



A COMMUNITY
OF CONTRASTS
Oakville's **VitalSigns**® 2015



oakville
community
foundation

in partnership with

O'CONNOR
MACLEOD
HANNA LLP



OAKVILLE'S Vital Signs®

The Oakville Community Foundation's Vital Signs® report aims to identify the major issues affecting quality of life in the Oakville community. It also shines a light on the good work being done by charitable agencies, citizens and local governments to improve the lives of vulnerable individuals and families. This is not a report card; it's an overview of who we are and how we are changing as a community.

The 2015 report is the result of more than 50 points of contact with a wide range of organizations across Oakville and Halton Region that share a commitment to our community and its people. And this is just the beginning. We believe the report will encourage more voices to join the conversation about how we can learn more, do more and give more to create a community where everyone feels they belong.



REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE OAKVILLE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Vital Signs® - The What and The Why. At the Oakville Community Foundation, we see our role as the connectors of people who care to causes that matter. Vital Signs® helps us all understand what is needed to help make the lives of all Oakville residents a little better.

The data-supported Vital Signs® report is a reader-friendly publication that is widely used by our donors, our Fundholders, business and community leaders and charities. It's designed to ensure it is accessible to anyone as we want children, parents and more to read this report, so we can keep the conversation going about these important issues and opportunities.

We are also excited by the opportunity that Vital Signs® offers both our Fundholders and our Board, to see where change can be effectively guided. I want to thank Rusty, Sarah and The Foundation team, along with countless community partners, who have done extensive work developing this report.

The Board and staff are embarking on a new multi-year Strategic Plan and Vital Signs® plays an integral role in building the long-term strategic directions for The Foundation. Vital Signs® is the tool that helps us all understand the needs and assets of our town and therein what we can do and why, all with the intent to enable positive change for the vitality of our community.

Please consider this report as it belongs to all of us, to benefit all of us.

- Nick Jelinek, Chair

As the new CEO, I'm joining The Foundation at a critical but exciting time. Significant work has been done to date by my predecessor Rusty Baillie and The Foundation team, working across the community to identify and bring community needs to light. But more work needs to be done to address these priority areas together, and we're hoping you'll join us.

The discussion of poverty has been difficult in our community which is renowned for its affluence. Oakville is a community of contrasts. While there are many who live in Canada's top one per cent of wealthiest lifestyles, Oakville also hosts some of the poorest areas in Halton Region.

The Foundation is a bridge between these two communities, offering our philanthropic families the opportunity to make a difference today and leave a legacy for the future. The Foundation also offers the opportunity for the community to come together and build lasting solutions to these current challenges.

To bring real change to our community, we need to think, act and lead differently. The Foundation will be bringing the custodians of these solutions together locally to work on alleviating these challenges collaboratively.

I look forward to all that Vital Signs® can offer as a catalyst for networking, for stimulating important conversations about quality of life, and for doing more.

This report is a call to action. Please join us.

- Wendy Rinella, CEO



CELEBRATING OUR **FIRST** **VITAL GRANT** RECIPIENT

“Current longitudinal research on lone mothers living in poverty in the GTA has consistently shown that those who are provided with multiple supports such as housing, child care and recreation programs, transportation and funding for a working wardrobe are the ones most likely to become and remain self-sufficient.”

- Sara Cummings, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Sheridan College

SMART & CARING COMMUNITIES

The Foundation's Smart & Caring Initiatives, launched in 2014, offer unique purposes for supporting and guiding the growth and vitality of our community. One of these initiatives is our Vital Grant.

WHAT IS A VITAL GRANT?

A Vital Grant supports innovative, forward-thinking projects that also fit strict criteria. The program:

- Enables people to move beyond symptomatic relief.
- Transforms people's lives.
- Removes barriers to success.
- Provides multi-year support.

HOMEWARD BOUND HALTON

THE FIRST VITAL GRANT INITIATIVE

Funding a pathway out of poverty for single mothers and their children.

Homeward Bound Halton is a new, coordinated, wraparound service delivery model that provides the key elements that struggling single mothers need to become self-supporting. The innovative model, based on the highly successful WoodGreen Community Services program in Toronto, provides single mothers with a fully-furnished apartment for up to four years, a college education, job internships, fully funded child care, and career placements. The Oakville Community Foundation and its Fundholders through the Vital Grant Fund, have funded two groups of five single mothers, each for three years of college education.



“As an integral part of our community, the Oakville Community Foundation enhances the quality of life for the residents of Halton Region, by connecting people with the critical services and support they need.”

