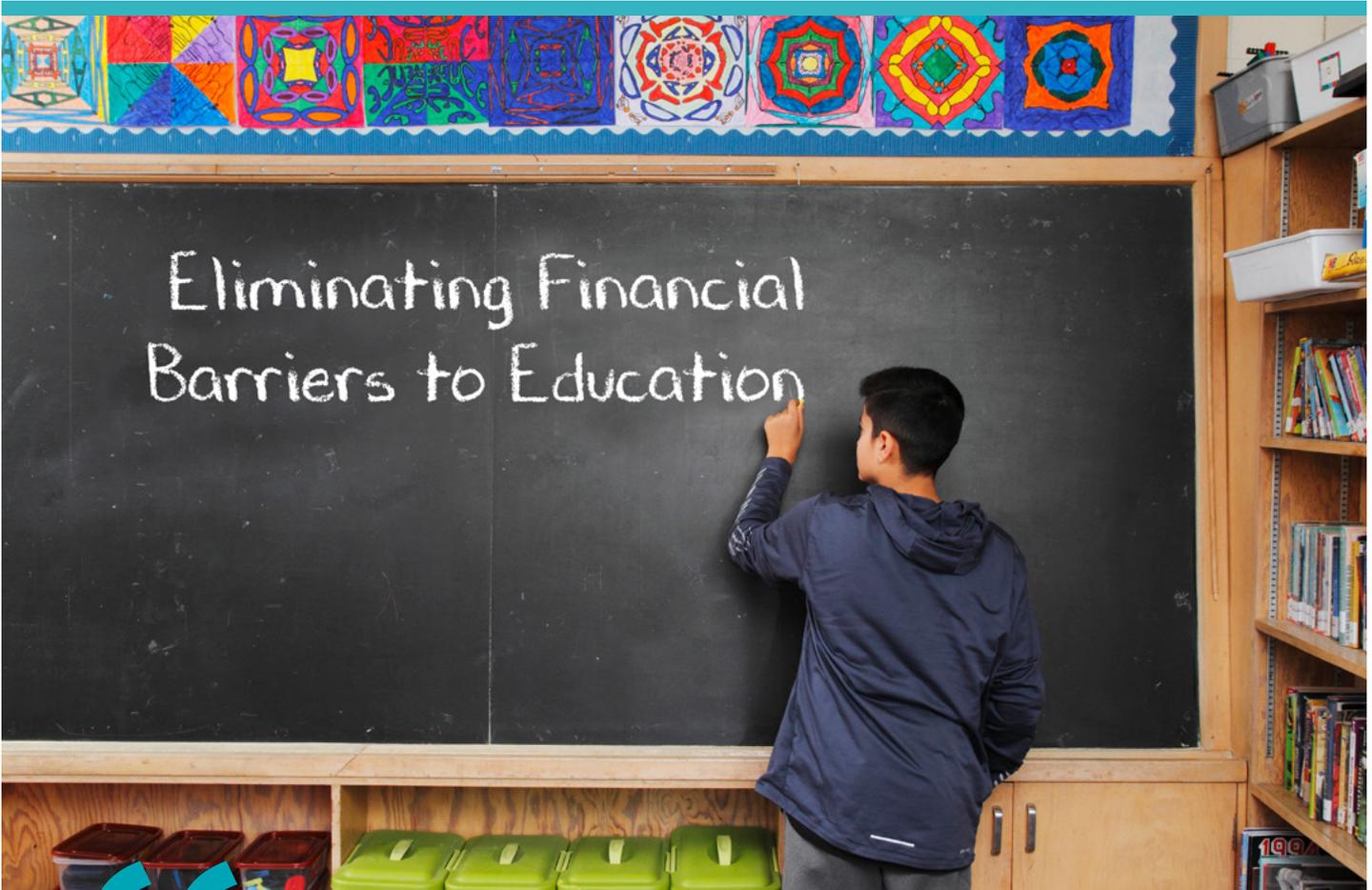




Halton  
Learning  
Foundation

# 2017-2018 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



“The Halton District School Board is very appreciative of the assistance provided by the Halton Learning Foundation. In partnership with our schools, HLF helps support students on their individual paths to success.”

**Stuart Miller, Director of Education  
Halton District School Board**

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# What We Do



## Levelling the playing field for HDSB students

The Halton Learning Foundation (HLF)'s mission is to enrich educational opportunities and eliminate economic barriers to learning for students of the Halton District School Board.

