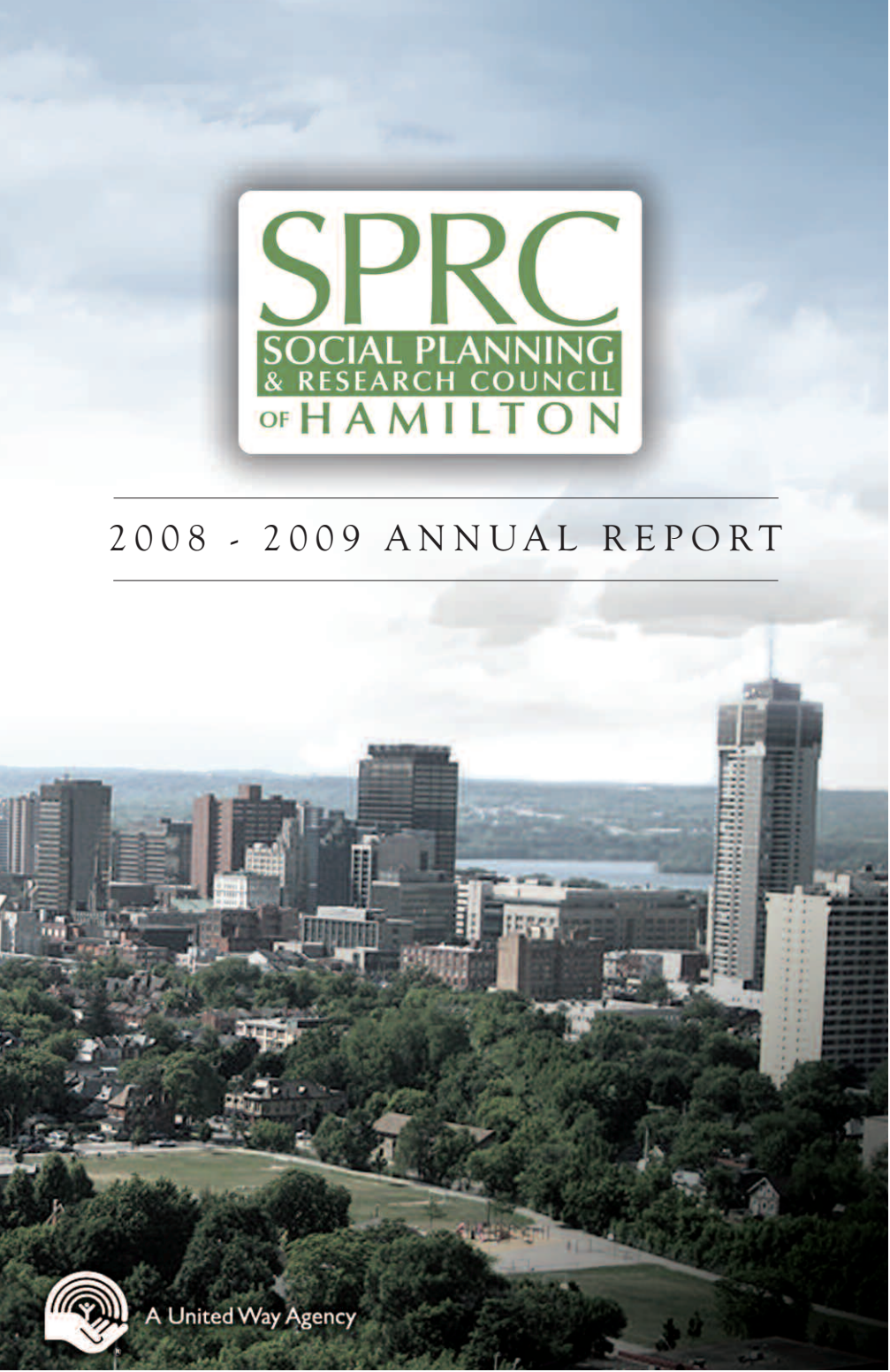
SPRC
SOCIAL PLANNING & RESEARCH COUNCIL OF HAMILTON

2008 - 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



A United Way Agency

Through our research and social planning services, the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton is committed to ensuring that Hamilton is the best community it can be for all who live here and that no one is left out of the benefits and opportunities Hamilton has to offer.

MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the quality of life for all citizens by engaging in activities, this will result in:

- improved social policies and services
- maximized access for all citizens to the opportunities afforded by society
- effective citizen involvement in the continuing consideration of social issues

VISION STATEMENT

To create a community that provides a socially, physically, and economically supportive environment and supports public participation and community integration to preserve and enhance the health and well being of our population.

VALUES

The SPRC commits to ethical practice that will:

- improve community conditions in a way that respects the rights of individuals
- ensure that programs and priorities are developed through processes that ensure an opportunity for input from community members
- endeavor to work for the empowerment of disenfranchised community members and ensure that resources and conditions necessary to well being are available to all
- programs and policies of the SPRC will anticipate and respect diverse values, beliefs and cultures in the community
- create sustainable, equitable, respectful and supportive environments that will enhance the physical and social environment

REPORT of the PRESIDENT and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year will long be remembered as the end of an era of economic prosperity and the beginning of a recession in Hamilton, Canada and much of the western world. It was the year in which a global economic crisis took hold. International financial markets faltered, manufacturing industries stalled as did patterns of consumer spending. The local economy, particularly the manufacturing sector in Hamilton, has suffered and speculation about how deep and how long this economic decline will continue remains a current topic of debate. The Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, like other voluntary sector organizations, has and continues to collaborate with others in the community to maintain our investment in a number of vital and innovative projects, while at the same time, balance these against the need to formulate strategies that respond to dramatic changes in the social well being of our community.

Our work to advocate for more affordable housing in Hamilton has produced good results. Hamilton is ready to move quickly and maximize every opportunity to make new investments in affordable housing. We are having success in our partnership with the Aboriginal community to deliver housing and crisis support services as needed to the urban Aboriginal population in Hamilton. We have continued to explore service and support needs for street-involved youth and aid in development of new resources for the successful engagement of street youth in community life.

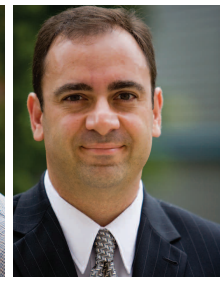
We have expanded dramatically the number of student nourishment programs operating in schools and community centers across the city through the Hamilton Partners in Nutrition project. Our Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) partnerships have been expanded to include three new partners to that system: Wesley Urban Ministries (WUM), babyshowers and the East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club of Hamilton. Their participation in CAPC will dramatically enhance our capacity to provide support and engagement opportunities to families in east Hamilton.

Our research and community development services have added support to a great many partner initiatives that contribute to the health and well being of the community. These include support to groups working to address poverty and discrimination based on racism and sexual orientation. It needs to be said that our evolving relationship with the United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton has enabled us not only to be supported in this work but also integrate their resources and our capacity for service for the benefit of many marginalized, oppressed and disadvantaged members of our community.

Our success over the past year, as ever, is due primarily to the skill, ability and dedication of our volunteers, staff, students and Board members. They have all continued to work exceedingly well together to make a positive change in our community. During the year the transition of long standing staff members from the CATCH program and the Family Home Visitors program to WUM was completed. We are confident that this transition will enhance the value of these services to the community and we are grateful to WUM for working cooperatively through this change and with integrity.

The year ahead promises to be as challenging as any we have faced in more than a decade, but the SPRC remains well equiped to effectively support our community response to the changing economic and social conditions.

Don Jaffray
Executive Director



Mark Abradjian
President

2008-09 HIGHLIGHTS

An updated Incomes and Poverty in Hamilton report was released. The report details the distribution of incomes in the City of Hamilton and the level of poverty based on the most commonly reported measure – Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Off (LICO). The report describes changes in average incomes for families, charts the growing income gap in Hamilton, estimates the number of residents living in poverty, notes the crisis in poverty for lone parent families, maps the distribution of low income persons across the city, and documents the inadequacy of Ontario Works benefit rates.

Six Community Profiles describing the major communities of Hamilton were published. These Community Profiles were developed to aid in understanding the unique social characteristics important to, yet distinct about, each community within the City of Hamilton. This series of reports looks at a number of demographic variables across each community within the City of Hamilton. The information provided can be used by community members to identify actions that might be taken to respond to changing conditions and to continue to improve community life.

