



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

HAMILTON SOCIAL MEDICINE RESPONSE TEAM





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS

This past year has been an important and deeply rewarding one for HAMSMaRT. Together, we have continued to provide compassionate, low-barrier medical care to people living with substance use disorder, while expanding access to high-quality specialist services across internal medicine, infectious diseases, primary care, nursing, and psychiatry. Our partnership with Keeping Six Hamilton and our new collaboration with the Primary Care Access and Attachment Team show our shared commitment to meeting people where they are and reducing barriers to care. We are especially proud of our robust food program, made possible by our incredible kitchen staff, whose work nourishes both bodies and dignity. Our peer support team remains the heart of HAMSMaRT, exceptionally strong, deeply trusted, and essential to everything we do. We are profoundly grateful to every member of our clinic staff for their dedication, flexibility, and belief in this model of care.

We also wish to express our sincere appreciation to the James A. Burton Family Foundation, the Karen and Peter Turkstra Family Foundation, the Hainsworth Trust, and the Ontario HIV Treatment Network for their continued funding support, without which this work would not be possible. At the same time, we acknowledge the very real and ongoing funding challenges facing community-based health programs like ours. These challenges only reinforce our resolve. We remain steadfast in our dedication to sustaining, strengthening, and expanding HAMSMaRT's services in the years ahead, guided by the needs of the community we serve and the values that brought this team together in the first place.



**In Solidarity,
Marcie McIlveen
& Tim O'Shea**



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Mission

To address the social determinants of health through integrated community centred care, education, research, and community organizing.

Healthcare that is a liberatory force for patients, practitioners, and communities alike.

Vision

Principles

Harm Reduction

Community-Centred Care

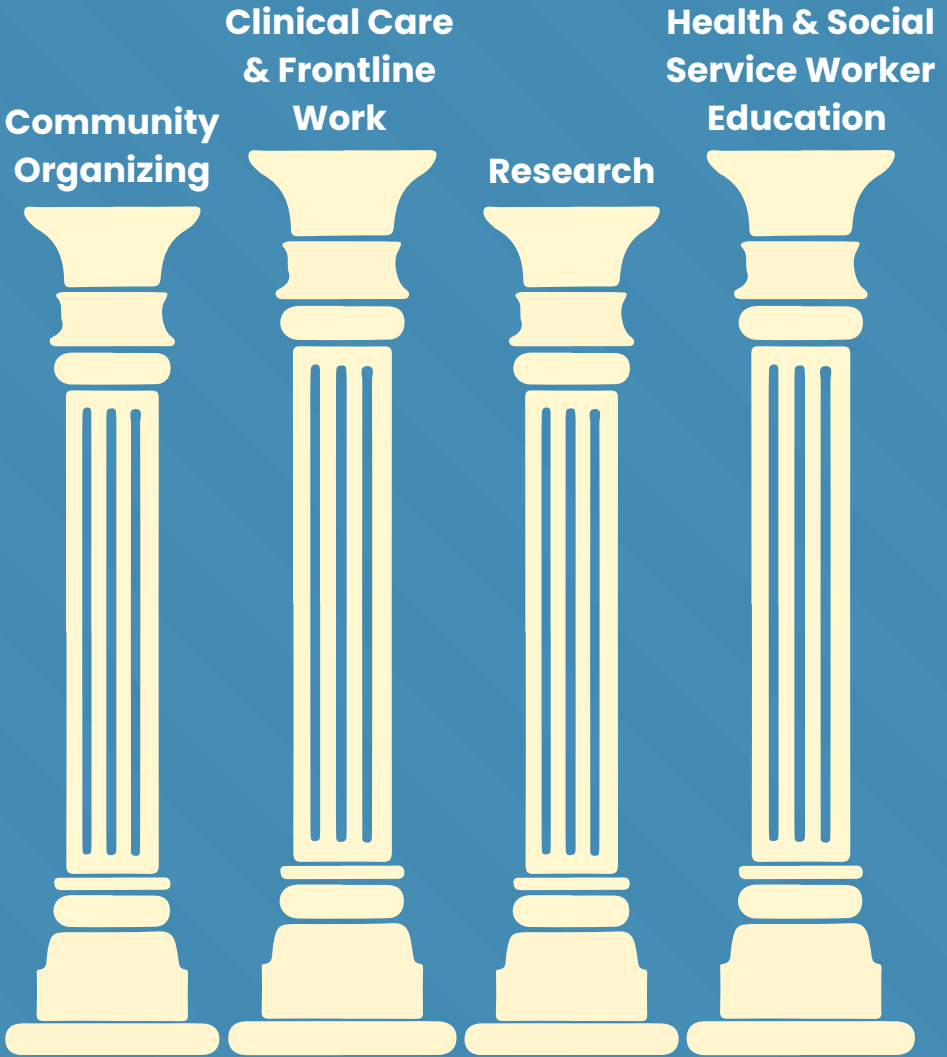
Reciprocal Learning

Centering the Social Determinants of Health

Building the Community We Want to Live In



Pillars of Work





MEET THE TEAM

Lauren Cook-Chaimowitz

Emergency Physician

Lorna Fothergill

Finance Manager

Sarah Glen

Board of Directors

Bill Guyatt

Board of Directors

Maria Tetro

Administrative Lead

Gord Mooney

Community Liaison

Tosh Mizzau

Family Physician

Marcie McIlveen

Program Director, Keeping Six Member

Mary Vaccaro

Board of Directors

Rachel Ann Lamont

Psychiatrist, Board of Directors

Amanda Lee

Family Physician

Robin Lennox

Family Physician,
Hamilton Centre MPP

Suzanne Turner

Family Physician,
Board of Directors

Elise Nagy

Board of Directors

Priyanka Jani

Outreach and Clinic
Registered Nurse



MEET THE TEAM

Matthew Lewis

Outreach and Clinic Registered Nurse

Tim O'Shea

Medical Director, Infectious Disease Physician

Kelly Rattray

Keeping Six Coordinator

Marie Sinclair

Keeping Six Arts Coordinator

Lizz Jennings-Bowen

Peer Support, Good Shepherd PCAAT Team

... and all Keeping Six members, our peers, our patients, our service users, our members, our students, our advisers, and our community partners!



