

Community  
Development  
Halton

# Annual Report 2022/2023

*Through research, community development, planning and promoting volunteerism, Community Development Halton strives to improve the quality of life for all residents of Halton.*



Building Community Together

# Our Mission

Community Development Halton (CDH) is an intermediary organization that works to improve the quality of life of residents across Halton through participatory research, needs identification, education and training, volunteerism and policy change. CDH has two distinct programs: Social Planning and Volunteer Halton. Social Planning helps communities identify strengths and weaknesses, and determine ways to improve the quality of life in community. Volunteer Halton supports the well-being of the community through the promotion of volunteerism, building the capacity of nonprofit organizations and emerging groups to engage volunteers. It facilitates connections between people and volunteer opportunities, and provides leadership on issues related to volunteering and civic engagement.

## Report of the President

If you've been watching, you know that things are different at Community Development Halton. We've undertaken seismic change with one goal: to transform our ability to deliver responsive support to our sector.

We recruited a talented and approachable new leader; we are investing in new programs that build our community's collective capacity through research and volunteerism and most importantly, we are listening.

We are listening to the needs of our sector as resources contract, priorities shift, and community challenges become more complex and diverse. And we are acting to deliver the support you need to navigate a dynamic post-pandemic landscape.

As familiar routines return and the air begins to cool, let's embrace the "new year" energy that an academic year brings. It's a restart. A chance to focus our energy and build new relationships to meet our shared goal – to make Halton a place where everyone can thrive.

We are here for you.

In partnership,



Joanne McKiernan

## Report of the Executive Director

Recently Community Development Halton staff and volunteers moved from its offices in which we have been situated for the past 8 years. Making that move was an opportunity to go through the almost 40-year history of CDH's social research and civic engagement initiatives. It was an incredible opportunity to look back at past efforts of not only the staff but also the many citizens who have served CDH and the community partners who have walked alongside us to raise the issues of injustice in Halton, celebrate community capacity, and take on collaborative work to create change. What an honour it is to step into the role of Executive Director to ensure that work continues with new innovations as we build community together.

As this new chapter for CDH begins we are excited to focus on consistency, capacity building, and connection. Our efforts will include sharing the story of the challenges faced in Halton and the capacity of the community to tackle those challenges. We will do this through our two pillar programs, Social Planning and Volunteer Halton.

I am grateful for the path ahead and the opportunity to walk it with you.

Sincerely,



Rishia Burke



Volunteer Halton had a full year of events and workshops in 2022. Starting with National Volunteer Week (April 24 – 30, 2022) we held community celebrations held in each municipality. During those events, 12 *Cheers to Volunteers* and 8 *Halton Volunteer Impact* awards were presented, to deserving community members. Each event was well attended—a sign that we were all ready to gather and celebrate the difference that volunteers make in in community again.

Volunteer Halton is committed to community capacity building with Halton’s non-profit sector. Part of those efforts in 2022/23 included:

- 13 CDH Educates workshops;
- Continued partnership with Town of Halton Hills delivering the *Building Strong Organizations in Halton Hills* workshop series;
- Partnered with Goodwill Amity Group (Hamilton) to host a “Value of Volunteering” workshop and “Volunteer Recruitment Virtual Fair” in April and June;
- Monthly presentations on the value of volunteering to for Halton Connects program, through Employment Halton;
- Presentations for Centre for Skills Development and Halton Multicultural Council (HMC) Connections;
- Supporting community dialogues and planning conversations with sector groups and partners; and
- The launch of Training-On-Demand fee-for-service offerings.

Governance, nonprofit revenue, non-profit legislation, and supporting volunteers are just some of the topics for presentations over the 2022/23 year. A real focus on non-profits regaining their footing post- pandemic and rebuilding the volunteer capacity has been prioritized over the past year.

The Volunteer Halton database continues to be full of opportunities for individuals to find their place in Halton as a volunteer. Thousands of volunteer referrals were made to our member agencies and community groups in 2022/23.

