

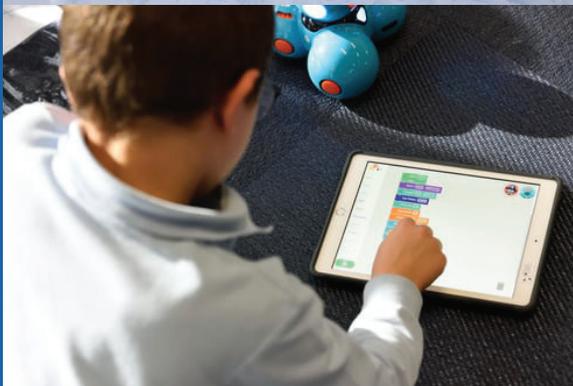


Halton  
Learning  
Foundation

# 2020-2021 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



## The Year of Living – and Learning – Differently



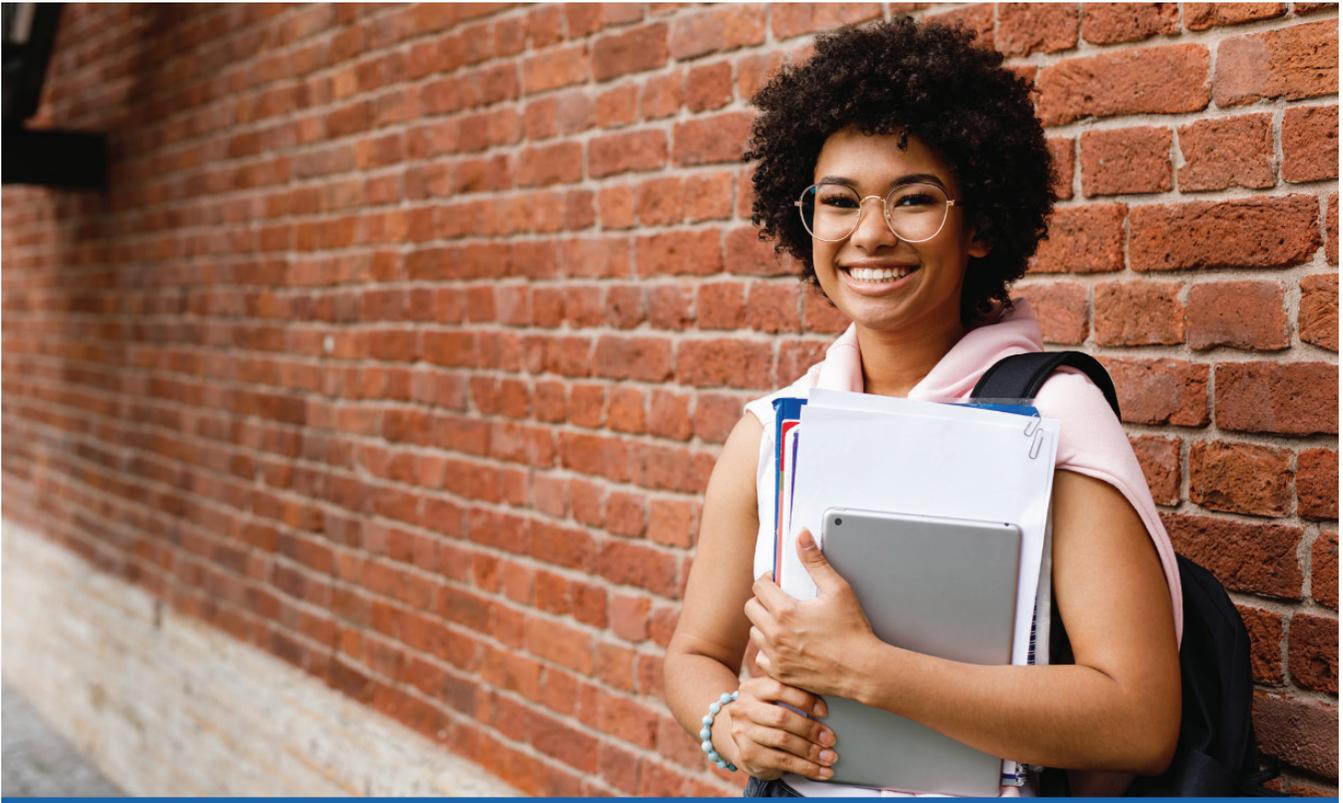
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“ Such amazing support and opportunities are provided through your organization. I have seen first-hand how HLF has been a valuable support for the students and families I have worked with over the years. ”

| Kate Diell, HDSB Principal

## Every student deserves an equal opportunity to learn. We're here to help.

About 1 in 10 students of the Halton District School Board (HDSB) encounter financial barriers that make it difficult for them to fully engage in school.

