Graham Paine/Metroland

Marc Clare is the executive director of the Halton Catholic Children's Foundation.

CAMPAIGN TO HELP CATHOLIC STUDENTS **MEET BASIC NEEDS**

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A local organization is looking for your support. The Halton Catholic Children's Foundation (HCCF) launched its Every Student Succeeds Campaign and is hoping the public will help it reach its \$25,000 funding goal. The foundation provides assistance to students by providing basic needs like food, clothing and other necessities.

The organization aims to eliminate the financial barriers keeping young people from succeeding at school.

Marc Clare, executive director of HCCF, said the pandemic has put added stressors on both local families and the foundation itself. "The COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly challenging for students and their families who are in need," said Clare. "Since March 2020, we have assisted over 800 Halton Catholic District School Board students — two times the number of students we would typically help in a similar time frame.'

The Every Student Succeeds Campaign to raise \$25,000 is critical to the foundation's ability to meet the funding gap and continue supporting these students.

Marvin Duarte, HCCF board of directors chair, said there are now more students in need of support.

"It is shocking when we recognize that 8.2 per cent of Halton's community lives below the poverty line — and the distance between the haves and have nots increases during times of crisis. The pandemic has made clear that we need to do more to support the students and their families who are struggling and that there are, in fact, more struggling students to support," said Duarte.

The Every Student Succeeds Campaign will run from Feb. 1 to March 31, 2022. To participate, HCCF is collecting donations online and via mail-in cheque. For more information about the campaign and how to make a donation, please visit https:// www.hccf.ca/2022/01/hccf-every-studentsucceeds-campaign.



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The IFP - Halton Hills | Thursday, February 24,