The SPRC worked with the Street Youth Planning Collaborative in developing a community plan to reduce street involvement among youth leaving the child welfare system.

CAPC Hamilton's Annual Summerfest was held in August 2008 at the Dominic Agostino Riverdale Community Centre. CAPC Hamilton partnered with the Hamilton Police Service, the City of Hamilton Recreation Department and Lightway Church to organize this event which was attended by an estimated 800 community members. Summerfest brings the community together and highlights the services available to community members.

The SPRC partnered with the Hamilton Executive Directors' Aboriginal Coalition, Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, Urban Native Homes, Native Women's Centre, and the Aboriginal Health Access Centre to deliver the Aboriginal Homelessness Partnership Initiative which continued to produce results for Aboriginal people who are homeless. Assertive outreach services, access to basic needs including emergency food and prescription medications, and access to traditional healing opportunities were all increased in 2008/09.

Bridging the Digital Divide was funded by the Hamilton Community Foundation's Tackling Poverty Together Fund, and increased access to computers and technology in low-income neighbourhoods. The SPRC worked with small businesses, community volunteers, and the Hamilton Police Service in order to find computers that could be refurbished and donated to neighbourhood hubs. There were over 120 computers donated to neighbourhood hubs and families in need.

The SPRC, with funding from the Canada Summer Jobs Initiative employed students to work for as program assistants to aid in the delivery of CATCH youth programs. A student also worked with CAPC preparing a resource manual for those working in Riverdale and other culturally diverse communities.

Funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services that is administered regionally by Haldimand-Norfolk R.E.A.C.H enabled SPRC to establish and support Student Nutrition Programs in Hamilton. Over 2.1 million nutritious meals/snacks were served to over 25,000 students. Over 800,000 meals were served (Breakfast, Early Morning Meal and Lunch) providing three food groups. Over 1.3 million snacks were served providing two food groups. Over 2000 volunteers have been contributing to the overall operation of all Student Nutrition Programs. As of June 2009 there will be over 120 Student Nutrition Programs in Hamilton.

The Shovel Ready: Affordable Housing Opportunities Across Ontario conference successfully convened in October 2008. Nearly 100 people attended the conference hosted by the SPRC, The Affordable Housing Flagship, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the City of Hamilton.

The SPRC supported the Photovoice Hamilton - Youth Project which hosted a special exhibit in November 2008 at the Westside Concert Theatre, with funding support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This project engaged 38 young people who shared theirperspectives through truly compelling photographs.

The Hamilton Social Enterprise Network, a partnership between the SPRC and Today's Family Early Learning and Childcare, and funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, successfully fostered the formation of a community network. The Network provides information and support to new groups and individuals in Hamilton interested in creating or expanding social enterprise initiatives.

The SPRC, through a grant from KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, supported the Hamilton Working Group Poverty Reduction Strategy. Actions included the printing and distribution of postcards created to signal support for an effective and continuing poverty reduction strategy in Ontario.

The SPRC has been assisting the Jobs Prosperity Collaborative. The SPRC is co-leading the Quality of Life working group, which is developing strategies for maximizing high standards for arts, culture, heritage, ecology and health and wellness for the local population.

The SPRC has been providing leadership to the local grassroots movement supporting the 25 in 5 Network that had been seeking to have the government set a comprehensive target for poverty reduction of 25% in 5 years. In December 2008, Deb Matthews, the Minister responsible for Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy, released a plan for reducing poverty in the Province over the next few years reflecting those targets.

The SPRC is a founding partner of the Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative which has brought together a wide array of local social service providers, educators, healthcare professionals and committed individuals. This group is focused on implementing the substantial recommendations of the SPRC to address needs of the LGBTQ community in Hamilton.

The SPRC, in partnership with The Well Hamilton, provided Positive Space training to all staff at the HWDSB Education Centre. The completion of this training signals the HWDSB's commitment to making all schools safe spaces for LGBTQ people.

