students & Schools \$620,730



Engagement Funds



Eliminating Barriers Fund



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The coming months will be filled with a great deal of challenge and exciting opportunities.

Many thanks to Pat Wright, who retired this year after 10 years of outstanding leadership and building of the Foundation to a remarkable level of success. Under Pat's stewardship and the generous support of our donors and partners, over 7,500 individual students received assistance through the Eliminating Barriers Fund and over \$2M has been granted to schools through the Engagement Funds.

Our new Executive Director, Lesley Mansfield, brings an astute ability to build relationships and she is well positioned to implement the strategic plan of the Foundation.

Our primary objective is to double our annual donations and partnerships with individuals and industry, in order to help twice as many children in our school system each year. Ultimately, the goal of the Foundation is to ensure that no child faces barriers to learning opportunities because of family or financial circumstances.

It is estimated that approximately 6,000 children in Halton live below the poverty line. This year, the Foundation helped over 1,300 students. We need to do more.

The challenge is telling "Our Story" of the thousands of children that we have helped over the years, and how every dollar alters the life experience and development of a child. With you, our generous donors and partners, we can share the message among many, and together, we can break down barriers to learning and help every child.

Thank you for your continued belief that every child deserves an equal opportunity to have the best quality education, free from financial barriers.

Karmel Sakran
Board Chair, Halton Learning Foundation
Managing Partner, Green Germann Sakran



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013/14

Karmel Sakran, Chair

Managing Partner, Green Germann Sakran

Carol D'Amelio, 1st Vice Chair

Community Member

David S. Grant, 2nd Vice Chair

Strategic Planning & Marketing Leader,
Honeywell Building Solutions Canada

Jim Collins, Treasurer

Chief Financial Officer, Oakville Hydro Corporation

David Euale, President

Director of Education, Halton District School Board

Kelly Amos

Trustee, Halton District School Board

Nancy Brewer

Chartered Accountant, Nancy Brewer Professional Corporation

Rob Loney

Director, Market Access & Government Affairs, Johnson & Johnson Inc.

Jim MacDonald

Community Member

Wendy Rinella

Vice President of Corporate Affairs, FCT

Peter Sarvos

Sales Manager, Global Sales, Outotec Shutdown Services

Donna Taylor

Principal, Craig Kielburger Secondary School

Pat Wright, CFRE (retired June 2014)

Executive Director, Halton Learning Foundation

Lesley A. Mansfield (appointed June 2014)

Executive Director, Halton Learning Foundation



MEETING THE NEED

ELIMINATING BARRIERS FUND financially assists students-in-need to keep them engaged in, and able to, attend school.

When children lack the basics like proper clothing, school supplies, and food, it impacts their ability to learn and their ability to participate in school life. The Eliminating Barriers Fund provides emergency funding to help children in need and is a critical area of the Foundation's work.

The most requested items this year were:

- Food
- Clothing, including coats, boots, and shoes
- School supplies
- Field trip fees
- Attire, work boots and tools for co-op placements
- Tools & lab equipment for students enrolled in technology & trade programs

ENGAGEMENT FUNDS in the key areas of Arts & Music, Environment, Healthy Active Living (Phys. Ed.), and Technology are granted to schools throughout the school year.

HLF is a vital source of funding for enriched learning opportunities for students. When schools lack needed resources HLF assists through the Engagement Funds, which are used to purchase teaching resources and equipment, and fund educational programs and experiences for students.

The most requested items this year were:

- iPads and tablets
- Musical Instruments
- Literacy Kits, including ESL and dual-language books, home reading kits, and levelled readers
- Numeracy resources including scientific calculators, math based games, remedial math supplies, and math manipulatives
- Sports equipment and Recess equipment

SCHOLARSHIPS, through HLF and partners, support continued student success by helping graduating students pursue their goals at university, college, or in apprenticeship programs.

There are 19 Halton Learning Foundation Scholarships that are awarded annually – one at each high school in the Halton District School Board. These Scholarships recognize students with financial need and academic ability.

To date, another 20 Scholarships have been established through HLF by individuals and corporations to help students pursue post-secondary and apprenticeship education. These Scholarships range from awards for those pursuing specific fields of study, to full apprenticeships.