- Gary Carr, Halton Regional Chair

“The Oakville Community Foundation does great work supporting our community. Their ongoing commitment and efforts to make Oakville a better place to live, work, learn and grow have contributed to collective, long-term sustainable solutions for our town.”

- Rob Burton, Mayor of Oakville

OAKVILLE IS A COMMUNITY OF CONTRASTS

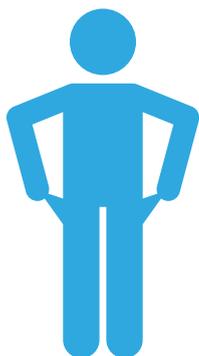
HOME TO THE HIGHEST & LOWEST INCOMES IN HALTON REGION



160K Average household income¹



100K Median household income for a couple family (41 percent higher than that of Ontario)²



8.6% Overall poverty rate³

10.6% Poverty rate for children under 18⁴

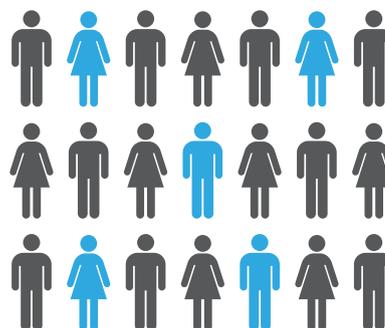
MORE PEOPLE, MORE DIVERSITY



Population increase from 2011 (182,455)⁵ to 2014 (187,500)⁶



31% Immigrant population⁷



24% Visible minorities in population⁸

NOTE: Local data was not always available to create an isolated picture of life in Oakville. Where necessary, this report includes data for Halton Region, including Oakville. Percentages may be rounded for ease of presentation.

NOT EVERYONE CAN LIVE OR WORK HERE



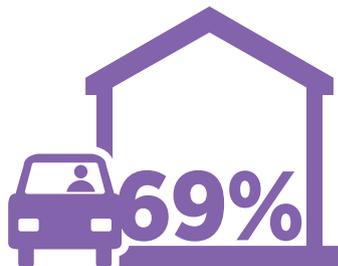
New home sales in 2014
(the highest number in Halton Region)⁹



Median sale price of a home¹⁰



All new home sales above affordability threshold in 2014¹¹



Commuters that work outside of Oakville¹²

CRIME IS LOW IN THE REGION, BUT NOT EVERYONE IS SAFE



#1 Halton Region had the lowest overall crime rate, violent crime rate, and property crime rate, of the 12 largest municipalities in Ontario in 2014¹³



302 Number of Oakville calls to the SAVIS Halton (Sexual Assault & Violence Intervention Services of Halton) 24-hour support/crisis line last year¹⁴



227 Number of Oakville residents who accessed services from Halton Women's Place shelter in 2014-15. Another 251 crisis calls came from the Oakville community¹⁵

THE EQUITY GAP HOUSING MENTAL HEALTH INCLUSION

FOUR KEY ISSUES IN OAKVILLE

Many factors can affect our individual and collective well-being. As part of the development of the Vital Signs® report, we invited representatives from our local and regional governments, charitable agencies, health organizations, community roundtables, school boards, and faith communities to participate in a conversation about the key issues affecting quality of life in Oakville.

On the following pages, we explore the findings around the most often-cited issues:

- **The Equity Gap**
- **Housing**
- **Mental Health**
- **Inclusion**

We also highlight examples of what is being done on a local level to build resilience and hope in the next generation of Oakville citizens.

NOTE: Where noted, data sources referenced throughout the report may be found at vitalsigns.theocf.org/#learn-more.





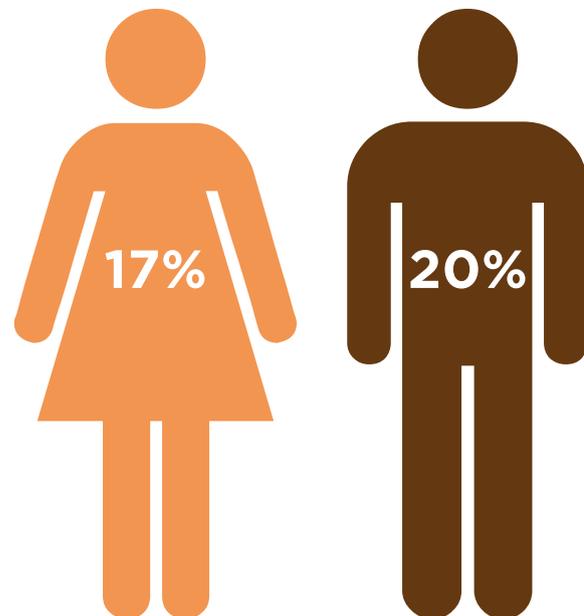
BRIDGING THE EQUITY GAP

“The precarious class—the shrinking middle class due to growing income disparity, underemployment and the rising cost of living—is at the greatest risk of falling into poverty.”