May 7, 2009

Auditors' Report

To the Directors and Members of
Social Planning and Research Council
of Hamilton

We have audited the balance sheet of Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton as at March 31, 2009 and the statements of accumulated net assets and financial activities and related schedule of revenue for the operating fund, statements of financial activities and accumulated net assets for the capital and stabilization reserve funds and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2009 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Pettinelli, Mastroluisi LLP

Pettinelli, Mastroluisi LLP
Chartered Accountants Hamilton, Ontario
Licensed Public Accountants

NOTE: The information given in this Annual Report is an extract from the financial statements. The complete financial statements, including all related notes to the financial statements, are available on request.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF HAMILTON

(Incorporated without share capital under the laws of Ontario)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND ACCUMULATED NET ASSETS
OPERATING FUND

	Year Ended March 31, 2009			Year Ended March 31, 2008		
REVENUE	Core Operations	Funded Projects	Total	Core Operations	Funded Projects	Total
Support from public	$231,054	$1,548,585	$1,779,639	$226,777	$784,588	$1,011,365
Support from governments	38,765	1,138,868	1,177,633	37,636	1,016,553	1,054,189
Operating revenue	225,626	-	225,626	231,887	-	231,887
Total revenue	495,445	2,687,453	3,182,898	496,300	1,801,141	2,297,441
EXPENSES						
Salaries and consultant fees	327,526	854,423	1,181,949	311,609	814,713	1,126,322
Employment health and retirement benefits	64,396	123,627	188,023	65,092	129,555	194,647
Professional fees	3,603	16,910	20,513	3,105	22,144	25,249
Service contracts	-	1,451,487	1,451,487	-	544,752	544,752
Supplies	13,203	30,255	43,458	7,829	25,129	32,958
Telephone	9,775	6,138	15,913	10,040	6,502	16,542
Postage and shipping	6,778	806	7,584	10,155	728	10,883
Rent and insurance	31,830	17,573	49,403	34,394	20,028	54,422
Public relations	749	6,114	6,863	5,480	232	5,712
Staff transportation	2,433	13,078	15,511	1,668	8,981	10,649
Conferences	1,763	10,826	12,589	3,471	75	3,546
Volunteer recognition	3,402	9,200	12,602	2,599	19,968	22,567
Organization dues and periodicals	3,686	-	3,686	1,962	-	1,962
Equipment and maintenance contracts	13,231	11,751	24,982	18,820	6,528	25,348
Other administration	1,876	135,265	137,141	4,400	201,806	206,206
	484,251	2,687,453	3,171,704	480,624	1,801,141	2,281,765
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	11,194	-	11,194	15,676	-	15,676
Accumulated net assets at beginning of the year	231	-	231	55	-	55
Transfer to Stabilization Reserve Fund	(10,500)	-	(10,500)	(15,500)	-	(15,500)
Accumulated net assets at end of the year	$ 925	$ -	$ 925	$ 231	$ -	$ 231

2008/2009 SPRC PRIORITIES & ACTIONS

FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE

- Assessment of Child Care Services in the Dundas Community
- Baby's Best Start
- Best Start Network
- Catholic Children Aid's Society Anti Racist Organizational Change Initiative
- Childcare Micro-Enterprise Project
- Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)
  - After School Academic Support Program
  - babyshowers
  - CATCHville
  - Chill Hill Open Access Center
  - Community Access to Child Health (CATCH)
  - Hamilton Public Library
  - Healthy Babies Health Children
  - Home Management Workers
  - Skills Through Activity and Recreation Hamilton (S.T.A.R.)
  - Today's Family Early Learning and Child Care
- Correctional Services Consortium – Needs Assessment
- Family Home Visitors (Parents Helping Parents Program)
- Hamilton Chinese Community Services Centre
- Kids and Community – A Parent Readiness Project
- Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club
- Stoney Creek Wraparound Project
- Under the Willows Program Evaluation

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

- Aboriginal Homelessness Partnering Strategy
- Addressing the Needs of Street-Involved & Homeless Youth Project
- Affordable Housing Flagship Initiative
- Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee
- Hamilton Executive Directors' Aboriginal Coalition (HEDAC)
- McQuesten Planning Team
- Ontario Youth Against Violence: Hamilton Project (OYAV)
- Photovoice Hamilton
- Solutions for Housing Action Committee (SHAC)
- Hamilton Tenant Education Project
- Woman Abuse Working Group (WAWG)

EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

- Community Coalition Against Racism
- Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion Project Evaluation
- Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative
- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Student Equity Inventory
- Indo Canadian Networking Council – South Asian Seniors Survey

IMPACTS OF POVERTY

- 25 in 5 Hamilton
- Bridging the Digital Divide
- Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits
- Growing School Nutrition Programs
- Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion
- Hamilton Health Care Providers Against Poverty
- Hamilton Partners in Nutrition (HPIN)
- Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction (HRPR)
- Hamilton Social Enterprise Network
- Income Security Working Group (ISWG)
- Incomes and Poverty Report in Hamilton
- Living Wage and Fair Employment Coalition
- ROCK – Raising Our Children's Kids
- Seniors and Poverty Working Group
- Skills Development Flagship Initiative
- Temp Workers' Rights Group
- Youth Mentorship and Skills Development Initiative

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND NEW ISSUES

- Communications and Telephone Competency for Careers Program – St. Joseph's Immigrant Women's Centre
- Community Economic Development & Micro-Enterprise Project
- Community Mapping Service
- Community Profiles
- Community Social Data Strategy
- Human Services Planning Table
- Jobs Prosperity Collaborative & Quality of Life Project
- Social Planning Network of Ontario

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008/2009

OFFICERS
Mark Abradjian, President
Dale Brown, Vice-President
Isaac Rashid, Secretary/Treasurer
Mary Meyer, Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS
Term Ending 2009
Mark Abradjian
Victor Abraham
Catherine Drea*
Kim Nolan
Isaac Rashid

Term Ending 2010
Dale Brown
Jay Sengupta*

Term Ending 2011
Robert Alexander
Tim Cook
Mary Meyer
Samia Qadim
Carmen Salccicioli
Dominic Spadafora
Debbie Wilkie

HONORARY DIRECTORS
Judge T.A. Beckett
Archbishop J. Bothwell
Anthony Butler
Marvin Caplan
Dick Capling
Dr. Larry W. Chambers
Carolann Fernandes
Peter McDonald
George McLaunchlin
Grahame Meredith
Michael Moore
David Seldon
Mary Ann Seldon
Urmas Soomet
Colleen Van Berkel

**Resigned during the term*

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES:

ISSUES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:
Dale Brown, Chairperson
Mary Meyer
Mark Abradjian
Isaac Rashid

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Mary Meyer, Chairperson
Mark Abradjian
Victor Abraham

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
Jeff Neven, Chairperson*
Warren Korol*
Kim Nolan

ADVISORY COMMITTEES
Community Action Program for Children Riverdale
CAPC Council
Huda Adotaleb
Souad Ailouti
Evelyn Book
MJ Dann*
Shani Doherty
Raimonda Gorishti*
Wendy Gould*
Marina Granilo
Hana Hasan
Khitam Hassan
Frieda Kim
Tammy McDonald
Alison Miller
Samia Qadim, SPRC Board Liaison
Shagufta Qureshi
Tracy Rodgers
Corrinna Romano
Clair Wilson
Marianne Vrbanic

**Resigned during the year*

STAFF MEMBERS

Don Jaffray, M.A., Executive Director

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:
Caroline Eyk, Financial Administrator
Christina Walters, Executive Assistant
Deirdre Dixon, Administrative Assistant

PROGRAM STAFF:
Mark Fraser, MSW, Senior Social Planner
Deirdre Pike, Social Planner
Jeff Wingard, MSW, Senior Social Planner

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN PROJECT STAFF:
Alison Miller, Community Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator

PARENTS HELPING PARENTS/ FAMILY HOME VISITORS:
Tammy McDonald, Senior Planner – CAPC Program
Munawar Begum*
Leakhena Chea*
Raimonda Gorishti*
Ruth Hazell*
Badra Jayaratne*
Mai Pham*

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO CHILD HEALTH (CATCH):
Judy Kloosterman, Program Coordinator*
Jadranka Petrovic, Program Assistant*