“You can't take away some of the baggage that kids carry...but you can take away the split running shoes, the no winter coat, the hungry feelings they come to school with.” - Halton District School Board Principal



OVER 1300
STUDENTS WERE
ASSISTED THIS
YEAR THROUGH THE
ELIMINATING
BARRIERS FUND



HLF HAS GRANTED
RESOURCE
FUNDING TO EVERY
HALTON DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD
SCHOOL



CONSIDER
DONATING TO ONE
OF THESE FUNDS,
ESTABLISHING A
SCHOLARSHIP, OR
MAKING A LEGACY
GIFT



YOU CAN DONATE TODAY

PLEASE VISIT: WWW.HALTONLEARNINGFOUNDATION.CA/MAKE-A-DONATION

I CAN - PARTICIPATE, LEARN, SUCCEED

Meet Randi

Randi, a grade nine student, is worried about her family. Her mother is unable to work due to a recent back injury from a car accident. Randi is worried about how she and her Mom will be able to pay rent and buy groceries this month. Randi confided that there is food in the house that will only last another three days. We would like to provide Randi with grocery cards today as this is an emergency. - Principal

Meet Mo

Recently, Mo was hospitalized for major depression. The family home is dealing with many stressors related to mental health and finances. Currently, the family has no phone as they are not able to pay for this and the other utilities. Support agencies and the school are struggling to maintain communications. Mo and his siblings are often without food and appropriate clothing. We are asking for assistance to provide the basic necessities, food and taxi fare for Mo on the days when his depression gets the most of him. – Social Worker

Meet JC, SO, AG, PA, ST, and MB

We have four boys who are playing junior football and two boys playing senior football. They all come from families in which there are severe financial difficulties. Being able to play on the teams is a great booster to their self-esteem and it also helps to keep them engaged in their classes. The request is for equipment and fees so that they may continue to play. – Vice Principal

It was upon hearing only a few stories of need that Nova Steel immediately acted and made a generous donation to Halton Learning Foundation. Thanks to Nova Steel's generous support of the Eliminating Barriers Fund, not only did all six boys play football this year, one of the boys was chosen MVP! For Mo, the school was able to establish a trusted connection with his parents thanks to the school being able to offer support of the barriers fund. This trusted relationship has enabled the school to recommend additional supports for this family. For Randi and her Mom, the stress and fear of running out of basic necessities was alleviated the very day that the Principal sent through the request to Halton Learning Foundation.

*student names have been changed to protect their identity.



FEELING HEALTHY - INSIDE AND OUT

A student's mental health impacts their school performance, attendance and achievement. Positive mental health is a learning enabler, yet up to 20 per cent or more of children and youth experience mental health problems at any given time.

The RBC Foundation continues its long-standing support of Halton District School Board students with a multi-year commitment to fund Mental Health and Addiction Strategy initiatives in the school board, including the annual Mental Health Symposium. The outcome of the 2014 symposium included increasing mental health literacy across the school board, which is one of four targets identified in the Mental Health Strategy.

"We have a collective and shared responsibility, not only to respond to a student's mental health need, but to include the promotion of positive mental health and the prevention of illness in our day-to-day interactions in our school communities. Education, awareness and the de-stigmatizing of mental health are all crucial pieces of the puzzle," said Christy Peterson, Vice Principal, Nelson High School, and former Mental Health Lead, Halton District School Board.

"RBC believes that all kids should **feel healthy inside and out**," said John Lever, RBC Regional Vice President for Halton South. "Through the RBC Children's Mental Health Project, we are delighted to support Halton District School Board mental health programs and services, so that every child has the chance to achieve their someday dreams."

"The Halton District School Board appreciates the support of the RBC Foundation and Halton Learning Foundation. Promoting and supporting positive mental health belongs to all of us, and when community partners work together we can make a significant difference for our youth. The Halton District School Board believes in the promotion of positive mental health and well-being to support student success for all students. The HDSB moves forward in our goal to create positive, engaging, safe and inclusive learning environments for our students to succeed, by increasing mental health literacy across our system, making connections to the Ontario curriculum, promoting positive mental health and communicating the services available within the school board and within the Halton community," said David Boag, Superintendent of Education, Secondary Program and Student Success, Halton District School Board.



THE POWER OF THE ROBOT

Did you know that Robots can help to engage students, make math an applied skill, and create leadership opportunities? A self-contained classroom was created at Lakeshore Public School, and opened for the first time in September 2013. Lakeshore P.S. is a small school in a very close community and this class was filled with students bussed from various parts of Burlington.

“It was very important to find a niche for these students and help them contribute to the school community. Lego Robotics seemed a logical attraction for this group,” shared teacher Stacey Falconer.

The students themselves were involved in the inquiry process of finding and requesting the desired items for their Lego Robotics program. “They wrote letters to persuade teachers and the Principal of the merits behind acquiring these kits for the school. The process of adding and subtracting the funds, in order to honour the budget, was also an engaging numeracy activity,” said Stacey.

“Lego Robotics is so cool. If I don’t understand how to do something, I can just Google it. Wait a minute - are these Lego Robotics people trying to get me to do research?”