### Three Ways HLF Supports Students & Schools:

- Financial support to low-income students and families for basics such as school supplies, lunches, clothing and learning opportunities that help set kids up for success.
- School funding for programs and resources in arts and music, physical education, mental health, media literacy, and environmental education.
- Scholarships, awards and bursaries that enable graduating students to pursue post-secondary education or apprenticeships.

## Eliminating Financial Barriers to Education in 2017-2018

**1,060**  
students directly benefited from financial support for emergency basics and learning opportunities.



**89**  
grants were provided to **49** schools to help engage students in learning.



**91**  
students received a scholarship or bursary to help offset the cost of post-secondary studies.



## Fifteen years of providing opportunity for students

**A winter coat. A school trip. A helping hand to pursue learning beyond high school. A yes, instead of a no.** They're small things that can mean the difference between opportunity and adversity for a student in the Halton District School Board (HDSB).

For the past 15 years, the Halton Learning Foundation (HLF) has helped students facing financial barriers to fit in at school, access the same learning opportunities as their peers and explore possibilities for the future.

HLF is proud to celebrate its accomplishments over the past decade and a half, including: helping more than 12,000 elementary and secondary students access the basics they need to stay in school; and disbursing \$2.5 million to schools for critical learning resources that allow kids in every neighbourhood to gain 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

While HLF is proud of these achievements, it's unfortunate that the need for our services and support continues to grow.



In 2016, HLF committed to doubling the number of students supported through our Eliminating Barriers program to 2,000 by 2020. In the first quarter of this school year HLF experienced an incredible 26 per cent increase in requests from schools to assist students-in-need. Based on regional and school population trends, the rising cost of housing and the increase in precarious work, it is expected that this upward trend will continue.

The amount of the average request has also increased, which means HLF funding to vulnerable students has almost doubled over the past two years. We have been able to accommodate the demand thanks to your generosity.

To ensure we can continue to support these growing needs, the HLF team is working hard to build partnerships with schools, parents, corporations and others who have an interest in helping kids.

HLF is extremely fortunate to operate in Halton, a community that has proved to be comprised of many caring individuals and organizations. Your gifts enable HLF to continue saying 'yes' to a growing number of students in need and to ensure all kids have equal opportunities for participation, engagement and success in education.

**“In the first quarter of this school year, HLF experienced a 26% increase in requests to help students in need.”**

When HLF began operations in 2004, Statistics Canada estimated the poverty rate in Halton among children and youth to be eight per cent. Today, that number has grown to 10 per cent. Across the HDSB, one in 10 students comes from a family that lives at or below the poverty line.

| Philip Evenden, Chair of the Board

# What you made possible in 2017-2018



Every student in Melissa Simpson's\* Behavioural Resource Class suffers from trauma, including one whose family fled a war zone in their home country. The kids, in Grades 5 through 8, all struggle with behavioural and mental health issues.

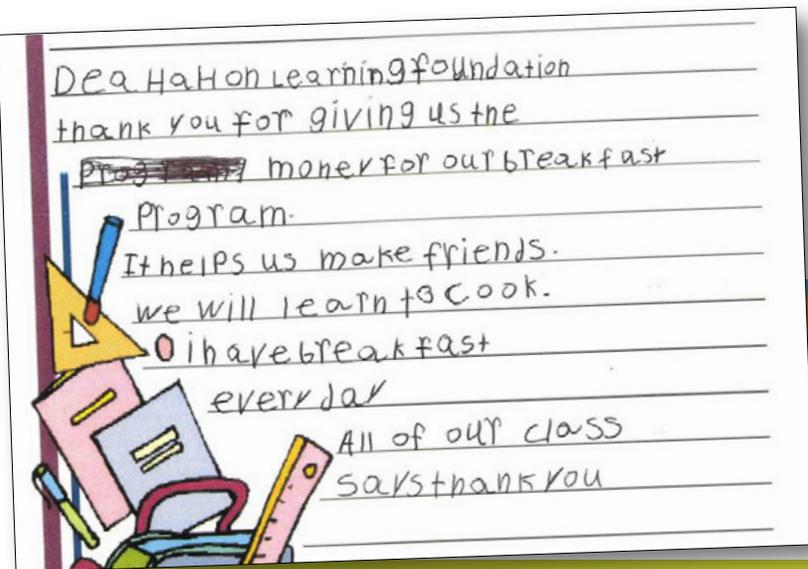
Adding to their challenges, the students were coming to school daily without having eaten breakfast and with insufficient lunches to get them through a day of learning. They were distracted by their hunger.