The Halton Learning Foundation provides emergency financial support for students in need, grants for schools in need, and scholarships that help graduating students pursue post-secondary education.

HLF's vision is to help eliminate financial barriers and ensure all HDSB students have equal opportunities to participate and be successful in learning.

## Chair and CEO Message: The Year of Living – and Learning – Differently

How does a charity tasked with eliminating financial barriers for students fulfill its work when schools are closed and kids are learning remotely? The answer: “Differently!”

Online learning during the pandemic was certainly a challenge for students and teachers in 2020-2021, and it also proved uniquely challenging for HLF. How would teachers identify students in need if they weren't seeing them in person? How would we deliver HLF gift cards to families? How would we continue to raise funds and connect with donors?

Those challenges provided an opportunity for HLF to be creative last year:

- HLF embraced technology as never before. Working remotely, we implemented an online application process so HDSB staff could more easily request emergency support for students. We also introduced virtual gift cards that could be delivered to students or their families via email, and used to purchase needed items online or in store. We learned the joys and pitfalls of Google Meet, Microsoft Teams and Zoom with the inevitable “You're still on mute”.
- With traditional fundraisers on hold, HLF devised creative ways to raise funds, including our 'gala in a box' Smile Boxes, which were delivered to the doors of 200 recipients across Halton.
- HLF hosted five virtual Tax and Estate Planning sessions with over 100 participants, in partnership with Joan Cosby (CFP, Assante Wealth Management). The sessions were a tremendous opportunity for our donors to learn how they could reduce their taxes and leave more money for loved ones in their estate plans while still supporting favourite charities, including HLF.



- Despite limited opportunities to meet in person, we continued to develop and nurture partnerships with HDSB staff, and some incredible Halton organizations who provided critical support for students and for HLF's operations.

Thanks to our community's generosity, HLF was able to continue its operations uninterrupted and support students throughout the school year. That generosity, combined with the prudent oversight of our Finance & Audit Committee, allowed HLF to fully retain its reserve funds – a notable achievement for a small charity during the pandemic.

Even though the amount of support HLF provided to students and schools was a bit lower than normal last year due to school closures, HLF – and YOU – continued to make a difference for kids.

With your help, we are ready to do more. HLF has set a goal to provide emergency financial support for an additional 500 students over the next few years, and to increase funding for school engagement grants by almost 10%. Based on our results throughout the pandemic, we know we are up for the challenge!

Thank you for allowing us to dream big and help improve the quality of life and educational outcomes for thousands of students every year.

# Investing in Students



1,200+ students received support through the Eliminating Barriers to Learning Fund

1,244 STUDENTS



2020-2021

1,400 STUDENTS



2019-2020

1,187 STUDENTS



2018-2019



1,203 STUDENTS

Food & other necessities



17 STUDENTS

Transportation



10 STUDENTS

Learning opportunities



14 STUDENTS

Post-secondary applications

## HLF Helps Secure Student's Future

Chase comes from a low-income family and could not afford the necessary gear to take part in a co-op placement at a manufacturing plant. Financial support from HLF allowed Chase to purchase steel-toed boots so he could participate in this learning opportunity, as well as the warm winter jacket that he needed in order to get there. Chase completed his coop credits for school – a huge success for him — and he impressed his workplace so much that the company has offered him a full-time job at the end of the school year!





## 96 students benefitted from an award or post-secondary scholarship

96 STUDENTS



2020-2021

85 STUDENTS



2019-2020

91 STUDENTS



2018-2019

## Scholarship Funds Support Focus on Learning

“Lina had a difficult home life throughout her early teens, caught between two warring, divorced parents. She was bullied at school, suffered from depression, and her grades plummeted. She used her own savings to hire a tutor and pass her courses. After coming to Canada in 2017 to live with a relative, Lina focused on rebuilding her life and her mental health. With determination and resilience, she averaged 94% in her graduating year, while juggling an impressive number of volunteer hours in support of community initiatives.

An HLF scholarship donor rewarded Lina’s achievements with a four-year university scholarship, which is taking some of the financial pressure off of her post-secondary career.



**“This award is allowing me to fully focus on my university courses, and providing me with more time to volunteer and become fully engaged with my community. I’ll never forget your support. Thank you for believing in me.”**



