



# 2016 Creating Vital Solutions Report



Building foundations  
across Oakville

in partnership with



# Building foundations across Oakville

*Last year, The Oakville Community Foundation (The Foundation) published our 2015 Vital Signs® report. The Report revealed that Oakville is a community of contrasts, facing four pressing concerns:*

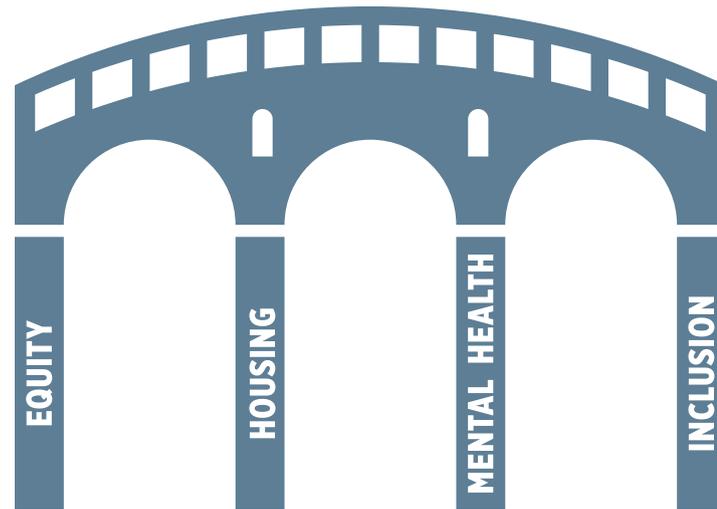
- The Equity Gap
- Housing
- Mental Health
- Inclusion

The Foundation helps the charitable sector work together, better, smarter, and enables better funding of vital work. Having shone a light on our community's needs, the Vital Signs Report has also already served as a catalyst for new collaborations and partnerships in the community and deeper engagement with our Fundholders. The inter-related issues we identified have shaped The Foundation's direction and Strategic Plan for the next three years: *Building More Effective Philanthropy*.

In 2016, we have been focusing on Creating Vital Solutions, as we continue to present information about the issues affecting the quality of life in Oakville. And we reveal a glimpse of what charitable agencies, families, businesses and local governments are doing about them.

As we continue to build on what we have learned, we are partnering in an innovative research project with Sheridan College. Through extensive research and collaborative discussions involving not-for-profit organizations, businesses and government, we will identify additional fundable projects that will help address the issues of equity, affordable housing, mental health and equity & inclusion.

## VitalSigns® 2015 PILLARS



# Help us create solutions to Oakville's biggest challenges.

## The equity gap, affordable housing, mental health, equity & inclusion...

These issues are all linked and how we address them today will shape the Oakville of tomorrow.

You care about this community and you can help ensure a sustainable future.

“Caring about the future is what The Foundation does so well. When the Refugee Crisis evolved, they listened to Fundholders’ desires to do something. They determined what the community needed, and set up a new Fund that will continue to build long-term support for these new families. They made it possible for people to help as much as they could.”

**Peter and Eve Willis, Fundholders**

## Start a fund at The Oakville Community Foundation

We want to empower you!

We want to help you connect with the issues that matter most to you and to give the gift of possibility.

Set the priorities for your giving and let us work directly with you to support the charities and causes you care about most.

When you start a fund, you become a member of The Foundation’s permanent family, joining a group of like-minded individuals and staying informed of what’s happening in your community.

**Contact [wendy@theocf.org](mailto:wendy@theocf.org) or 905 844 3562 to start a fund.**



# Learn More. Do More. Give More.

*Creating Vital Solutions stems from our 2015 Vital Signs® report which is a Vital Program of The Foundation's initiatives, and is generously supported by our Fundholders and Sponsors*

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First Ontario Credit Union

## Title Pillar Sponsors

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The Larry & Gerry Wilson Fund  
The Jim and Yola Rager Family Foundation

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Cogeco Connexion  
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United Way of Oakville

## Community Partners

Community Development Halton  
Halton Poverty Roundtable  
Halton Region  
Sheridan College  
Town of Oakville  
YMCA of Oakville

The Oakville Community Foundation wishes to recognize the community foundations across Canada that are presenting their own local reports, part of the national Vital Signs® report. Vital Signs is a national program led by community foundations and coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada that leverages community knowledge to measure the vitality of our communities and support action towards improving our quality of life.

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**VitalSigns**®



# Bridging The Equity Gap

Title Pillar Sponsor



***The gap between Oakville's wealthy and poor is the widest in the Region. Many organizations are working collaboratively to provide greater stability, security and solutions for low – and middle-income households.***

The Foundation's operating grants provided **5,000+ hours of funding** to support administrative resources for local agencies such as Acclaim Health, Kerr Street Mission, Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre, Halton Women's Place, Halton Family Services and the Oakville Public Library.



Kerr Street Mission, The Sanctuary and Christians Against Poverty (CAP) have created Oakville's first **Community Debt Centre**, which helps families facing financial insecurity transition to sustainable budgeting. To date, 39 people have attended the CAP Money workshop since the beginning of the year, seven clients have called to request debt counseling and three of them have signed up to move forward to Debt Freedom and are at the later stages of the process. Three clients are working through the early stages of the process.