– Michael Shaen, Director of Community Development,
Halton Poverty Roundtable

A 2013 report on the growth of precarious employment in the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton (e.g. insecure work through temp agencies, contracts or freelance) found that employment insecurity affects household well-being mainly in low and middle-income households and has a stronger impact on people in low-income households.¹⁷

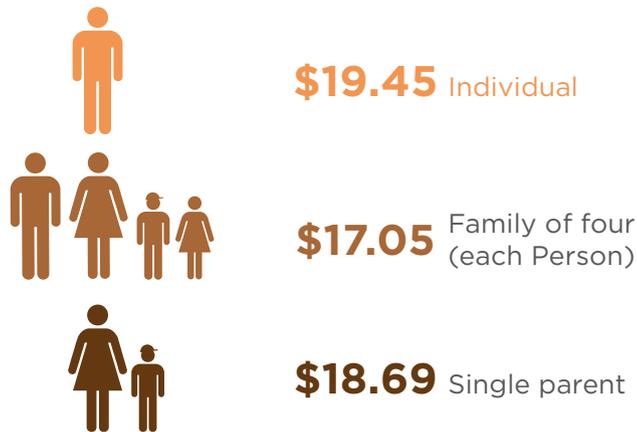
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE NEEDED FOR THOSE GETTING STARTED



Halton youth (15-24) unemployment rate in 2011¹⁹

In 2010, 11.4 per cent of Oakville households (families of two or more) earned less than \$30,000—higher than the provincial average of 10.9 per cent and almost double the national average of 6.0 per cent. The largest income bracket (30.7 per cent of family households) earned \$150,000 and over.¹⁶

ADEQUATE WAGES AND FULL TIME WORK WOULD INCREASE SECURITY



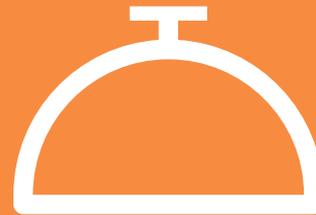
Estimated hourly living wage for full-time, full-year work¹⁸

According to the Halton Newcomers Strategy, immigrants have higher unemployment rates than the Canadian-born population, are less likely to find jobs in their chosen field and are more likely to be low-income. To improve employment opportunities, Halton Multicultural Council, Sheridan College and The Centre for Skills Development and Training offer free programs to help internationally-trained workers. These programs include: language training, workplace culture, essential skills, job search and employment preparation.

FOOD SECURITY

Food For Life distributes fresh produce, dairy and meat to 23 sites in Oakville, including the Kerr Street Mission. The number of clients served in Oakville in 2014 increased by 29 per cent over the previous year due to more demand and the addition of three new distribution sites. Of the clients served, 25 per cent were fully employed and 5 per cent owned their own home; 40 per cent of clients were children.

Food For Life provides the equivalent of more than 46,500 meals per month in Oakville.²⁰ An average of 800 people per month use the food bank at Kerr Street Mission and Food4Kids provides weekend backpacks full of nutritious food to 131 food-insecure children at 19 Oakville elementary schools.²¹



46,500

**Meals distributed
by Food For Life
each month**



EMPIRE

HOUSING FOR EVERYONE

“Access to safe and stable housing is a basic human right that impacts all aspects of an individual’s life. Where you live and the support available to you can influence your health, happiness, employment and your sense of belonging in a community.”

- Gary Carr, Halton Regional Chair

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS HARD TO FIND IN OAKVILLE

Housing is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30 per cent of gross household income with enough left over to meet other daily living needs. In 2011, Oakville had the highest proportion of households that were spending more than 30 per cent of their income on shelter: 44 per cent of renters and 20 per cent of owners.²²



4%

Percentage of affordable new home sales (\$348k or less)²³



<1.6%

Oakville rental vacancy rate, 2014²⁴



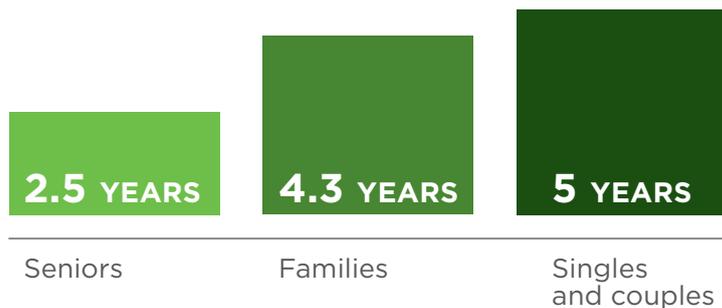
\$1,264

Average market rent in Oakville, 2014²⁵

THE WAIT FOR ASSISTED HOUSING IS LONG

Assisted or rent-geared-to-income (RGI) housing is available to Halton Region households earning \$44,800 or less annually. The estimated shortage of assisted housing in 2014 was 400-900 units.²⁶ Halton Region has set a target of creating at least 550 new housing opportunities by 2024; up to 900 units with the assistance of government and community partners.²⁷

Average Wait Times



SUPPORT IS LOW FOR HIGH DENSITY HOUSING

Although more than 57 per cent of new home completions last year were townhomes or apartment units, the 2015 Town of Oakville Citizen Survey found little support for high density housing as part of future growth.

High Density Housing Survey Results

Support high density housing around transit hubs

6%

Ensure a mix of housing throughout the town

14%

Protect the character of neighbourhoods

30%

Results of 2015 Oakville Citizen Survey

HELPING THE HOMELESS IN OAKVILLE

The Halton Lighthouse Shelter and Family Emergency Shelter, operated in Oakville by the Salvation Army, is the only homeless shelter in Halton Region. The 40-bed facility (includes eight for clients with mental health issues) had almost 900 admissions in 2014: the majority were males, 25 to 40 years of age. The most common reasons for needing shelter support in 2014 were: no available housing (37 per cent); family or relationship breakdown (18 per cent); and financial crisis (7 per cent).

The shelter is seeing a growing number of clients 50+, often with mental health issues such as dementia, or requiring more physical care than the shelter staff can provide. There are also many repeat clients who are experiencing chronic poverty and homelessness.

BETTER MENTAL HEALTH

“There’s been an increase in awareness with more acceptance and more talking about mental health as an important issue.”

– Jason Barr, Director, Client Services and Program Development, Canadian Mental Health Association-Halton

Thanks to more open discussions and efforts to reduce the stigma of mental illness, more people are seeking treatment, families are finding support and new conversations have started around how addictions and mental health issues affect child and youth development, immigrant families and older adults.

YOUNGER PATIENTS, MORE COMPLEX NEEDS

Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK) served 1,016 clients from Oakville between April 2014 and March 2015, with many clients receiving multiple services. The top issue treated by ROCK is anxiety (in children as young as five).²⁸



2 YEARS

Typical wait time for psychological assessments

ISOLATED OLDER ADULTS ARE AT GREATER RISK

Treatment needs may be unrecognized, attributed to getting older by health care professionals or invisible due to the isolation of living alone.³¹



ONE IN FOUR

Older adults are living with an illness or a mental health problem such as depression, anxiety or dementia³²



50%

People over the age of 80 who report feeling lonely³³

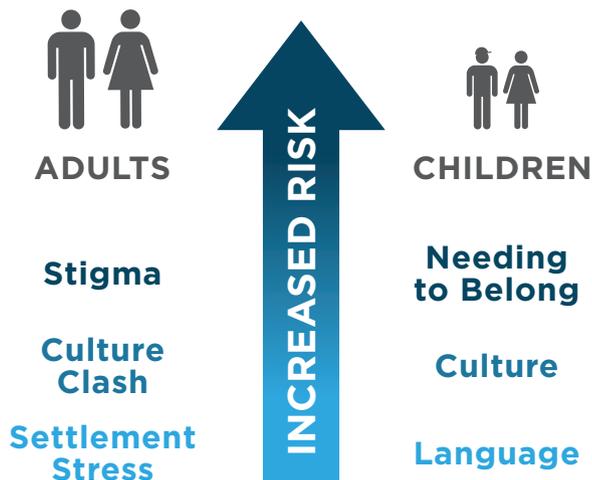
EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT IS HELPING

STRIDE (Supported Training and Rehabilitation in Diverse Environments) is a vocational rehabilitation program aimed at providing employment assistance to individuals living with mental health issues, to address their employment goals, support entry or re-entry into the competitive workplace, and retain employment. STRIDE served 171 Oakville residents last year; 54 were hired in competitive employment positions.

CRISIS CALLS INCREASING

COAST (Crisis Outreach and Support Team) is a program partnership between the Canadian Mental Health Association Halton Region and Halton Police that serves residents (16+) who have a serious mental health issue and are in crisis. Oakville occurrences account for more than a third of all calls to the 24-hour crisis line and halfway into 2015, calls from Oakville residents had increased by 30 per cent over the total calls for the previous year.

IMMIGRANT FAMILIES FACE ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES³⁰



PATIENT-CENTERED CARE

oneLink is a new referral program offered through the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network and led by Halton Healthcare Services. oneLink offers a single point of access for referrals to 10 addiction and mental health service providers and is currently in a pilot phase coordinating referrals from primary care into Halton Healthcare and Trillium Health Partners mental health programs. Individual needs and backgrounds of clients - language, culture and personal preference - are respected to ensure each person feels supported and valued.



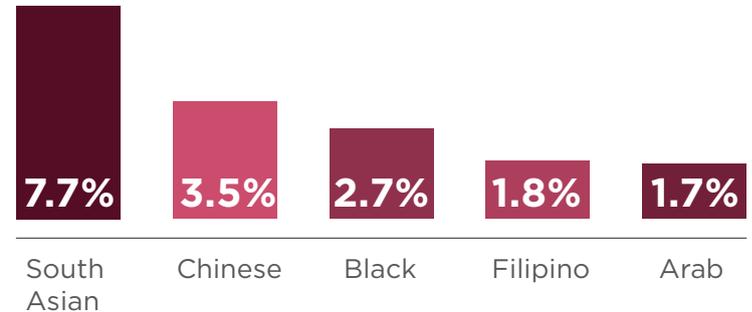
FROM DIVERSITY TO INCLUSION

“Diversity will not automatically lead to inclusion. A policy that only recognizes differences will not remove barriers to access or make an organization truly representative of its community.”

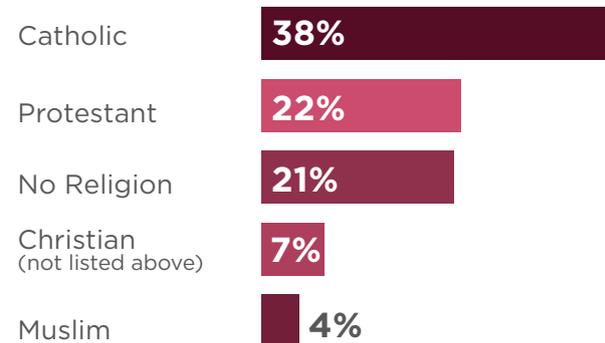
- Paula Lam, Equity and Diversity Coordinator, Halton Equity and Diversity Roundtable

Oakville is becoming increasingly more diverse. The population is aging and growing. New cultural infrastructure—places of worship, community centres and celebrations—are bringing new vitality to an established community.

Largest Visible Minority Groups in Oakville³⁴



Religion in Oakville³⁵



The Interfaith Council of Halton is working to develop mutual understanding and respect among high school students of different faiths through the Interfaith Youth Festival. The annual event offers Grade 11 students an opportunity to share their faith traditions, learn from their peers and ask questions during an open Town Hall forum. Pre- and post-event survey comparisons have shown an 80 per cent increase in understanding of other faiths as a result of the festival.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES ARE NEEDED FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Full inclusion in the community is still a goal for people with disabilities, especially older adults who need age-appropriate services and opportunities to be with their peers.³⁹

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF LGBTQ+ YOUTH

Although there is growing awareness of the diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity, LGBTQ+ youth often report that they don't feel safe or supported in the Oakville community.⁴⁰ Local agencies are working to change that.

The Positive Space Network in Halton offers training and accreditation for local agencies, and programs and events for LGBTQ+ youth and their families.

SAVIS of Halton provides counselling services to transgender and genderfluid survivors of violence, sexual assault and childhood abuse.

AGE-FRIENDLY OAKVILLE IS GOOD FOR EVERYONE

Age-friendly communities, designed to help older adults live safely, enjoy good health and stay involved, can benefit the whole community.³⁷ The Oakville age-friendly plan is expected by the end of 2015.³⁸



THE NEXT GENERATION

“This program changed me by showing me what I have to be proud of.”

- Youth Participant, Halton Sport Leadership Program

Children and youth living in poverty, in households under stress, or struggling with mental health issues and isolation need support to build resilience and achieve wellness. Below are examples of what's being done to strengthen the next generation of Oakville citizens so that they can succeed in school, develop healthy relationships, gain meaningful employment and participate fully in the community.

REDUCING ISOLATION

The Halton Sport Leadership Program is a collaboration of the YMCA of Oakville, the Town of Oakville, Halton public and separate school boards, and the Halton Poverty Roundtable. The pilot program was designed to give disengaged teens (15-18) the opportunity to develop leadership skills while earning the certifications needed to find employment in the sport and recreation field. The initial six-month program resulted in 16 youth successfully completing the program with the support of their adult mentors.

CREATING BELONGING

Newcomer youth (9-12) are offered important supports to ease their social transition to life in Canada through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton's Adventure Canada Club. The school-based mentoring program offers homework assistance and Canada-themed activities to help students improve their English language skills, build self-confidence and learn more about their new country. During the 2014-15 school year, the program served 142 youth at nine Oakville schools; 95 per cent of participants reported feeling improved self-esteem and 100 per cent felt a greater sense of inclusion at school.



95%

Improved self-esteem

100%

Greater sense of inclusion at school

REMOVING BARRIERS

Halton Learning Foundation helps public school students in need through emergency help, enrichment funds and scholarships. In 2014, the Foundation provided emergency assistance to more than 150 Oakville students to pay for food, proper clothing, school supplies, field trip fees, tools and attire needed for co-op placements, and supported 20 more students with scholarships to help offset the cost of post-secondary education.

WELCOME CENTRES FOR NEW STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

In 2015, the Halton Catholic District School Board launched a new program called the “Welcome Centre” to support newcomer and immigrant children and their families. The program offers an academic intake day, educational assessments, and help accessing needed programs at the most appropriate school. Parents are invited to attend the sessions where they can connect with Halton Multicultural Council and other agencies that provide wraparound services for students and their parents aimed at removing barriers to newcomer success. About 450 students are expected to be served during 2015-16 school year.

PREPARING FOR EMPLOYMENT

STRIDE’s Youth Employment Program works with youth (16-24) with mental health needs, their families and service providers to help vulnerable youth prepare for a career and participation in community life.

ON THE HORIZON

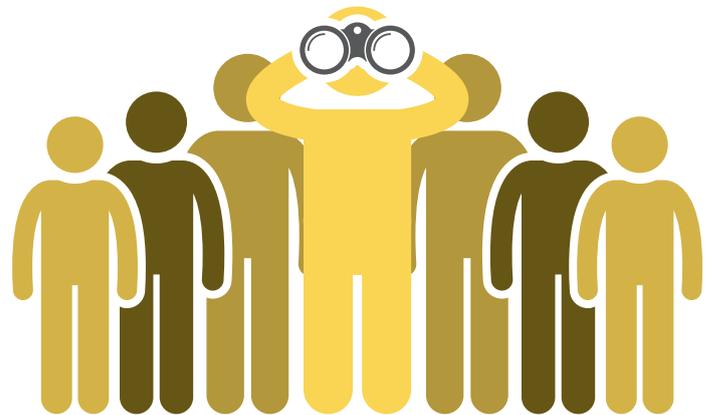
“Sex workers and victims of human trafficking are often marginalized by the larger community; however, there is a growing willingness to collaborate and coordinate services to respond to this vulnerable population.”

– Kathryn Baker-Reed, former Executive Director,
SAVIS of Halton

Here are three emerging issues that we believe will need more community awareness and education.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

It is difficult to define the scope of this emerging problem statistically as there is little comparative data; however, Halton Police expects crime statistics will increase as more effort is dedicated to identifying those responsible for exploiting others for financial gain. To combat the problem and raise awareness, Halton Police has conducted training and education sessions with front-line officers, youth, hoteliers and staff. SAVIS of Halton is developing a new program focused on providing specialized, long-term care to help women and girls who have been trafficked to heal from the extreme trauma.



Looking ahead The Foundation is continuing to address the issues and needs in our community for 2016 and beyond. **Our legacy continues.**

ELDER ABUSE

Elder abuse occurs across cultures, genders, income levels and abilities. Victims are often socially isolated with few friends or family in whom to confide. Immigrants may face additional barriers of language, limited knowledge of local laws, cultural stigma and increased dependence on the abuser. Although statistics do not show an increase in crimes perpetrated against seniors in the region, Halton Police provides support to seniors through programs such as SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together), the Seniors Helpline, and education and information sessions.

Education and information sharing, especially within immigrant communities, may help reduce the risk of isolation and abuse. Informal focus groups of older South Asian adults from Mississauga and Oakville identified social isolation and elder abuse as issues within their community.⁴¹

CLIMATE CHANGE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Extreme weather and severe storms affect our environment, security and quality of life, especially for vulnerable populations that may not be prepared or have the resources to recover from a potentially devastating event. Learning more about the impact of extreme weather on Oakville's safety net agencies and clients is important for the entire community.





HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

The 2015 Vital Signs® report is the first step toward raising awareness of our community's needs and its resources. We don't have the solutions, but we can create opportunities for problem-solving and collaboration.

LEARN MORE

Visit vitalsigns.theocf.org for a more detailed report and data sources for the issues featured in Vital Signs®. You can also find more information on the agencies and organizations featured in this report.

DO MORE

Please share what you've learned. When you help raise awareness, you also help reduce stigma and increase understanding.

Want to get involved? Volunteer Halton, a program of Community Development Halton, matches people looking to volunteer with opportunities via the Volunteer Halton Online Database. Visit volunteerhalton.ca.



LEARN
DO
GIVE **M**  **RE**

GIVE MORE

“Private philanthropic sector dollars should be the catalytic agent that promotes change in the system.” - Halton Poverty Roundtable

There are many giving opportunities in Oakville. The Oakville Community Foundation can help you make the biggest impact. Call us today at **905 844 3562** or visit our website at theocf.org.



#OAKVILLESVITALSIGNS

RECOGNITION

The Oakville Community Foundation is grateful to the many organizations, community partners and volunteers who have helped to make this report possible.

OAKVILLE'S VITAL SIGNS® PROJECT TEAM

FOUNDATION STAFF

Sarah McPherson - Project Manager
Rusty Baillie
Carolyn McDougall
Frances Pace

FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

Bruce Galloway
Joanne Peters
Jim Rager
Tim Zahavich

EXTERNAL RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS

Pamela Janes - Consultant
Sheridan College, Faculty of Humanities
and Social Sciences Faculty:
Patrice Esson
Sean McNabney
Janet Shuh

ANNUAL FOUNDATION PARTNERS



FAMILY HARMONY AND PHILANTHROPY
HELPING YOU HELP OTHERS



Mercedes-Benz
Oakville



GLOBAL INVESTMENT SOLUTIONS

LEARN
DO
GIVE **MORE**

Vital Signs® is a Vital Program of the Oakville Community Foundation's Smart & Caring Initiatives and, along with other Foundation initiatives, is generously supported by our Fundholders and Sponsors:

FUNDHOLDERS

Amarna Fund
Jackson Family Fund
Kenny Family Foundation Fund
Larry and Gerry Wilson Fund

VITAL SIGNS® PUBLICATION SPONSORS

Helping us to communicate the need and create change in our community.

TITLE SPONSOR

O'CONNOR
MACLEOD
HANNA ^{LLP}

SECTION SPONSORS



LAUNCH SPONSOR



RESEARCH AND CONTRIBUTORS

We wish to thank the many individuals and organizations that helped to create this report, including those who provided data and the more than 50 experts who participated in our interviews and consultation sessions.

- Acclaim Health and Community Care Services
- Affordable Housing Halton
- Al-Falah Islamic Centre
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton
- Canadian Mental Health Association Halton
- Community Development Halton
- Community Living Oakville
- Downtown Oakville BIA
- Food For Life
- Halton Catholic District School Board
- Halton District School Board
- Halton Equity and Diversity Roundtable
- Halton Lighthouse Shelter and Family Emergency Shelter
- Halton Multicultural Council
- Halton Poverty Roundtable
- Halton Region
- Halton Healthcare Services
- Halton Learning Foundation
- Halton Regional Police Service
- Halton Women's Place
- Home Suite Hope
- Kerr Street Mission
- Kerr Village BIA
- Lighthouse (Support for Grieving Children)
- Oakville Arts Council
- Oakville Chamber of Commerce
- Oakville Fire
- Oakville Public Library
- Reach Out Centre for Kids
- Positive Space Network in Halton/ROCK
- SAVIS of Halton
- Sheridan College
- Support and Housing - Halton
- The Centre for Skills Development & Training
- Town of Oakville
- United Way of Oakville
- YMCA of Oakville

THE RESEARCH

The International Institute for Sustainable Development has been retained by Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) to provide expertise and data for indicators being used by all 29 Vital Signs® reports being published across Canada in 2015.

Secondary research data used in this report was collected from a variety of sources including: Statistics Canada, Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, government ministries, and local community groups.

Sources are available by viewing the expanded version of this report at vitalsigns.theocf.org/#learn-more or by contacting the Oakville Community Foundation at **905 844 3562**.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA

Vital Signs® is a Vital Program of the Oakville Community Foundation's Smart & Caring Initiatives. The Foundation is a proud member of Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), a national organization that represents 191 community foundations from coast to coast. CFC was established in 1992 to connect and support this growing network of local foundations.

Vital Signs® is a national program led by community foundations and coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada that leverages local knowledge to measure the vitality of our communities and supports action towards improving our quality of life. Started by the Toronto Foundation in 2001, today more than 65 communities across Canada and around the world use Vital Signs® to mobilize the power of community knowledge for greater local impact.

As part of the 2015 initiative, the Community Foundations of Canada has prepared a national report that focuses on sense of belonging in communities. For more information, visit: vitalsignscanada.ca.

We wish to thank the Toronto Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs® concept and Community Foundations of Canada for supporting a coordinated national Vital Signs® initiative.

We would like to acknowledge the following communities that are also publishing a Vital Signs® report in 2015.

Calgary, AB
Centre Wellington, ON
Edmonton, AB
Grande Prairie, AB
Grey Bruce, ON
Kelowna, BC
Kingston, ON
Kitchener-Waterloo, ON (Waterloo Region)
Lethbridge, AB
Medicine Hat, AB
Mississauga, ON
Montréal, QC
Nanaimo, BC
Napawee, ON

Newfoundland and Labrador
Nova Scotia
Peterborough, ON
Penticton, BC
Port Alberni, BC
Powell River, BC
Regina, SK
Saskatoon, SK
Sudbury, ON
Surrey, BC
Toronto, ON
Vernon, BC
Victoria, BC
Windsor, ON

The Oakville Community Foundation is a convenor, grantor, and concierge of philanthropy.



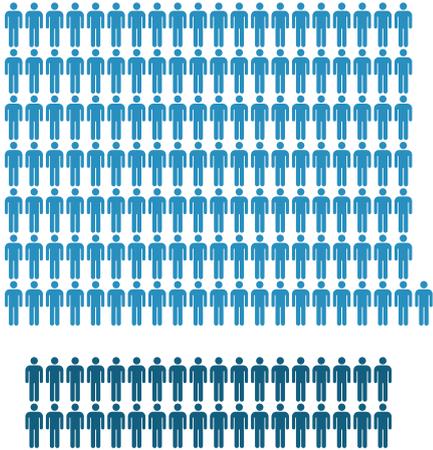
\$95.8M

Money in assets



\$1.43M

Money granted in 2014



141

Fundholders

vs

36

Agency
Pooled Funds

The Oakville Community Foundation is the 10th largest community foundation within the national CFC membership of 191 community foundations.



METHODOLOGY

The Oakville Community Foundation provides the Vital Signs® Report as a means to identify and educate our community about the specific needs and issues affecting Oakville and its residents. In partnership with those communities that choose to participate in the Vital Signs® program, Community Foundations of Canada gathers and shares data about these vital issues that commonly affect communities across the country.

To create Oakville's Vital Signs® 2015, we invited a cross-section of key stakeholders from the public and nonprofit sectors serving Oakville and Halton Region to participate in one of two "Community Conversations" at Sheridan College. Participants were led through a process called Creative Problem Solving (CPS) facilitated by staff from Sheridan's Faculty of Humanities. Those who were unable to attend the Sheridan sessions were invited to participate in one-on-one interviews with our consultant. Participants were asked to rank the 11 traditional Vital Signs® issue areas from their own unique perspective. Collectively, we were able to identify which, if any, of the 11 issues were relevant

in Oakville. Next, we discussed what other issues existed in the local community and how they intersected. The conversations revealed a number of needs and gaps, as well as the most consistent challenges and themes. National, provincial, regional and local data were collected and reviewed to further refine the findings of the "conversations". Our process allowed us to combine local expertise with documented evidence to identify the four key themes presented in this report: Equity Gap, Affordable Housing, Mental Health and Inclusion.

Many Community Foundations across Canada and the United States have dedicated academic partners, allowing them to leverage academic expertise to inform and support their strategic directions, business processes and evaluate funded projects. Our partnership with Sheridan College was invaluable to the development of the Vital Signs® report and is just the beginning of a new approach to the mobilization of community knowledge.



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Oakville Community Foundation is a registered charity and one of the largest members of a national network of over 190 Canadian community foundations. We support individuals, families and corporations who come from all walks of life, economic backgrounds and charitable interests with one thing in common – a desire to make a difference today and leave a legacy to support Oakville’s future as a smart & caring community.

478 Morden Rd., Ste. 204 905 844 3562 Charitable BN:
Oakville, Ontario L6K 3W4 info@theo cf.org 89193 4374 RR0001

theo cf.org



The Oakville Community Foundation is part of the national Vital Signs® report initiative and one of 29 community foundations across Canada that is presenting its own local report.

