



**About the Roundtable:**

- The Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction (HRPR) was co-convened by the City of Hamilton and Hamilton Community Foundation in May 2005 to understand Hamilton's high poverty levels, focus the community's attention on poverty and begin to find solutions.
- The Roundtable is chaired by Mark Chamberlain, and supported by director, Liz Weaver and a small staff who work in Hamilton Community Foundation's office in downtown Hamilton.
- The Roundtable meets bi monthly.

**Collaboration:**

- The Roundtable was founded on the principles of collaboration and recognition that no one sector or group can tackle poverty alone.
- The HRPR brings people from many different walks of life together. Since its inception, it has attracted 300 individuals to its leadership teams, working groups or as partners. It has engaged nearly 40,000 in poverty dialogue and has linked with 900 organizations to focus on poverty reduction.
- The Roundtable also shares expertise and experience with other Canadian cities (including Calgary, Edmonton, Niagara and Waterloo regions, Montreal and Winnipeg) through its connection with Vibrant Communities, and continues to work with the province to help frame Ontario's Poverty Strategy.

**Shared Community Vision:**

- In March 2007, the Roundtable launched *Starting Point Strategies* as the road map to achieving a shared community vision of *Making Hamilton the Best Place to Raise a Child.*

- Strategies are matched to five critical points of investment as children progress through life:
  - quality early learning and parenting
  - skills through education, activity and recreation
  - targeted skills development at the post-secondary level
  - employment
  - asset building and wealth creation.
- *Starting Point Strategies* collaborative partners include: Affordable Housing Flagship, City of Hamilton, Hamilton Best Start Network, Hamilton Community Foundation, Hamilton Immigrant Workforce Integration Network, Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, School-Age Solutions and Skills Development Flagship.

The complete *Starting Point Strategies* document can be found at [www.hamiltonpoverty.ca](http://www.hamiltonpoverty.ca)

### Eye on the Big Picture:

- As the lead organization connecting the myriad of individuals and agencies focusing on poverty reduction, the Roundtable is working at the 'macro level' to bring public attention to the challenges and impact of poverty in Hamilton, engage the community (including youth) in the change effort, bring new funding and strategic investment to the table and evaluate and monitor the city's progress towards *Making Hamilton the Best Place to Raise a Child*.
- The Roundtable continues to work with the community on implementing the five critical points of investment and executing local strategies and actions.

Complete details on progress can be found in HRPR's 2008 *Report to the Community*, also posted at

[www.hamiltonpoverty.ca](http://www.hamiltonpoverty.ca)