STAFF MEMBERS

PROJECT STAFF
Barbara Archer
Nellie Atta*
Kenneth Barwick*
Sheila Behnke
Jessica Chatelain*
Pamela Chatelain*
Lisa Czegeny*
Sue Djordjevich*
Kailin Donaldson*
Courtney Elder*
Marina Granilo
Faye Grasley*
Dale Hawkins*
Cory Haystead*
Sarah Humphrey*
Marlyn King*
Bhairavi Kumar
Nikki Latka*
Amanda Lucek*
Kelly Maloney*
Sara Mayo
Cindy Sue McCormack
Ashley McLean*
Patti McNaney
Liz Millar
Rachelle Mitchell*
Ashley Montreuil*
Morgan Moodie*
Sarah Mount*
Barbara Nichols*
Bojan Ozimkovic*
Diana Persaud*
Sanju Sagar*
Mandeep Sandhu*
Amrita Singh*
Jennie Vengris

CAREER PLACEMENT STUDENTS
Meagan Goodhand
Rachael Pfeil
Heather Stevens
Jennifer Williams

RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS
Ivy Morton
Amy Rogers
Muna Saleh

**Resigned or completed project during the year*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Social Planning and Research Council would like to thank its major funders for their continued support of the work of the council.

United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton

Hamilton

We greatly appreciate the support of the Public Health Agency of Canada, Service Canada, Hamilton Community Foundation, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, the Freeman Foundation, Haldimand-Norfolk R.E.A.C.H., Community Development Halton, McMaster University, and the South Pole for Kids Expedition team.

During the past twelve months, we have enjoyed the opportunity of working with the following voluntary sector groups and agencies:

Aboriginal Health Centre

babyshowers

Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle

Affordable Housing Flagship of Hamilton

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hamilton and Burlington

Breakfast for Learning

Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits (CAWDB)

Canadian Council on Social Development

Canadian Mental Health Association

Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton

Children's Aid Society of Hamilton

City of Hamilton

Community Centre for Media Arts (CCMA)

Community Consultation Committee on Social Housing

Elizabeth Fry Society of Hamilton Branch (The)

Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

Hamilton Chinese Community Services

Hamilton Council on Aging

Hamilton Executive Directors' Aboriginal Coalition (HEDAC)

Hamilton Housing Corporation

Hamilton Independent Living Program

Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)

Hamilton Public Library – Red Hill Branch

Hamilton Regional Indian Centre

Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction (HRPR)

Hamilton Training Advisory Board

Hamilton's Centre for Civic Inclusion

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

Housing Help Centre

Income Security Working Group

Intercultural Community Centre

Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club

Jobs Prosperity Collaborative

McQuesten Legal and Community Services

McMaster University – Faculty of Health Sciences

McMaster University – Faculty of Social Sciences

Mission Services

Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology

Native Women's Centre

Rotary Club of Hamilton

Settlement and Integration Services Organization (SISO)

Sexual Assault Centre of Hamilton and Area

Skills Through Activity and Recreation Hamilton (S.T.A.R.)

Social Planning Network of Ontario

Solutions for Housing Action Committee

St. Joseph Immigrant Women's Centre

St. Leonard's Society of Hamilton

St. Matthew's House

Street Youth Planning Collaborative

Street Involved Youth Network

Today's Family Early Learning & Child Care

Urban Native Homes

Volunteer Hamilton

Wesley Urban Ministries

Woman Abuse Working Group (WAWG)

YMCA

Youth Employment Network

YWCA

A special thanks goes to the friends of the SPRC for their donations in 2008/09. Also the citizens of Hamilton who participated in SPRC events and consultations.

The Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) continues to be successful largely as a result of the important work done through our partners in this project. These partners include: the Public Health Services and the Community Services Department of the City of Hamilton, S.T.A.R. Hamilton, the CATCH Committee, St. Joseph's Centre for Ambulatory Health Services, Today's Family, babyshowers, Wesley Urban Ministries, Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club and the Hamilton Public Library. We would also like to thank and acknowledge the committed volunteers who have made CAPC so successful.

The support and involvement of education institutions in the community work of SPRC continues to be a success. We would like to acknowledge Hill Park Secondary School, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, Mohawk College, and McMaster University School of Social Work for their contributions.

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
162 King William Street, Suite 103
Hamilton, ON L8R 3N9
Tel: 905.522.1148
Fax: 905.522.9124
E-mail: sprc@sprc.hamilton.on.ca
Website: www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca