Every year is an adventure at the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton. New trends and issues emerge presenting challenges and opportunities. We build new partnerships, work with people who inspire us and even make some headway with seemingly intractable problems that are complex and hard to change. Along the way we lose some good friends and supporters. Most notable among those we lost this year was our President Marvin Caplan. He was fully committed to advancing the social determinants of health and we’ll miss his leadership in that regard. But the Board and staff members at the SPRC have proven to be a resilient lot with the skills, energy and commitment needed to continue good social development work and encourage change that makes our community ever better.

Our most significant accomplishments are detailed elsewhere in this annual report but we are proud to note that we have contributed significantly to improvements in our community through major project initiatives including the Tastebuds Student Nutrition Program, the Neighbourhood Action Strategy, our Community Action Program for Children in east Hamilton, the Aboriginal Homelessness Prevention Strategies and Street Involved Youth Homelessness Prevention Strategies. We have partnered with many more voluntary sector groups and organizations in Hamilton to join them in work which reflects our key priorities of Poverty Reduction, Equity and Inclusion, Housing and Homelessness and the Healthy Development of Children and Youth. Throughout all of this work we continue to strive to gather and build evidence that effectively documents and illuminates conditions in our community that will improve broad understanding of the issues we and others face. Armed with that knowledge we join with others to build awareness and support for well-informed actions we can take locally to improve conditions.

We are fortunate to have a community with so many people engaged and committed to using and sharing knowledge and skills to make this a more equitable and prosperous community for all. So beyond thanking our Board members, staff and other volunteers, we thank all of our partners, funders and supporters across the community who share in the efforts to continuously make Hamilton the best place to raise children and age successfully!

Mission
To improve the quality of life for all citizens by engaging in activities, that will result in:
• Improved social policies and services
• Maximized access for all citizens to the opportunities afforded by society
• Effective citizen involvement in the continuing consideration of social issues

Vision
To create a community that provides a socially, physically, and economically supportive environment and supports public participation and community integration to preserve and enhance the health and well-being of our population.
• Encourage participation of all individuals in community life
• Engage members of the community in planning and decision-making
With great sadness, Marvin Caplan, President of the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton Board of Directors, died suddenly of a heart attack on January 31, 2017.

Marvin served our community well over many years as a business leader, City Councillor, social development activist and leadership volunteer in an effort to make Hamilton a better place to live for all its residents. Marvin was guided by principles and values that reflected his humanity, faith and commitment to social justice. He was often bold in his actions but always faced challenges and responsibilities with good humour and a shared sense of commitment and camaraderie with those around him. We will miss his strength, sense of purpose and wise counsel.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Over the course of the past year the SPRC has conducted research resulting in the following publications:

- #HamOnt LGBTQ+ Speak Out!
- Everyone Has A Home: Policy Brief to the National Housing Strategy Consultation
- Neighbourhood Profile: South Mountain
- Hamilton Social Landscape Bulletins: Demographic Shifts
  - Introduction and key findings
  - Age groups and generational changes
  - Rise of the Millennial generation
  - Population growth, forecasts and targets
  - Birth rates and delayed child-rearing
  - Ethnic origins, Indigenous residents and visible minority groups
  - Immigration and languages
- South Mountain Community Engagement Initiative Evaluation Baseline Results
- Transit Ridership and Funding Trends
- Violence Against Women Services in Hamilton: Assessing Gaps and Barriers in Service
- YWCA Hamilton Building Opportunities: Advancing Women in Non-Traditional Occupations Evaluation

In addition, the SPRC has published the following report through collaboration with First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, Good Shepherd, Hamilton Organizing for Poverty Elimination, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, Diocese of Hamilton, Anglican Diocese of Niagara and the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition:

- Give Us A Chance to Succeed: Voices from the Margins - The Report of the April 2016 Hamilton Social Audit

All of the above reports are available for download on our website: sprc.hamilton.on.ca/publications
The Neighbourhood Action Strategy (NAS) Community Developer Team supports the 11 priority neighbourhoods of Beasley, Crown Point, Davis Creek, GALA, Jamesville, Keith, McQuesten, Sherman, Stinson, Riverdale and Rolston. They work alongside the local planning teams to improve their neighbourhoods, increase community connections and make changes on a broader level through cross neighbourhood collaboration. SPRC also manages the Small Grants program for NAS. This year some highlights from the small grants program include a youth led art crawl in Crown Point, legal and holistic services to vulnerable women in the east end, the Davis Creek cookbook, a “Hug-a-Hub” Party in Keith, café conversations with and for newcomers in Riverdale, little free libraries and movie nights scattered all over the city and many wonderful projects that bring residents together to grow community. In total just over $58,000 in small grants funding was awarded to 53 projects in the 11 neighbourhoods.