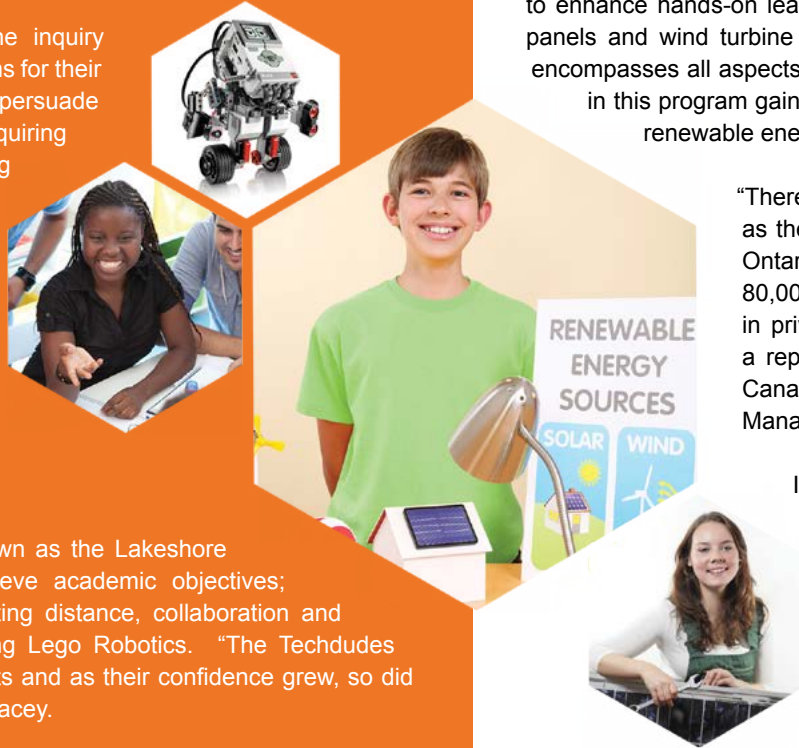
- Grade 5 student

Once the kits arrived, these students, now known as the Lakeshore Techdudes, began using the robotics to achieve academic objectives; measuring the turn of a robotic angle, calculating distance, collaboration and problem solving were all skills involved in using Lego Robotics. “The Techdudes became quite effective in programming the robots and as their confidence grew, so did the potential of a leadership opportunity,” said Stacey.

“Lego Robotics is way better than doing regular math.” - Grade 6 student

“The grant was used for so much more than buying robotics kits. It was used to help create new connections, build academic and social skills, create leadership opportunities and engage students in a common goal and school pride,” said Stacey.

Funds from Halton Learning Foundation’s Technology Engagement Fund were granted to this program. This Fund is supported by many individual, community and corporate donors annually.



ENERGY LEADERS

Students enrolled in the Energy program at Garth Webb Secondary School, Oakville, are benefitting from the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 793’s support of Technological Education, specifically their support of energy education. IUOE Local 793 is enabling the ongoing growth and expansion of Technological Education in Halton District School Board schools, and allowing a greater number of students to develop their technical skills and knowledge in preparation for post-secondary education, including apprenticeships, college, university, and students directly entering the world of work.

IUOE Local 793’s support has allowed for the purchase of equipment and project kits to enhance hands-on learning in the energy curriculum – specifically focused on solar panels and wind turbine training. Energy is an emerging and expanding sector that encompasses all aspects of energy generation, distribution, and consumption. Students in this program gain skills and knowledge in energy generation, alternative energy, renewable energy, and energy conservation.

“There is a promising future in the wind and solar energy sectors, as the energy needs of the province are continuing to increase. In Ontario, wind energy developments alone will create more than 80,000 person years of employment and attract more than \$16 billion in private sector investments in the next eight years, according to a report prepared by research firm ClearSky Advisors Inc. for the Canadian Wind Energy Association,” said Mike Gallagher, Business Manager, International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 793.

IUOE Local 793’s support has opened the door for many students interested in the Energy Sectors, such as chemical, mechanical and environmental engineering, welding, and millwright.



PURSUING DREAMS, GOALS, SUCCESS

Maureen Hagan Fit for Life Award

This award was created by Maureen Hagan to help young people appreciate that when they strive for something, be it academically or physically, the true success is found more in the effort put forth, rather than whether or not the goal is achieved.

“The reason that I created this scholarship was to ‘pay it forward’ to that grade 12 student who has, in their time at Thomas A. Blakelock High School, demonstrated passion, desire and a ‘never give up’ attitude to pursue their goals both academically and athletically. Their effort may not result in them ‘making the team’, but it has set them up for success in ‘the game of life’.

