



The Hamilton Foundation (THF) was created to help meet unexpected, urgent, and short-term needs of Hamilton residents due to job loss, death, divorce or catastrophic illness.

THF does not replace traditional government programs or social service organizations, but helps people in ways that those programs cannot. It also maintains a directory of over 60 regional social service agencies and refers people to those programs when appropriate.

The inspiration for The Hamilton Foundation came from concerned citizens who have personally seen fellow townspeople with urgent needs for financial support. It is a common misconception that Hamilton is a universally affluent community. Severe economic and personal distress -- both short-term and long-term -- does exist here.



What kinds of help does THF provide?

Through financial support and referrals, THF helps Hamilton residents when unexpected emergencies occur.

THF provides up to \$750 for urgent, short-term problems such as:

- Mortgage or rent assistance
- Emergency home repairs
- Emergency heating and utilities
- Temporary transportation
- Food and nutrition
- Child care
- Children's scholarships
- Home health care
- Prescription medicine and medical supplies

THF also provides referrals to government agencies and private social service organizations that can provide additional services or longer term support.

Who is eligible?

All residents of Hamilton.

How do people in need request help?

Call the THF Coordinator,

Elizabeth Burns at 978-233-8002

Can a request be made for someone else?

Yes. The THF Coordinator investigates all requests for help and brings the request to the THF Board for approval.

Who will know of a request for help?

Strict confidentiality is maintained. The THF Coordinator, or her designee, is the only person who knows a recipient's identity.

How is financial assistance provided?

Payments are generally sent directly to vendors or creditors, but cards for food and gasoline are also provided.

Are any tax dollars used for this program?

No. THF is entirely funded by private donations.

How can I contribute to THF?

Contributions by check made out to:

The Hamilton Foundation

should be sent to:

The Hamilton Foundation
c/o Hamilton Town Hall
PO Box 429
577 Bay Road
Hamilton, MA 01936

Contributions are tax deductible.

Who are our neighbors in need?

Over 100 Hamilton families used the Acord Food Pantry last year representing over 260 residents.

During the 2012-2013 school year, 144 children in the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District received free or reduced price lunches. This represents 110 families and 7.4% of the enrollment.

Since THF was formed in 2005, over 150 requests for support have been met. This represents over \$56,000 in payments for electricity, heating, rent, mortgages, phone bills, and cards for food and gasoline.

Recent emergency grants include payments for:

- oil bill for elderly couple on fixed income
- utility bill for single mother with three children
- rent for young couple with recent job loss
- carpentry repairs for an elderly woman
- unexpected medical bill for a disabled elderly man
- food and medicine for a recently divorced woman and her children

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www.hamiltonma.gov/Hamilton_Foundation.htm

*Neighbors
Helping
Neighbors
in times of need*