



HGCC Foundation in tune with the Hamilton Music Collective

Spotlight on the HGCC Foundation



The Hamilton Music Collective is building a healthier community by investing in the positive development of hundreds of children through music.

The HGCC Foundation is now in its third year of supporting the collective's ambitious - An Instrument for Every Child - program via funds raised at the club's two main charity events; The Borthwick Memorial Golf Tournament and Golf for a Cause.

It's a partnership that is helping to open doors for hundreds of children across our city to experience music at local schools, community centres and through the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hamilton.

"I had a vision for the program when I started to fund it back in 2008 and I must say it's done exactly what we had in mind - to expose young children who would not have had the opportunity to music and musical instruments," says HGCC member, Paul Lloyd, who recommended that the HGCC Foundation support the local community organization.



"Now, if it went Canada-wide, well that would be beyond my wildest dreams."

In his youth, the Hamilton native, played in an "R&B band" in the 1960s, but Lloyd quit playing a few years later and never looked back. His children never picked up instruments, but now hundreds of children across Hamilton do each year.

"The support An Instrument for Every Child receives from the HGCC Foundation and members is huge. We couldn't be doing what we are today without this support over the last three years. It's truly appreciated," Lloyd adds.

An Instrument for Every Child is also focused on the promotion of the healthy growth and development of children through the study, practice and performance of music, as well as; the development of children as musical ambassadors of peace, hope and understanding among people of diverse cultures, backgrounds and beliefs, says Astrid Hepner, Program Director for An Instrument for Every Child and CEO of the Hamilton Music Collective.

"An Instrument for Every Child removes barriers for students who live in poverty; by encouraging children to participate, awarding grants to cover all program expenses and by providing each participant with his/her own instrument free of charge for the duration of the program," Hepner adds. "Our goals are empowerment and accessibility and to enable all children to experience the joy and benefits of playing music, regardless of their socio-economic position."

The program operates at the following elementary schools/community centres: Memorial, Prince of Wales, Dr. Edgar J. Davey, Holy Name of Jesus, Cathy Weaver, Hess Street, St. Brigid's, St. Joseph's, The Gasworks, Notre Dame, Queen Mary and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hamilton.

The HGCC Foundation provided Hamilton Music Collective with grants of \$30,000 in each of 2015 and 2016 with a commitment for a similar amount in 2017 as well. The amount for this year will be finalized at the end of the year when the foundation closes out its activities.