Alongside our work in NAS, the SPRC partnered with Victoria Park Community Homes, McGiveny Homes and Kiwanis East Non Profit Housing to do community engagement in the South Mountain neighbourhoods of Butler, Barnstown and Chapple East and West. Through this work we have been successful in supporting the residents in these neighbourhoods to form a planning team, use a small grants program to fund their ideas and conduct community clean ups, special events, BBQs and more.

All of this work is grounded in the amazing team of Community Developers here at the SPRC. Their commitment to building healthy, inclusive and vibrant neighbourhoods has shown results that have created pathways for positive change.
THE STREET YOUTH PLANNING COLLABORATIVE (SYPC)

The Street Youth Planning Collaborative (SYPC) exists to support youth experiencing street-involvement and homelessness in Hamilton. The SYPC is comprised of approximately 55 individual members including directors, agency staff and First Voice youth who represent 20+ youth serving agencies. Collaboratively, they are working together to respond to the issues through implementing creative solutions. One method for the SYPC to implement solutions is through building staff’s capacity through sharing training resources across the SYPC members to better support the diverse issues among youth experiencing homelessness.

This past year, in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Calls to Action, the SYPC partnered with the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre (HRIC) to provide Cultural Competency training. HRIC provided training sessions on Working with Indigenous Youth and Communities with SYPC member agencies which included a total of approximately 125 participants. The SYPC is committed to this training as a first step towards building education and awareness within youth serving staff around the impacts of residential schools and the cultural genocide of Indigenous peoples.

The SYPC in partnership with Alternatives for Youth also provided training on Engaging Youth with Substance Use Issues which provided additional opportunities for staff capacity building. This training included First Voice youth as co-presenters/facilitators with approximately 100 participants. These trainings have resulted in changing the way that staff engage with youth and deliver support services, by reframing how staff responds to youth’s behaviors and actions.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

LGBTQ+ EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Last year over a dozen organizations in Hamilton received LGBTQ Positive Space Training or a presentation on LGBTQ+ inclusion from the SPRC. This includes the YMCA, the Hamilton Police Services Board, Kiwanis Homes and City Housing Hamilton. Various public and Catholic high schools were visited by Senior Social Planner, Deirdre Pike, to speak to students and teachers in assemblies about creating LGBTQ+ Positive Spaces or Positive Space Groups.

A highlight of the year was the release of the recommendations in the Speak Out report, the result of five community consultations with over 150 LGBTQ+ people and service providers in Hamilton. Twelve leaders of anchor institutions in this city including the Mayor, the directors of both English-speaking school boards, Children’s Aid Society and Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Hamilton, Hamilton Health Sciences, St. Joseph’s Healthcare, Hamilton Community Foundation, United Way, Hamilton Police Services, the Chamber of Commerce, Good Shepherd and, of course, the SPRC, stepped out in June 2016 at a public event to declare how their organizations would respond to the recommendations. Over the course of the year the HCF and the United Way each undertook Positive Space Training for their staff and board members. The United Way also began the process of an LGBTQ+ Organizational Assessment. Deirdre Pike will be working with the staff of the newly formed United Way of Halton and Hamilton to deliver additional training and to look at other aspects of the organization and how it may be called to add or change policies and practices to increase LGBTQ+ equity and inclusion.

HAMILTON SOCIAL LANDSCAPE BULLETINS

In 2012, the SPRC launched a bulletin publication called Hamilton’s Social Landscape to disseminate information about community conditions in a shorter, more accessible format. This past year, seven new bulletins were released as part of a Demographic Shifts series. Using a variety of sources, these bulletins examined different demographic groups to understand changes, growth and decline for the city as a whole.

A new partnership was developed this year with the Hamilton Spectator which published data from the bulletins in a weekly story for a 4 weeks series entitled “The Changing Face of Hamilton” in August and September of this year. The Spectator’s editorial at the end of the series noted that “economists and advocates alike are worried about the overwhelming growth of precarious employment, with its typical lack of security, low wages, no benefits and little dependability. We need to recognize this is a potential societal game-changer. If we don't have sustainable population growth, there’s only one other option — decline.”
PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

HAMILTON COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN (CAPC)

Hamilton CAPC continues to provide supports that address the healthy development of children aged newborn to six and their families in east Hamilton. Community based programs and initiatives are delivered through local partnerships in order to improve health outcomes for children. In 2016-17, fifteen child and family programs were provided in thirty-five locations across east Hamilton.