## Students at 18 schools benefitted from school support through HLF

18 SCHOOLS



2020-2021

43 SCHOOLS

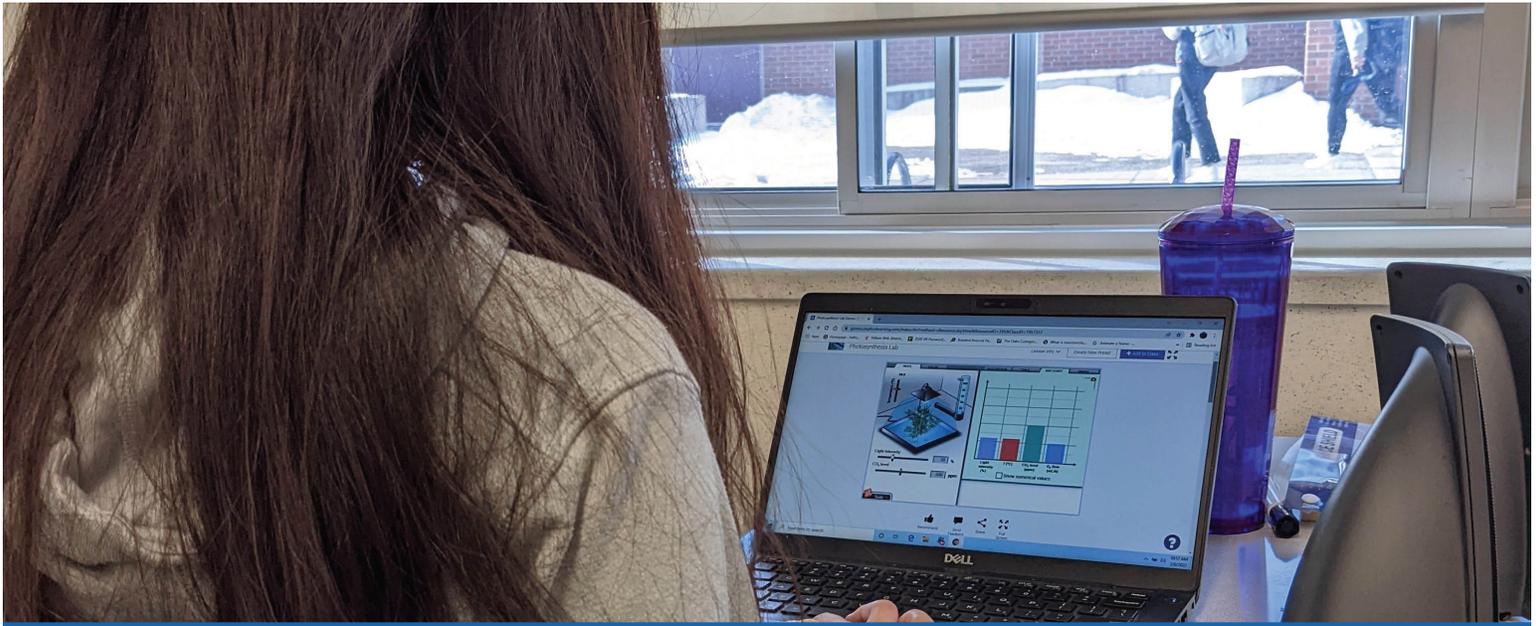


2019-2020

61 SCHOOLS



2018-2019



## Simulation Software Offers Experiential Learning Opportunities

A donation from Siemens allowed close to 5,000 students at all HDSB high schools a unique opportunity last year to create, develop and invent using interactive simulation software, which kids could access regardless of whether they were learning virtually or in-class. Four different software programs allowed teachers to deliver authentic, experiential learning opportunities for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) students to collect data, complete hands-on training and develop specialized skillsets.

# Financials at a Glance

## Revenue



\*(Government grants for operations provided to HLF during the pandemic.)

## Investments in Students



\*\* (School support declined in 2020-21 and 2019-20 due to school closings. HLF did not distribute engagement funds, as schools were unable to implement new programming.)

## Where your money goes



See full financial results at [www.haltonlearningfoundation.ca](http://www.haltonlearningfoundation.ca) under Impact Reports and Financials.

# HLF in the Community



HLF staff delivered 200 Smile Boxes to donors across Halton in 2020.



HLF hosted a golf tournament in August to raise funds for a scholarship in memory of Mike Shepherd, former HLF Board Chair & committee member.



Dozens of organizations stepped up last year to help support students.



## HLF Board of Directors

**Anne Cesak, Chair**  
HR Consultant

**Cheryl Goldring**  
Community Member

**Nicole Stuart**  
HR Country Head Canada, GSK

**Manon Dulude, First Vice Chair**  
Registered Psychotherapist & Executive Coach, Forge Coaching & Consulting

**Marie-Therese Houde**  
President, See It Forward Consulting

**Stuart Miller**  
Director of Education, Halton District School Board (retired July 2021)

**Kim Phillips, Second Vice Chair**  
Community Member

**Nick Klip**  
Operations Manager, Hamilton/Halton, Enbridge

**Lesley Mansfield**  
Chief Executive Officer, Halton Learning Foundation

**Damian Andrews, Treasurer**  
Partner, BLR

**Bob Elliot**  
Director, Government Relations, Burlington Chamber of Commerce



**Halton Learning Foundation**

Eliminating Financial Barriers to Education

**Halton Learning Foundation**

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