

# Region funds project to reduce homelessness

Links2Care is among seven "community initiatives" to benefit from \$3.02 million from Halton Region aimed at addressing homelessness and eviction prevention. The funds will permit Links2Care to continue to serve homeless families in Halton Hills in three apartment units with support for five years.

The funded projects is part of the priorities from the Region's Comprehensive Housing Strategy to develop a basic level of service for homeless individuals and families and to enhance eviction prevention services

to keep people housed.

The approved funding recommendations are the result of a two-stage, community-wide proposal call initiated in July 2007 with a Request for Expressions of Interest (REI), followed by a Call for proposals to the applicants who successfully met the REI evaluation criteria. The process included interviews with each applicant organization and an evaluation by a committee of senior staff and the Chair of the Homelessness Advisory Committee.

Available funding included promised Federal Homeless-

ness Partnering Initiative funding (\$435,592), Regional Comprehensive Housing Strategy funds (\$500,000) and funds received by Halton from the Provincial Delivering Opportunities for Ontario Renters (DOOR) (\$2.09 million).

Four of the projects previously received a total of \$233,702 in federal homelessness funding and will continue to provide transitional housing programs and outreach to homeless and at-risk youth, with some expansion.

Other projects include:

- Halton Multicultural Council to provide transitional housing to newcomer families in a four-unit dwelling with support services or three years. Rents will be offset by housing allowances. HMC formerly assisted newcomer families in two units.

- Home Suite Hope Shared Living Corp. will receive funding over two years to provide support services in the organization's transitional housing units.

- Summit Housing and Outreach Programs will assist 12 individuals with serious mental illness with housing

allowances over 10 years.

- Support and Housing – Halton will continue to assist five individuals with serious mental illness at a time to move to more independent living in the community. Five housing allowances will assist graduates of the program with affordable rents.

- Transitions for Youth will receive funds for two initiatives assisting homeless and at risk youth. The Bridging the Gap Program that provides outreach assistance to troubled youth throughout Halton will continue for three years, and,

- Transitions for Youth will develop Halton's first transitional housing project for homeless youth through the purchase of a dwelling for three to four youth at one time.

"It is critical that we work to ensure long-term, stable funding for initiatives such as these to reduce homelessness in our community," says Chair Gary Carr. "Halton Regional Council will continue to urge senior levels of government to develop a national housing strategy to help people in need in Halton and across Canada."

**GINGERBREAD:** Lynn Trudel (Santa hat), owner of Ice Dreams, with daughter "Mi-Mi" (back left) ran a ginger bread making workshop on December 16. Four Acton children attended, left to right: Shauna Gardner, Mitchell Gardner, Valarie Wood and Veronica Wood. - Tracey Gardner photo.



## Bearcats give Burlington Blues

By Justina Pembleton

Acton's Bearcat girls hockey team defeated the Burlington Central High School Blues 5-3 on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at the Acton Community Centre.

Jessica Hamilton of the Blues opened the scoring in the first period, with Sarah Kumka of the Blues following only a minute later, giving them a 2-0 lead. Megan Evans of the Bearcats cut the lead with only two minutes left in the first.

In the second period, Evans scored her second of the game, tying it up, with Kaylee Kearns putting the Bearcats in the lead shortly thereafter. Seconds later, Chelsea Pronkewich added to the lead with another goal for the Bearcats.

The Blues looked like they may make a come-back with Sarah Kumka scoring halfway through the third. With only 12-seconds left, Toree Cunningham scored the final goal of the game for the Bearcats securing their win.

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