

TACKLING POVERTY in HAMILTON *We can do it!*

What is it?

The first-ever, community-wide opportunity to address one of Hamilton's biggest challenges: poverty.

What's the vision?

To eliminate poverty in Hamilton.

How will we get there?

A broad collaboration among Hamilton's private, voluntary and public sectors.

How will it happen?

A Poverty Roundtable of community leaders from various sectors has been formed, led by the City of Hamilton and Hamilton Community Foundation. There are three key steps in their process:

- Consult with and involve the community (Fall 2005)
- Develop a four-year plan (to be launched February 2006)
- Implement the plan as a community (2006-2010)

How big is Hamilton's poverty challenge?

- Hamilton has the highest rate of poverty in Ontario – one in five residents lives in a low-income household. That's more than 95,000 people – enough to fill Copps Coliseum five times.
- Poverty rates are even higher in certain groups, such as children (25%), seniors (29%) and recent immigrants (52%).
- Our poverty rate directly affects the overall quality of life in our city. It has long-term implications for health care needs, economic development and much more.
- The root causes of poverty are wide in scope and complex in nature. Quick fixes aren't the answer. Making a real and sustainable difference – fewer poor people in Hamilton – requires a community-wide effort.

What's happening now?

- Researching what other communities have done to tackle poverty
- Community consultation led by the Roundtable (sharing ideas, discussion, education)
- Building support, finding ambassadors for Tackling Poverty in Hamilton
- Identifying tangible and practical solutions – some short-term, some longer-term
- Beginning to create the four-year plan

Next steps

- Launch the comprehensive poverty reduction plan
- Establish a leadership and organizational structure to support the plan's implementation over the next four years
- Identify a way to evaluate the plan

Want to get involved?

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