Awarding this scholarship gives me the opportunity to inspire someone to attend post-secondary education in pursuit of their dream career. My physical education teacher at Thomas A. Blakelock High School inspired me, through fitness and sports, to go after what I wanted, and not to quit even though many times I was not initially successful. She recognized my efforts and determination and awarded me opportunities that empowered me to pursue my goals in school that ultimately influenced my career. I learned that success takes real ongoing effort. I hope to pass the gift of such recognition along to the recipient graduating student,” said Maureen Hagan.

Paula Liu Family Scholarship

The Paula Liu Family Scholarship was created to honour the memory of Paula Liu, who showed strength and perseverance through hardships through her youth and later in life. As a widow, with no family or support in Canada, she supported her children through post-secondary education.

“I established the scholarship in recognition of parents

and children who have endured loss in their lives. My mother, Paula Liu, had to rebound from a life changed by communism, the death of a parent while she was still a teen, immigration to two foreign lands, and raising two teens on her own when her husband died. Her family lost all of their savings when they fled China, and she was never able to pursue a post-secondary education.

Although I had the benefit of growing up in Canada for most of my life, I too experienced the loss of a parent and a spouse, while my kids were very young. I have a greater

“I just wanted to take the time and thank you for your generosity. Receiving a scholarship that helps me to afford university really means so much to me. Your generosity has not gone unnoticed and I thank you so much. The Halton community has been great at supporting my high school and it is people like you that make our community so amazing.” – Student Recipient

appreciation and admiration for my mother’s resilience. I earned an academic scholarship, otherwise it would have been financially hard for my mother for me to go to university. I am fortunate that I will be able to send my kids to post-secondary education, but understand the hardship of being in a situation that is both emotionally and financially challenging. This scholarship is intended to recognize hard work and resilience in the face of life’s curveballs, and to help a student towards building a future,” said Jane Liu.

Downtown Georgetown Music Scholarship

This scholarship was created by Ted Flanagan to encourage and support a Georgetown District High School student who wishes to pursue music as a career, and who is facing personal or financial challenges.

The “Ted Flanagan Olde Fashioned Christmas Special” premiered in 2012 and commenced the Downtown Georgetown Music Scholarships from funds raised at the show. The 2013 show allowed for the creation of the Downtown Georgetown Music Scholarship awarded

annually to a deserving Georgetown District High School student.

“Three years ago I decided to put on a Christmas show in conjunction with the Downtown Georgetown Business Improvement Area’s (BIA) “Magic on Main” initiative to attract families to downtown Georgetown to shop and eat. The Ted Flanagan Olde Fashioned Christmas Special came to be a finale to the event. Our generous sponsors and the audience who purchase tickets provide the funds that we give away. We split our funds four ways. As the old saying goes, if you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day - if you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime. The Downtown Georgetown Music Scholarship teaches a student each year “to fish”.

Our first scholarship recipient was a soprano opera singer who returned to our show the year after and sang. It was amazing. Our second recipient was unable to come to this year’s show as she was writing exams at university, but she sent us a YouTube video of her performance, which we played. I am proud to know these kids and hope that the Downtown Georgetown Music Scholarship made some small contribution to, what I hope will be, full and accomplished lives. A music student has to really love the music. It is my hope that our small scholarship encourages our recipients to be part of the next great wave of musicians and composers,” said Ted Flanagan.





HALTON
LEARNING
FOUNDATION

“The Halton District School Board believes that social and intellectual engagement of our students is pivotal to their success. On behalf of the schools and students of the Halton District School Board, I would like to thank Halton Learning Foundation for its long-standing support of student success.

Thank you for enhancing our program offerings, and on behalf of the many students personally supported, thank you for reducing the financial barriers to their full engagement in their studies and school activities. Halton Learning Foundation is an important partner to the Halton District School Board in its efforts to provide equity in the delivery of a quality program for each student.”

*David Euale
Director of Education
Halton District School Board*

YOU CAN...

- **Adopt-a-school** or adopt-a-program - e.g. support literacy, arts & music, technology/trades, healthy active living (phys.ed.)
- **Eliminate Barriers** to make sure that every student faced with an emergency situation has the resources that they need to keep coming to and participating in school – donate to the Eliminating Barriers Fund
- **Leave a legacy** of support for Halton District School Board students and schools in your Will
- **Support** programs of special interest to your business, share your expertise through guest speaking, and provide co-op placements for students
- **Light the Way** for a student-in-need. Support the Light the Way Holiday Gift Campaign every November and December
- **Create Opportunities** – support a student's future by establishing or contributing to Scholarships & Bursaries for students pursuing post-secondary education
- **Join us** as guests or sponsors of our annual Celebration Dinner in November and our annual Golf Tournament in May
- **Spread the word** and connect others to Halton Learning Foundation