

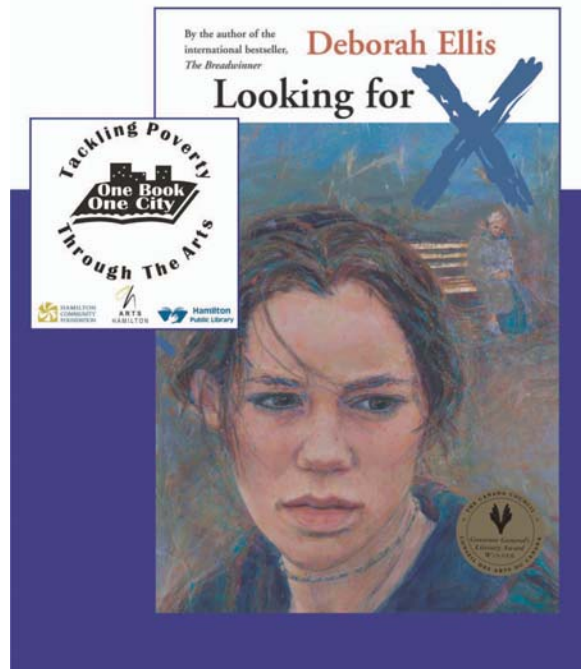
Making Hamilton the Best Place to Raise a Child



We are getting people talking about poverty in a creative and direct way. We are engaging people of all backgrounds and of all ages to share their perspectives on poverty in their own way. We are bringing people together on this issue.

We are increasing the community awareness in a way that people can relate. It isn't just about stats and figures. Hamiltonians recognize they have a role to play in easing the poverty burden in their city and around the world.

The *one book* Hamilton is reading together



Early Successes

- On November 28th, 2006, we had our launch at Dr. J. Edgar Davey Public School in which we kicked off 'One Book, One City: Tackling Poverty Through the Arts'. It was covered in the Hamilton Spectator.
- At this point, our focus has been engaging the public and getting as many participants into the program as possible. Our goal is to have a minimum of 200 participants. I am very proud to report that at this moment, we have 70 individuals and groups doing artistic expressions.
- Every book in the library system has been out steady since the program began.
- We have joined forces with the James Street North Artists' Art Crawl for May 2007.
- The City of Hamilton, and local Members of Parliament are all behind the project.
- We have directly engaged the immigrant community through SISO and the Immigrant Culture and Art Association.
- We began the 'One Book, One City' Book Buddy Program, where people can buy and donate books to others. We provided five books to Roxboro Public School and the YMCA. When they are finished reading those books, we will collect them and pass them on to other organizations and schools.
- We have directly engaged both the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington and YWCA Hamilton in the hopes of speaking directly to the individuals with special needs and the elderly. We have directly engaged volunteers through the Bay Area Leadership and Volunteer Hamilton. We have engaged the youth of Hamilton through Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board through chair Judith Bishop and the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club.
- Emergency Services (Police Service and Firefighters) have been extremely supportive.
- The Jackson Square Corporation (including the Farmer's Market) has been a tremendous help.
- Indigo Books through Coles has expressed interest in taking part in the program.

Poverty Reduction Strategy

We want to create the opportunity for shared dialogue on the issues of poverty and effectively leverage the outlets for creative expression available throughout the arts community. Utilizing the expertise of what the arts community does and providing the opportunity for extended community involvement will ensure that the expressions will be representative of every facet of Hamilton's diverse community. We have been promoting this program with the library's existing customer base and incorporating the theme of poverty in our existing programs and services.

Community Partners

Hamilton Public Library
The Hamilton Spectator
Hamilton Community Foundation
Hamilton Professional Fire Fighters
Hamilton Police Service
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
James Street North Art Crawl
City of Hamilton



TACKLING POVERTY
in **HAMILTON** *We can do it!*