Simpson requested support from HLF to purchase fruit and other healthy breakfast items and snacks so the students could start their day on a positive note. "Before you ask them to do work, you need to ensure they are able to focus on learning," she says. "If they don't have enough to eat, they can't settle."

It isn't just the food, but the way in which it's being shared that has made a difference. The students have a morning 'chat and chew,' where they sit together to eat breakfast and learn about each other in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment. Simpson says some of the students' conversations have been enlightening – enabling them to learn what they have in common with each other, and how to deal with some of life's challenges.

HLF funds were also used to purchase seeds to grow lettuce, onions and celery. The plants are helping students develop responsibility and gain an understanding of where food comes from. There are other benefits too. On Fridays the kids do a cooking class, which combines math and science lessons with a valuable life skill. But their teacher says it's the regular access to healthy foods that has had the most noticeable impact on the students.

"There's been a huge difference in their behaviours and their ability to focus in class simply by having their basic needs met."



“Before you ask them to do work, you need to ensure they are able to focus on learning.”

“The grant from HLF has allowed more students in our Community Pathways program the opportunity to participate in swimming as part of the phys-ed curriculum. Swimming allows these students to be included in a form of physical activity that they enjoy and which motivates them to socialize. It also has a huge impact on students with behavioural challenges because they are participating in an activity that makes them happy ... and allows them to burn off their energy in a positive way.”



\*(teacher name changed to protect student confidentiality)

## The impact of student and school grants



“Just whisper in my ear and we’ll make it happen.”

With those words, Gr. 7 teacher Rob Galashan provided hope to several families in financial need that their kids could participate in the 2017 class trip with their peers.

“In any school there are always kids who can’t participate in extra-curriculars because of finances,” says Galashan. “We don’t want kids to miss out on these important learning experiences.”

Thanks to a donation to the Halton Learning Foundation, several of his students were able to take part in the three-day leadership and team-building camp. For some, it was the first class trip they’d ever been on, and Galashan says the experience was a “game changer” for many of the students.

“They were able to participate like everyone else. There’s a sense of belonging now.” *(teacher)*



“Lucy lives with her mom, who is a widow. The two struggle to survive on mom’s small income. When Lucy began to miss classes, teachers became concerned. They discovered Lucy had broken her glasses and her mom could not afford to replace them. Without the glasses, Lucy was unable to read.

With support from HLF, Lucy received new prescription glasses, which has supported her regular attendance and participation in class.” *(social worker)*

“John is a student with autism. He is prone to aggressive outbursts and does not possess strong independent life skills, thus making school an important support system for his daily hygiene activities. HLF funds were used to purchase an electric razor and shower utensils to aid John in his independence when showering. Funds were also used to purchase noise cancelling headphones, which have helped to calm behaviour and have given him a great sense of pride. Students like John greatly benefit from HLF’s support in so many different ways.” *(teacher)*

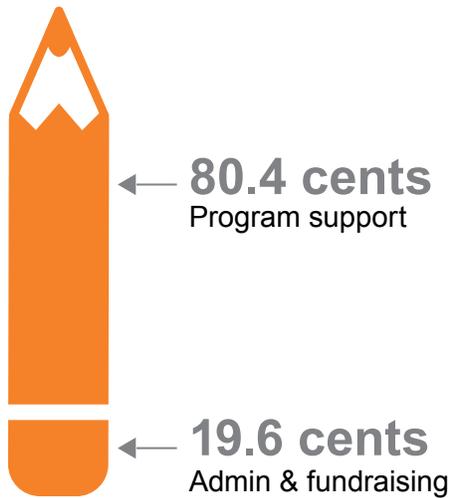


“Tecumseh Public School used a grant from HLF to purchase hand tools and craft materials that allow students to explore hands-on building activities connected to the curriculum.

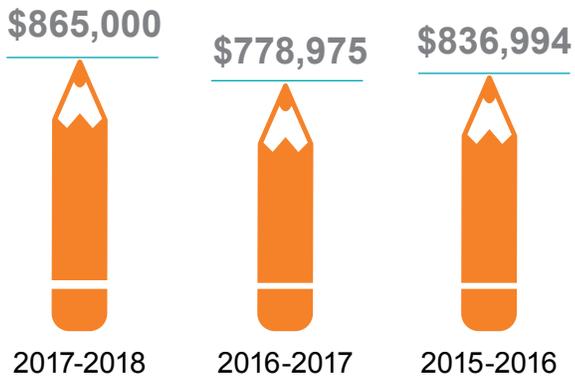
This alternative to digital and paper/pencil tasks has been found to lessen student anxiety and increase collaboration and excitement for learning.” *(principal)*