COVID-19 has impacted the volunteer landscape in so many ways. Volunteer Halton is committed to working alongside our community partners to address the challenges we are all facing with a reduction of volunteers, new ways of community engagement and organizational capacity to support citizens to contribute to Halton. We have a rich lineup of training and conversations for 2023/24. Your participation will deepen our understanding and broaden the solutions for how we move forward together.

Heather Johnson,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather Johnson".

Director, Volunteer Halton



# Age Friendly

## Senior Connectors

In 2022, many of CDH's Senior Connectors continued offering resources and making referrals for seniors and their families as locations began to open up and welcome community back inside.

## Connection Among the Generations

Thousands of handmade items were shared with older adults in our community including messages of hope, kindness, and caring, created by people of all ages, especially high school students through this program. Many thanks to the partners for this project: Food for Life Canada, Rotary Clubs of Burlington and Oakville, the New Horizon grants program, and the many individuals who contributed items for sharing.



## Connection in Action

The Connection in Action, a project to address older adult isolation, has been active this year in a number of initiatives:

- Supporting the work of Halton Region's Community Safety and Wellbeing, Older Adult Isolation Action Table,
- Providing presentations to increase awareness about the factors associated with older adults' isolation, and
- Providing Loneliness and Isolation to Empowerment (LITE) training to service providers, volunteers, diverse groups, community members, and allied professionals.

In addition the project launched:

- A new website [Home - Connection In Action](#); and
- A map of Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) across Halton, listing 126 NORCs, as a tool for outreach, connecting and program service planning.

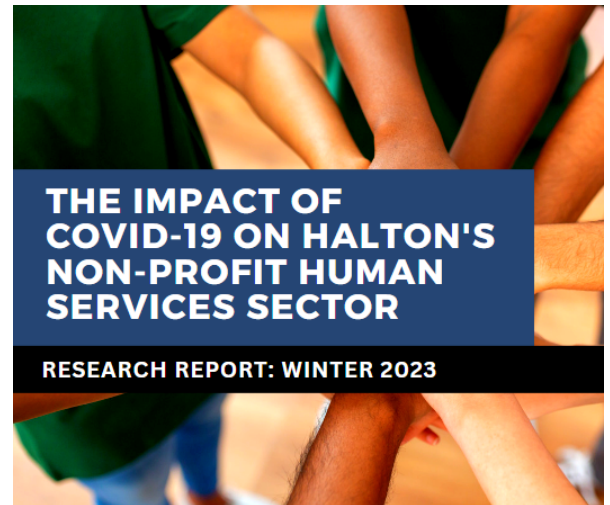
In March, CDH said goodbye to Heather Thompson, who led the Age Friendly work of CDH with both passion and wisdom for the past 10 years. The Connection in Action work has been passed to our very able partners, Acclaim Health. CDH will continue to share the importance of focusing on Halton's seniors through its social research and work in the area on civic engagement and volunteerism.



# Social Planning

The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed Halton-based non-profits. Increased demand for essential services, disrupted programming, and the shifting tides of funding, labour, and partnerships continue to challenge the sector three years later. Yet, while navigating a new landscape of service delivery informed by the social and economic impact of the pandemic, Halton's non-profit leaders, volunteers, and clients are also shaping the future of our region's social support.

This research, led by Community Development Halton, and in partnership with the Social Planning Council of Peel, provides an overview of this transformative point in time for the sector, and provide a bridge to meaningful progress for uplifting Halton's non-profits and the residents they serve.



