April is HLF Month!

HLF Month brings schools, organizations, and community members together to eliminate the financial challenges that prevent HDSB students from accessing a complete education.

As the only charity solely dedicated to supporting students in the Halton District School Board, the Halton Learning Foundation (HLF) is committed to continuing to say "YES" to every request from schools for student support.

Why HLF Month Matters

Every day, students in our community face challenges, from food insecurity and inadequate clothing to a lack of school supplies and access to extracurricular opportunities.

Throughout HLF Month, we unite to raise funds and awareness to remove these barriers, so every student can learn, participate, and reach their full potential.

> *For a mother of four who has just taken the brave step of leaving an abusive situation, starting over can feel like an uphill battle. Read about A Gift of Hope and New Beginnings: Sheila's Message of Gratitude*

How You Can Help people like Sheila & her four children

Schools, organizations, and individuals are invited to participate … it's as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. **Create Awareness:**
   Share the message through your networks, social media and newsletters and help our community understand the financial challenges facing students.
2. **Raise Funds:**

Host a fun challenge or run a fundraiser (*Be Creative*). Every dollar raised stays local and directly supports HDSB students in need. Here are some ideas:

3. **Become an HLF Month Sponsor:**
   Corporate and community sponsorships help us expand our reach and continue saying YES to every request for support. When you partner with us, your organisation not only helps remove financial barriers for Halton students but also receives meaningful recognition across our community

Create Awareness

A. Engage Your Network Through Social Media & Digital Challenges

Get people involved by spreading the word! Some fun ways to do this:

- **Digital Promotions:** Share HLF month content via your social media, blogs or newsletter to spread the word to your network.
- **Viral Challenges:** Start a fun social media challenge and encourage people to participate while donating.
- **Live Event Spotlights:** Share behind-the-scenes moments from your
- fundraiser to inspire more people to donate.

B. Community & Professional Networking

- **Guest Speakers**: Invite an HLF representative to speak at your workplace or community group meeting.
- **Wear the Colours:** Organize a day for your team to wear HLF colours (green, orange, and blue) and post a group photo to show your support.
- **Promote Students in the Spotlight:** Use your platforms to promote the grand finale on April 29th, helping us fill the seats for our student performers.

Raise Funds

A. Create Your Own HLF Challenge

Host a fun challenge with your colleagues, customers, or neighbors to raise funds and awareness through:

Workplace Challenges

- **Team Competitions**: Organize friendly office challenges like trivia contests, step-count challenges, or themed dress-down days.
- **CSR Initiatives:** Encourage your company to match employee donations, host a fundraising lunch, or sponsor a workplace challenge.

Community Engagement Events

- **Garage Sales**: Gather neighbors for a community-wide sale where proceeds go towards helping students in need.
- **Mini Walk-a-thons**: Rally your friends for a walk, run, or bike ride and track your collective distance.
- **Tournaments & Challenges:** Host ping-pong, soccer, gaming, or board game tournaments where participants donate to join.

Creative Social & Entertainment Events

- **Patio Concerts:** Transform local outdoor spaces into live stages for community talent, creating an evening of music and giving.
- **Pop-Up Markets:** Invite local artisans or small businesses to sell products, with a portion of sales going to HLF.
- **Karaoke Night:** Turn your favorite karaoke bar into a fundraising hotspot!
- **Outdoor Movie Night:** Set up a community movie screening under the stars, selling tickets or snacks to raise funds.

B. Partner With Local Businesses & Organizations

- **Restaurant or Bar Fundraisers:** Partner with a local café, restaurant, or bar for a “Dine & Donate” night, where a percentage of sales supports HLF.
- **Loyalty Program Donations:** If your business has a loyalty or rewards program, offer customers the option to donate points toward student support.
- **In-Store Givebacks:** Create a limited-edition item (e.g., a special drink, meal, or product) where proceeds go to HLF.
- **Salon & Spa Giveback Days:** Spas and salons can dedicate a day where a percentage of bookings supports students in need.

C. Get Families & Kids Involved

- **Toy & Clothing Swaps:** Families can donate gently used items in exchange for an optional contribution to HLF.
- **Parent-Child Activity Days:** Host family-friendly baking, crafting, or gardening workshops where registration fees go toward HLF’s cause.
- **Library & Bookstore Fundraisers:** Organize a "Read for HLF" challenge where kids and adults set reading goals and collect pledges, or partner with local bookstores to donate a portion of sales.

D. Engage Industry-Specific Networks

- **Real Estate Open Houses for HLF:** Real estate agents can pledge a donation for every home sold in April, encouraging clients to contribute as well.
- **Fitness Fundraisers:** Local gyms, yoga studios, or personal trainers can host charity workout classes where entry fees go to HLF.
- **Escape Room & Trivia Nights:** Entertainment venues can dedicate a night to support HLF through ticket sales or donations from participants.

Become an HLF Month Sponsor

Corporate and community sponsorships help us expand our reach and continue saying YES to every request for support. When you partner with us, your organisation not only helps remove financial barriers for Halton students but also receives meaningful recognition across our community.

Sponsors can receive recognition & benefits through three opportunities:

1) **HLF Month:** Receive **campaign-wide recognition** across all HLF Month activities, digital campaigns, and community initiatives. Your support will be highlighted to schools, families, and local partners, showing your commitment to student success.

2) **Tour de Halton:** Align your brand with our signature cycling challenge, where participants set their own fun cycling goals to raise funds for students facing financial barriers. Your support will be recognized online, and across participant communications, giving your organization meaningful visibility while making a direct impact on Halton students.

3) **Students in the Spotlight:** The grand finale showcase featuring HDSB student performances and our brand-new art exhibition. Your sponsorship ensures students can shine on stage while your organization receives community-wide acknowledgment.

We offer **customized sponsorship packages** to meet your organization's goals and budget, providing meaningful ways to engage your team, clients, or customers while supporting Halton students.

Ready to get Started?

- **Register Your Challenge/Activity:** Ready to get started? Sign up online and receive an HLF fundraising page to track donations and engage your supporters. Here is a Step-by-Step Guide on how to create or join a team.
- **Promote Your Event:** Let us know what you're planning! We'd love to feature your fundraiser on our website and social media.

  If you are promoting your event through your social media accounts, please make sure to tag us on the following accounts:

  - **Facebook**: @Halton Learning Foundation
  - **Instagram**: @haltonlearningfoundation
  - **Twitter**: @HaltonLearnFDN
  - **LinkedIn**: @Halton Learning Foundation
  - **Tiktok:** @haltonlearningfoundation

Join Us for the Grand Finale

Students in the Spotlight – April 29

Mark your calendars for Students in the Spotlight, an inspiring event showcasing HDSB student talent in music, dance, and more. This year, we are excited to introduce a student led **ART EXHIBITION** featuring the incredible visual artistic talents of HDSB students. This event not only celebrates student creativity but also serves as a major fundraising opportunity for HLF.

Join us, support HDSB talents, and be part of creating a brighter future for students in need!

Do this for Community

At its core, HLF Month is about community.

It's about:

- Parents teaching children the power of giving
- Teachers rallying classrooms around compassion
- Businesses investing in the next generation
- Neighbours supporting neighbours

Your Community, Your Impact.

Every action—every fundraiser, every share, every donation—helps ensure students are not defined by their circumstances but empowered by opportunity.

For more information or to register your event, visit HLF Month Page or contact Fadwa Hadeed at hadeedf@haltonlearningfoundation.ca