# Financial Overview

## Where your money goes



## Revenue



### Eliminating Barriers



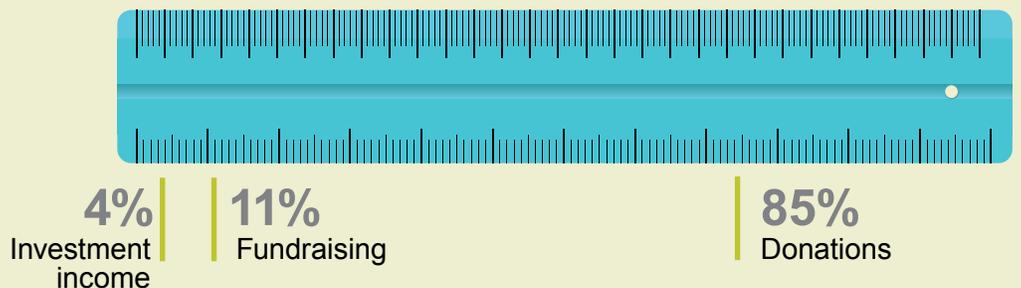
### Scholarships



### School Support



## Funding sources



Full financial statements available at [www.haltonlearningfoundation.ca](http://www.haltonlearningfoundation.ca)





Adam Doering and family with HLF executive director Lesley Mansfield (right)

## Inspired by Others to Give Generously

Adam Doering has a big heart and a soft spot for kids. When a colleague shared some stories of students being supported by the Halton Learning Foundation, he knew he had to help.

“When she told me the story about the girl who was sharing one pair of shoes with her mother, that crushed me,” he says. “Then I heard about a student who brought the same sandwich to school for a week and I was done. I think about those stories in relation to the experience of my own daughters who don’t have to worry about those things.”

In 2017, Adam and his family -- wife Christine and daughters Madison, 11, and Charlotte, 5 -- visited the team at HLF to learn more about the support the organization provides for vulnerable students of the Halton District School Board. They have been ardent supporters of HLF ever since.

“Christine and I want our kids to know we’re fortunate and there are a lot of people who are less fortunate. We hope we can teach them really young that we have an obligation as human beings to help others if we can.”

Adam, who is a Vice President and Portfolio Manager at CIBC Wood Gundy in Burlington, says his charitable giving has been inspired by generous colleagues and clients.

“These people are in a position to give back and make a difference and they do. As my family has gotten to a place where we’re also in that position, it’s become a priority for us. I’d love to be one of those people who one day can give in an extraordinary way.”

In 2018, Adam and his parents set up the Mark Doering Thoughtful Fund through HLF in honour of his brother, who passed away last year from cancer. All the funds donated in Mark’s memory will help eliminate financial barriers for students of the Halton District School Board.

### Special thanks to the following donors:

- AIM Recycling
- The Gleeson Investment Group, CIBC Wealth Management
- CN
- Chudleighs
- GWD Foundation for Kids
- Imagine Financial
- Intact Foundation
- Johnson Insurance
- Oakville Community Foundation
- RBC Foundation
- Shaarei-Beth El Congregation of Halton
- The Joyce Family Foundation
- Tiger Jeet Singh Foundation

\*(gifts of \$10,000 or more in 2017-2018. Any omissions are unintentional.)



## HLF Board of Directors 2017-2018

- | **Chair, Philip Evenden**  
President, Integrity Wealth Management Inc.
- | **Past Chair, Nancy Brewer**  
Chartered Accountant
- | **Treasurer & 1st Vice Chair, Jim Collins**  
Chartered Accountant
- | **2nd Vice-Chair, Anne Cesak**  
Director, Culture Strategy and Programs, FCT

### Members

- | **Paul Cripps**, Commissioner, Engineering, Town of Milton
- | **Carol D'Amelio**, Community Member
- | **Manon Dulude**, Registered Psychotherapist and Professional Certified Coach, Forge Coaching & Consulting
- | **Cheryl Goldring**, Professional Artist and Author
- | **Leah Sykes**, Community Member
- | **Jeanne Gray**, HDSB Trustee, Halton Hills
- | **Stuart Miller**, Director of Education, HDSB
- | **Michelle Lemaire**, Secondary Principal, HDSB
- | **Janet Reesor**, Elementary Principal, HDSB
- | **Milica Pavlovic**, Student Director
- | **Ali Malik**, Student Director

| **Lesley Mansfield**, Executive Director



**Halton Learning Foundation**

Eliminating Financial Barriers to Education

**Halton Learning Foundation**

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