## **Bridging the Equity Gap through Innovative Food Programs and Building:**

This new project from Food for Life, Feeding Halton, Food4Kids and Community Development Halton is a three stage process focused on developing programs to address the unique needs of the working poor.



**29.4%↑** in number of low-income families in Oakville from 2006-2013  
*Source: Community Development Halton, Community Lens, May 2015*

In one area of Oakville, **1 in 10 people between 18 and 64 years old was a working poor individual: double the regional average.**

*Source: Community Development Halton, Community Lens, May 2015*



In Oakville, the average disposable income for the top 10% of the population was 21 times higher than that of the bottom 10%: the Halton region average is 13 times.

*Source: Community Development Halton, Community Lens, December 2015*

**“Today I see no reason why Oakville couldn't be the first town in Canada to fundamentally change for the better our approach to poverty and community well being.”**

**Rob Burton, Mayor of Oakville**

# Housing For Everyone

*Oakville continues to be an expensive place to live, with fewer rental options and higher house prices than 2015. New housing options and supports are alleviating some of these challenges.*

The 50% Housing Mix Target was achieved in 2015:

**59.5% of new units completed in Oakville were townhouse and apartment units.**

Source: CMHC Starts and Completions Survey 1996-2015



In 2016, Halton Region introduced the **Older Adults Property Tax Deferral Program**. This program allows older adults with low income to fully defer their annual property taxes, interest free: helping them stay in their own homes while managing the rising cost of living.

Halton Region has 5% more teens in the care of the Children's Aid Society than the provincial average. Through **Bridging the Gap**, the Children's Aid Foundation of Halton, Halton Children's Aid Society and Halton Region help youth transitioning to living on their own. The program helps them purchase basic life necessities, develop life building skills and provides per diems for Host Homes – families that open their doors to youth in need.



**\$794,540:** Average house resale price in Oakville

**\$357,200:** affordable housing threshold for the purchase of a house in Halton Region

Source: Region of Halton, 2015 State of Housing Report.



**<0.7%**

Oakville's vacancy rate dropped from 1.6% to below 1%.

Source: Region of Halton, 2015 State of Housing Report.



**\$1,303**

The cost of renting continues to increase. From 2014 to 2015, the average market rent in Oakville increased 3.1% to \$1,303

Source: Region of Halton, 2015 State of Housing Report.

# Better Mental Health

*Mental health issues are common and Oakville has had healthier conversations (destigmatization) and greater movement towards better resource coordination.*



Through their **Mental Health Collaborative**, Halton Women's Place & Reach Out Centre For Kids provide direct services to mothers, and their children who are presenting with mental health issues while staying at the shelter.



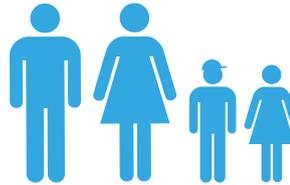
The Halton Multicultural Council, Canadian Mental Health Association and Reach Out Centre for Kids are working together on **Mental Health Supports for Syrian/Iraqi Refugees**. This collaboration supports the resettlement of refugees in Halton region; providing mental health support and ensuring cultural sensitivity in the therapeutic context.



14% increase in diversions from emergency room due to **Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team Pilot**.

The program pairs a registered nurse or social worker with a specially trained uniformed police officer to improve the response to people in mental health crisis.

*Source: Halton Regional Police Service, Mobile Crisis Response Team presentation, February 2016*



**One-Link** is a single point of access for doctor referrals to 10 addiction and mental health service providers funded by the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network.

3,982 new clients have been screened; ensuring people are connected to the mental health and addiction supports and services they need



Between 2012 and 2015 Halton Regional Police Service had a 37% increase in the number of calls related to mental health occurrence.

*Source: Halton Regional Police Service, Mobile Crisis Response Team presentation, February 2016*

# From Diversity to Inclusion

Title Pillar Sponsor



*Oakville is an increasingly diverse community. The time is now to create a community of belonging by removing barriers and empowering each person to reach their full potential.*

The Foundation has committed to following the principles of reconciliation and in September 2016 signed the **The Philanthropic Community's Declaration of Action**.

In response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis, The Foundation established a new fund: the **Oakville Re-Settlement Fund**. Initial funding has provided over 130 bus passes since March 2016. We have also made grants to registered charities who are playing a role in refugee re-settlement issues, needs and solutions in Oakville.



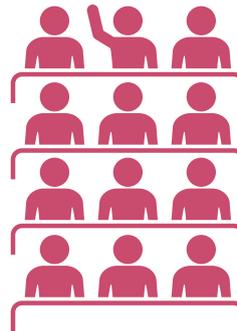
All youth benefit from camping and recreational experiences. Easter Seals Ontario's **Send a Kid to Camp** provides financial subsidy for four children from Oakville, whose families cannot otherwise afford the cost of sending them to a fully accessible camp.



**One in four** Oakville residents has a mother tongue other than English or French and 12 per cent reported speaking a language other than English or French most often at home.

About 46% of the immigrant population in Halton speaking other languages live in Oakville.

Source: Statistics Canada's 2011 Census and Environics Analytics data



**4%** of all Halton public and catholic students identified as Indigenous

Source: "Tell them from me" Survey 2015-16 Halton District School Boards



There are currently 38 recently arrived refugee families in Oakville (since November 2015), for a total of 102 people.

Source: HMC Connections



Program supported by The Oakville Community Foundation