The mission of **The Hamilton Foundation (THF)** is to respond to the immediate needs of Hamilton residents in financial distress by providing short term monetary support and referral to appropriate social service agencies.

***What does THF do?***

THF provides financial assistance as well as non-financial guidance to Hamilton residents who qualify for needs within THF’s mission, including, but not limited to:

• Mortgage or rent assistance

• Emergency home repairs

• Emergency heating and utilities

• Temporary transportation

• Food and nutrition

• Child care

• Children’s scholarships

• Home health care

• Prescriptions and medical supplies

While THF does not replace traditional government programs or social service organizations, it 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.



***How did THF come to be?***

The inspiration for THF 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.

***How do I qualify for assistance?***

You must be a Hamilton resident and be able to provide information on your need.

***How do I make a request for assistance?***

To request assistance, simply call the THF Coordinator at **978-233-1816** and leave a brief message describing your need and how you can be reached.

***Then what happens?***

The THF coordinator will contact you and ask you to fully describe your need. She will also request basic financial information including monthly income and expenses.

She will review your information and decide whether the request is consistent with THF’s mission. If it is, she will decide on the type and amount of assistance that THF can provide. In some cases, she will bring the information to the THF Board for review and determination.

***How is financial assistance provided?***

An outstanding bill from a vendor or creditor must be provided to the coordinator. She will then arrange for a payment to be made directly to the vendor or creditor. In some cases, cards for food and gasoline may also be provided.

***Can a request be made for someone else?***

Yes. The THF Coordinator investigates all requests for assistance.

***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.

***Are any tax dollars used for this program?***

No. THF is entirely funded by private donations. Contributions are also tax deductible.

***How can I contribute to THF?***

Contributions can be made by check to:

 ***The Hamilton Foundation***

 c/o Hamilton Town Hall

 PO Box 429

 577 Bay Road

 Hamilton, MA 01936

***Who are our neighbors in need?***

In the past year, Hamilton residents received over 3,731 food orders (55% of the total) from the Acord Food Pantry.

During this school year 178 children in the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District are receiving free or reduced-price lunches. This represents nearly 10% of enrollment.

Since THF was formed in 2005, over 230 requests for support have been met. This represents more than $90,000 in payments for electricity, heat, rent, housing repairs, 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

***What else does THF do?***

• Educates the community about services available through THF and other organizations.

• Conducts forums with other similar organizations to exchange information, coordinate services, and educate the public of citizen needs.

**Other Available Resources**

**Hamilton Housing Authority**

978-468-3981

**Hamilton Council on Aging**

978-468-5595

**Acord Food Pantry**

(W 9:30-11AM, Th. 6:30-7:30pm, Sat. 9-11 am)

978-468-7424

**Senior Care Inc. (M-F, 9-5)**

978-281-1750

**Action, Inc. (M-F, 9-5)**

978-282-1000

**SeniorCare Meals on Wheels & Elder Dining Site (M-F, 9-5)**

978-281-1750

**HAWC (Domestic Abuser Hotline)**

800-547-1649

**Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program**

978-922-2110

**Mass Health**

800-841-2900

**SNAP Nutrition Assistance Program**

781-338-6480

**Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance**

978-825-7300

**Commonwealth Care**

800-841-2900

**Salvation Army**

978-922-4522

**SafeLink Wireless**

800-723-3546

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[www.hamiltonma.gov/government/](http://www.hamiltonma.gov/government/)

hamilton-foundation/

Neighbors Helping Neighbors in times of need