As part of the Government of Canada’s Budget 2016, there was an announcement of additional investment over a two year time frame (2016 – 2018) to enhance services to address homelessness through the HPS. In 2017, the Federal Budget announced an investment of $11.2 billion over 11 years to support the implementation of a National Housing Strategy that included the longest-term commitment to addressing homelessness, identifying $2.1 billion over 11 years to extend and expand the HPS. This additional funding gave the SPRC the opportunity to increase staffing and support to the Housing & Homelessness priority area that included the hiring of two Social Planning Assistants (one year round part-time & one summer part-time), while also supporting increased hours to existing staff. The SPRC Housing & Homelessness team was instrumental in the implementation of this increased HPS investment and facilitated the process for increases to existing Aboriginal homelessness programs; an opportunity for Small Capital Grants (i.e. new computers, program vehicles, renovations to existing transitional housing stock, youth program furnishings etc.) to increase and support clients in prevention of homelessness; and funding for new programs to support culturally relevant responses to address homelessness.

The HPS Aboriginal increased investment in Hamilton has contributed to the City of Hamilton’s 10 Year Housing & Homelessness Action Plan and the outcome areas of: Supply, Affordability, Supports, Quality & Equity. The ability to: have Aboriginal participation at consultation tables (i.e. Minister Ballard’s Provincial Housing Consultations); assist sister communities in their exploration of Mainstream and Aboriginal relationship building; have Aboriginal presentations at such events as the Ontario Municipality of Social Services Association (OMSSA) or at the 2017 Poverty Reduction Summit held in Hamilton and featuring many Aboriginal presenters, are just a few examples of the positive results of increased HPS Aboriginal funding to Hamilton.

As we continue on this journey of long-term increased investment of HPS funding in Hamilton, the SPRC continues to support local Aboriginal autonomy and decision making that is reflective of the spirit of reconciliation and certainly demonstrates the SPRC’s commitment to “Creating Community Change”!
**Statement of Financial Activities and Accumulated Net Assets**

**Operating Fund**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Funded Operations</th>
<th>Core Funded Projects</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Core Funded Operations</th>
<th>Core Funded Projects</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support from public</td>
<td>$14,700</td>
<td>$2,356,884</td>
<td>$2,371,584</td>
<td>$12,807</td>
<td>$2,832,726</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support from governmental agencies</td>
<td>43,656</td>
<td>1,437,927</td>
<td>1,481,583</td>
<td>42,800</td>
<td>1,009,004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating revenue</td>
<td>382,252</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>382,252</td>
<td>375,841</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>440,608</td>
<td>3,794,811</td>
<td>4,235,419</td>
<td>431,448</td>
<td>3,842,936</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Core Funded Operations</th>
<th>Core Funded Projects</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Core Funded Operations</th>
<th>Core Funded Projects</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and benefits</td>
<td>314,539</td>
<td>1,166,559</td>
<td>1,481,098</td>
<td>309,086</td>
<td>1,151,323</td>
<td>1,460,409</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service contracts</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,071,921</td>
<td>2,071,921</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,064,611</td>
<td>2,064,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of service</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>348,103</td>
<td>348,103</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>358,769</td>
<td>358,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>9,386</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9,386</td>
<td>9,386</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>7,486</td>
<td>43,074</td>
<td>50,560</td>
<td>9,374</td>
<td>36,755</td>
<td>46,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>8,413</td>
<td>8,173</td>
<td>16,586</td>
<td>11,292</td>
<td>8,837</td>
<td>20,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage and shipping</td>
<td>6,019</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6,047</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6,008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent and insurance</td>
<td>48,886</td>
<td>36,695</td>
<td>85,581</td>
<td>35,175</td>
<td>49,145</td>
<td>84,320</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public relations</td>
<td>4,745</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>5,240</td>
<td>5,282</td>
<td>1,786</td>
<td>7,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff transportation</td>
<td>5,566</td>
<td>14,254</td>
<td>19,820</td>
<td>4,447</td>
<td>22,601</td>
<td>27,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff development</td>
<td>4,663</td>
<td>15,260</td>
<td>19,923</td>
<td>2,829</td>
<td>12,588</td>
<td>15,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer recognition</td>
<td>2,377</td>
<td>26,560</td>
<td>28,937</td>
<td>2,058</td>
<td>36,801</td>
<td>38,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational dues and periodicals</td>
<td>7,085</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>7,585</td>
<td>6,871</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment and maintenance contracts</td>
<td>8,444</td>
<td>5,532</td>
<td>13,976</td>
<td>8,808</td>
<td>38,859</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other administration</td>
<td>2,484</td>
<td>57,657</td>
<td>60,141</td>
<td>5,689</td>
<td>90,893</td>
<td>96,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>430,093</td>
<td>3,794,811</td>
<td>4,224,904</td>
<td>421,404</td>
<td>3,842,936</td>
<td>4,264,340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Excess of revenue over expenses for the year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Core Funded Operations</th>
<th>Core Funded Projects</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Core Funded Operations</th>
<th>Core Funded Projects</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess of revenue over expenses for the year</td>
<td>10,515</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,515</td>
<td>10,044</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated net assets at beginning of the year</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>673</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to Stabilization Reserve Fund</td>
<td>(10,000)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(10,000)</td>
<td>(10,000)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(10,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated net assets at end of year</td>
<td>$1,232</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$1,232</td>
<td>$717</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$717</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** The information given in this Annual Report is an extract from the financial statements. The complete financial statements, including all notes to the financial statements, are available on request.
STAFF AND PLACEMENT STUDENTS

