

What Have I Gotten Myself Into? More than Just a Good Idea

North End Statistics - Our Community

- 41% of our community lives in poverty (the poorest in the city)
- 34% of the second poorest community in Hamilton lives in poverty
- 18% of Hamiltonians live in poverty
- twice as many families or individuals in our community are on OW or ODSP

Single Parent Families

- 59% of single parent families live in poverty in our community
- 29% of single parent families live in poverty in Hamilton

Children Under 6 years of age

- 55% of children under 6 in our community live in poverty
- 1190 of 2163 children
- 26% is the child poverty rate of the city of Hamilton

Seniors

- 36% of the seniors in our community live in poverty
- 16% of the seniors in our city live in poverty

Sometimes Compassion is Enough

Moving from Compassion to Justice

- Compassion is caring for someone in their time of need. Justice is eliminating what caused the need.

God is a Just God

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. Psalm 36:6

¹ The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice. ² Clouds and thick darkness surround him; **righteousness and justice** are the foundation of his throne. Psalm 97:1-2

The King is mighty, he loves **justice**— you have established equity; in Jacob you have done what is **just and right**. Psalm 99:4

God's People are Called to be a Just People

Blessed are they who maintain **justice**, who constantly do what is **right**. Psalm 106:3

Evil men do not understand **justice**, but those who seek the LORD understand it fully. Proverbs 28:5

³ 'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?'
"Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers.

⁴ Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.

⁵ Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself?
Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashe?
Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD ?

⁶ "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to **loose** the chains of **injustice** and **untie** the cords of the yoke, to **set** the oppressed free and **break** every yoke? Isaiah 58:3-6

Justice for the Poor

I know that the LORD secures **justice** for the **poor** and upholds the cause of the needy. Psalm 140:12

The righteous care about **justice** for the **poor**, but the wicked have no such concern. Proverbs 29:7

¹ Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, ² to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless. Isaiah 10:1-2

- 35% of Canada's homeless have a diagnosed psychiatric disorder
- \$624 per month is what a single male in Hamilton is allotted to live off of
- \$496 per month is the average cost of a bachelor apartment in Hamilton
- \$204 per month for a Nutritious Food Basket for groceries
- -\$74 per month is what he has left
- What about heat, hydro, clothing, transit and phone?

⁷ If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. ⁸ Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs. ⁹ Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought: "The seventh year, the year for canceling debts, is near," so that you do not show ill will toward your needy brother and give him nothing. He may then appeal to the LORD against you, and you will be found guilty of sin. ¹⁰ Give **generously to him and do so without a grudging heart**; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. ¹¹ There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land. Deuteronomy 15:7-11

Trends in Employment

Sector	1996	2006	%change
Manufacturing	64,750	57,630	-11%
Health Care	30,630	40,080	31%
Education	19,550	30,830	57%
Construction	15,680	28,080	78%

Hamilton Health Science Corporation is Hamilton's largest employer with 10,000 employees. The City of Hamilton is the second largest employer with 9,000 employees.

Justice the Immigrant and Refugee

The people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery; they oppress the **poor and needy and mistreat the alien**, denying them **justice**. Ezekiel 22:29

⁹ "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. ¹⁰ Do not oppress the widow **or the fatherless, the alien or the poor**. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.' Zechariah 7:9-10

"So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who **oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice**, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty. Malachi 3:5

Ethnic Origin	Population	Total Visible Minority Population	67,845
Scottish	98,375	South Asian	14,765
Irish	80,740	Black	13,900
Italian	58,800	Chinese	9,300
German	47,960	Filipino	4,040
French	42,070	Latin American	5,585
Polish	27,775	Southeast Asian	5,995
Dutch	25,720	Arab	5,390
Ukrainian	18,730	West Asian	3,450
Portuguese	14,115	Korean	1,540

Immigration Trends

- 40% of all of Hamilton's Immigrants live in Riverdale
- 34% of all of Hamilton's Immigrants live in our community
- 21% of all recent immigrants to Hamilton moved to our community
- 14% of all recent immigrants to Hamilton moved to Riverdale
- 26% of our community is a visible minority
- 22% of our community of residents 15 years of age or older have completed a university degree or college diploma compared to 19% for the city of Hamilton

The Church – A Just People

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹ "The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?" says the LORD.

"I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.

¹² When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts?

¹³ Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations— I cannot bear your evil assemblies.

¹⁴ Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts
my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵ When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you;
even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood;

¹⁶ wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight!
Stop doing wrong,

¹⁷ **learn** to do right! **Seek justice, encourage** the oppressed.
Defend the cause of the fatherless, **plead** the case of the widow.

¹⁸ "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD.
"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. Isaiah 1:10-18

This is what the LORD says: "Maintain **justice** and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. Isaiah 56:1