

## **Retired Teachers of Ontario Foundation Provides \$50,000 Grant to Hamilton Seniors Isolation Impact Plan**

Partners of the Hamilton Seniors Isolation Impact Plan (HSIIP) are pleased to announce they have received a \$50,000 grant from the Retired Teachers of Ontario Foundation. The grant will help HSIIP partners to reduce seniors' isolation through the creation of a Social Participation Fund.

### **Retired Teachers of Ontario Foundation**

The RTO/ERO Foundation aims to enhance quality of life for aging adults through the funding of research and training in studies of aging, and programs to address social isolation among older adults. The Foundation was established in 2011 with the support of the Retired Teachers of Ontario, and is inspired by the generous spirit of retired teachers and educators. For more information about the RTO/ERO Foundation visit [www.rto-ero.org/support-the-foundation](http://www.rto-ero.org/support-the-foundation)

### **Hamilton Seniors Isolation Impact Plan**

HSIIP is a three-year initiative funded by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program. It consists of seven complimentary projects led by: AbleLiving, Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging, Hamilton Council on Aging, St. Joseph's Home Care, Thrive Group, Wesley Urban Ministries, and YWCA Hamilton. The projects share common goals and strategies, with the ultimate aim of achieving positive outcomes for 20% of isolated seniors city-wide within the three years. For more information about HSIIP visit <http://socialisolation.ca> or call 905-777-3837, ext. 12434.

### **Social Participation Fund**

The \$50,000 grant will compliment the work of HSIIP through the creation of a Social Participation Fund. HSIIP partners employ 'Connectors' that work to identify isolated seniors, assess needs, create care plans, and follow up over time to ensure that seniors get anchored into activities and supports.

The Social Participation Fund will cover costs associated with some of these activities and supports. For a client of a HSIIP Connector, the Fund can provide up to \$250 for care-giver relief services, and up to \$100 for fees associated with recreational activities, criminal background checks (required for volunteering), or translation services. It can also provide up to 20 bus tickets. Eligibility criteria apply.

### **If you know a senior that might be isolated please contact a HSIIP Connector:**

#### **HSIIP Community Connectors – 1-905-528-5629**

Care coordination for isolated seniors located anywhere in the City of Hamilton.

#### **HSIIP Hospital Connectors – 1-905-730-4978**

Care coordination for isolated seniors returning home after a hospital visit.

#### **HSIIP Peer Connectors – 1-905-522-9922, ext. 316**

Volunteers aged 55+ are matched with isolated seniors to provide in-home visits.