## Financial Partners

*Thank you for your support*

**The Cockwell Foundation**



Rotary Club of Burlington Central



Rotary Club of Burlington Lakeshore

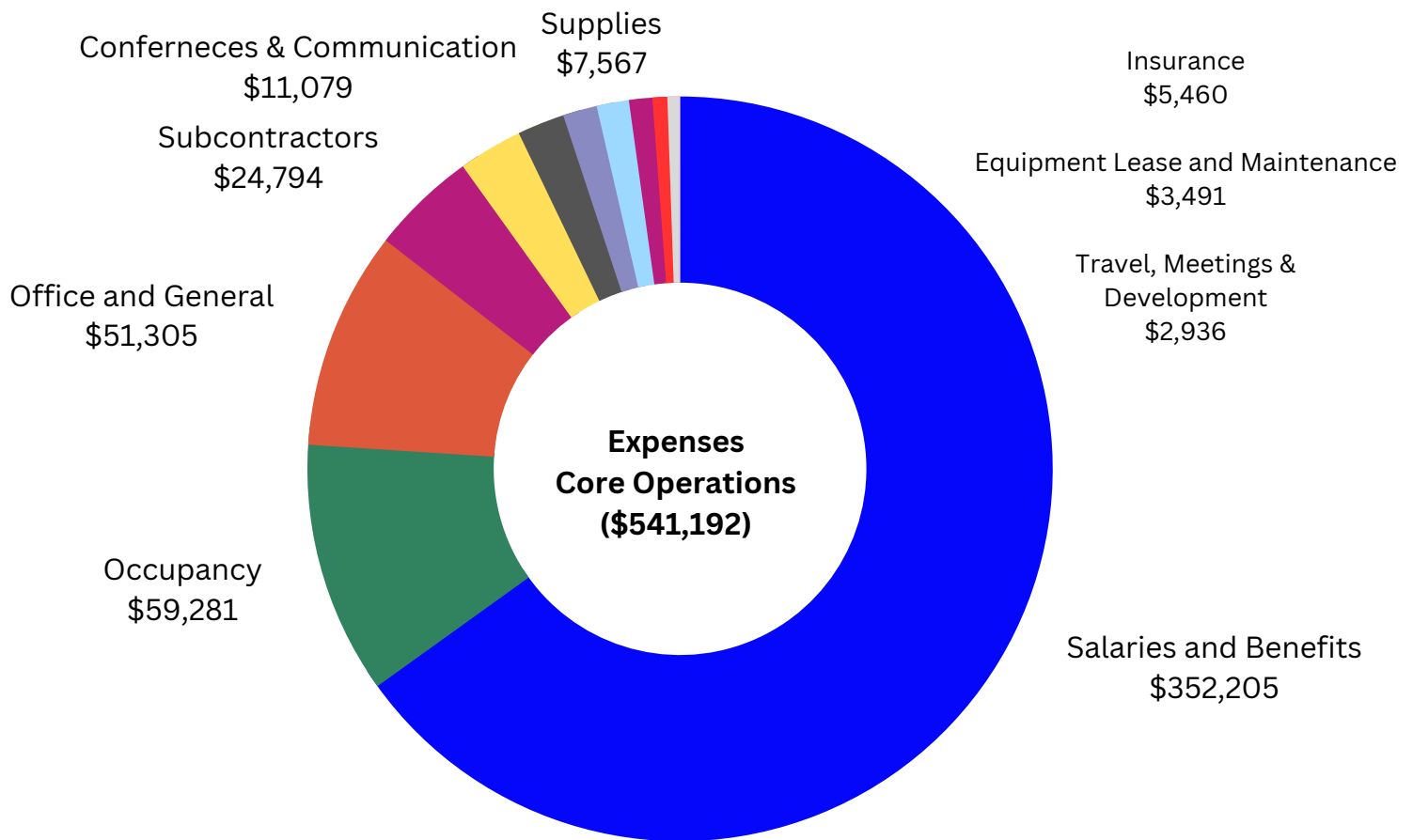
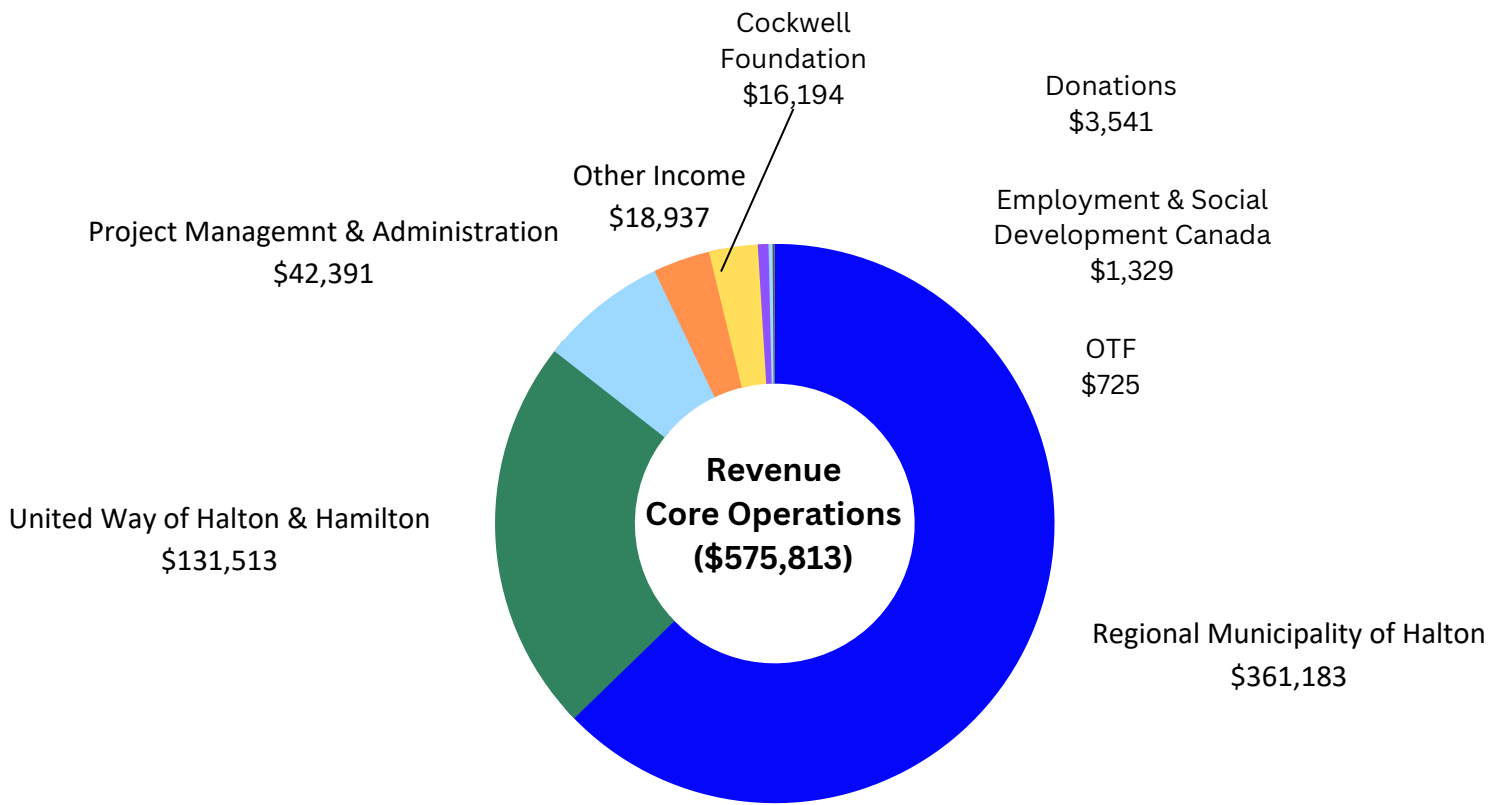


**United Way**  
Halton & Hamilton



*...and Anonymous Community Donors*

# 2023-2023 Finances at a Glance



Full audited financial statements prepared by Astrid Latkis, LLP are available on our website at [www.cdhalton.ca](http://www.cdhalton.ca)

## Staff

Heather Johnson  
Tatjana Spajic  
Shahzi Yasmin Bokhari  
Heather Thompson\*  
Mike Nixon\*  
Ted Hildebrandt\*  
Corina Ciobanu\*  
Daniel Deering\*

\*left during the fiscal year

## Board of Directors

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Ann Lawlor\*

## Members

Community Development Halton is a membership based organization. We are grateful for the support and participation of each of these community agencies and groups. It is with their partnership that we are building community together.

For a complete list of our members please see [www.cdhalton.ca](http://www.cdhalton.ca)

For information about the benefits of membership please contact us at [office@cdhalton.ca](mailto:office@cdhalton.ca)



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