SENIOR STAFF
Don Jaffray, Executive Director
Cindy Sue McCormack, Senior Social Planner
Patti McNaney, Senior Social Planner
Deirdre Pike, Senior Social Planner
Renee Wetselaar, Senior Social Planner

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Caroline Eyk, Financial Administrator
Tiffany Gabriel, Administrative Assistant*
Sarah Hedden, Executive Assistant
Yvonne Rauwerda, Finance Assistant

PLANNER STAFF
Shahzi Bokhari, Social Planner Assistant
Carla Borstad Klassen, Social Planner*
Stephanie D’Odorico, Social Planner Assistant*
Savannah Hope, Social Planner Assistant
Allison Maxted, Social Planner - Hamilton Community Land Trust*
Sara Mayo, Social Planner - Geographic Information Systems
Erika Morton, Social Planner - Street-Involved Youth
Cassandra Roach, Social Planner Assistant - The [Dis]placement Project
Jennifer Rollings, Social Planner Assistant*

PROJECT STAFF
Art Forms
Amber Aasman, Program Coordinator*

Hamilton Community Action Program for Children
Ghanwa Afach, Systems Support Worker
Alison Miller, Community Outreach and Program Administration

Tastebuds, Hamilton’s Student Nutrition Collaborative
Jean-Anne Bauman, Community Development Worker
Samantha Delaney, Community Development Worker
Grace Evans, Community Development Worker/Assistant Manager
Suzanne Giovannetti, Centralized Food Purchasing Coordinator
Bhairavi Kumar, Community Development Worker

Neighbourhood Action Strategy
Sunil Angrish, Community Developer - Stinson Neighbourhood
Brandon Braithwaite, Community Developer - Jamesville and Beasley
Casey Eaton, Administrative Assistant - McQuesten Urban Farm*
Khadija Hamidu, Summer Community Development Assistant*
Katherine Hartwick, Summer Community Development Assistant*
Victoria Kaulback, Summer Community Development Assistant*
Masdal Khan, Summer Community Development Assistant*
Judy Kloosterman, Community Developer - Davis Creek and Keith
Nicole Langdon, Summer Community Development Assistant*
Kelly McKinney, Community Animator - McQuesten Urban Farm*
Muneeb Muzaffar, Community Animator - Riverdale Salad Bowl*
Laura Ryan, Community Developer - McQuesten and Rolston
Lynsa Saad, Community Developer - Stinson and Crown Point*
Tegbir Sidhu, Summer Community Development Assistant*
Greg Tedesco, Social Planner Assistant - South Mountain
Matt Thompson, Community Developer - Sherman
Nazia Zeb, Community Developer - Riverdale and GALA

PLACEMENT STUDENTS
Kim Adrovez
Aaron Bailey
Fahima Begum
Sewit Buzuayne
Leya Makenzie Chung
Rachel Cox
Minoo Faragheh
Jessie French
Maris Garrick
Julia Getchell
Hallmeb Ibrahim
Patrick Kirschner-McDonald
Christina Lukinsky
Sheldon McGinn
Danielle McMahon
Sana Minhas
Stephanie Rajkov
Cindra Robazza
Ramachandiran (Varun) Sethuraman
Shawna Small
Rasha Taha
Kirstin Webb
Valerie Welch

*Resigned or completed project during the year