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

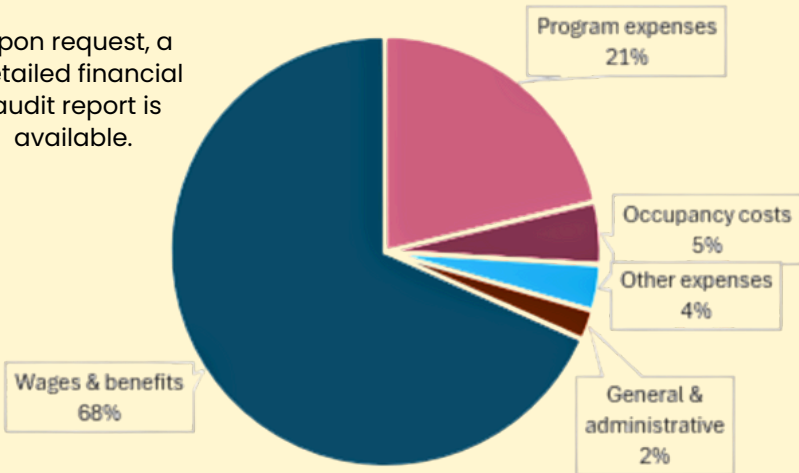
**2025 Total Income:
\$912,257**

**2025 Total Expenses:
\$911,949**

In this last fiscal year ending March 31, 2025, HAMSMART received operating grants and donations totalling \$912,257. We ended with a small surplus of \$308. Here's how we spent \$911,949 this year:

EXPENSES by CATEGORY

Upon request, a detailed financial audit report is available.





THANK YOU!

Thank You to our donors, partners, supporters and funders who helped to make all of this work possible, including:



*Karen and Peter
Turkstra
Family Foundation*



The Hainsworth Trust



Funded by the Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund | **Canada**

...and our many community donors, volunteers and supporters!

K6 HIGHLIGHTS

HAMSMaRT is honoured to continue its ongoing collaboration with Keeping Six.

This year Keeping Six has:

Restarted Sunday Outreach alongside healthcare providers, giving out medical and hygiene supplies as well as a lunch



Continued Weekly Encampment and Street Outreach with the Positive Health Network (PHN)

Provided Volunteer and Employment Opportunities for Community Members, including Kit Making Groups



Continued Advocacy Work at Events like IOAD, Open Mic Nights, and Homeless No More Memorial

Continued Weekly Art Drop-in every Wednesday





COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Our community organizing begins with uncovering the realities of social injustices to build collective power and transform systems of oppression. Our work aims to challenge conditions locally that most directly affect our community members.

This year:

We joined together with CMHA, Shelter Health Network, Good Shepherd, and Refuge Newcomer Health to form the Primary Care Access and Attachment Team (PCAAT) to connect people with Primary Care, Mental Health Care, and Peer Support.

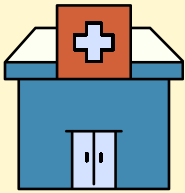
Peers delegated to the city council when overturning the Encampment Protocol was tabled. Unfortunately, the Protocol was ultimately overturned.

HAMSMaRT participated in organizing the Overdose Awareness Day event at Gore Park, with many of our peers and staff speaking at the event and volunteering.



CLINICAL & FRONTLINE WORK

We continued with our trailblazing work in providing a patient- and community-led alternative model to health care services. Our focus, as always, is for people who are unhoused and those who use drugs. Below is a summary of the work we have done this year.



Medical Clinics: 2 half-day medical clinics per week running from 10 am-4 pm, providing safe supply and primary care for mental health, addictions, infectious disease management, wound care, and other areas as they come up.

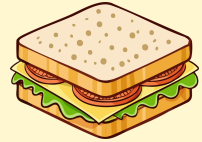
Drop-In Psychiatry: Patient-led drop in with weekly access to psychiatrist without a waitlist or a referral.



Safer Use Space: Supporting medical directives and operations at the YWCA that enable women and gender diverse people to both safely use substances and build community.



Outreach Work: Supporting Keeping Six with their weekly outreach programs in providing basic needs and supplies to over 200 people across Hamilton.



Outreach Clinical Services: We provide outreach nursing care to our patients on an as needed basis to meet people where they are at, whether in the community, in their homes, or in encampments.

Supporting K6 Programs: HAMSMaRT provides some support to K6 in their outreach, drop-in and arts programs both to build community and care as well as to stay connected and rooted in the people we work alongside.



Community Liason: A new role was added this year, filled by former Social Navigation paramedic Gord Mooney. This new role includes helping with housing efforts, tax filings, and connecting clients to other services in the city.



PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Our research projects are derived from and inform our clinical and organizing work. Our research aims to centre the experiences of people deprived of housing and/or those who use drugs. Our previous projects include:

Drug Laws: We explored the enforcement and prosecution of drug laws in Ontario during an ongoing toxic drug crisis.



Nowhere To Go Study: We examined the physical and mental health impacts on people who have been service restricted from shelters and drop-in programs.

Second Hearts: We explored the impact of peer support and wrap around care for people with endocarditis.



Review of Homeless Encampments: We documented the human rights violations of people in encampments. This research went on to inform the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate's interim and final reports reviewing encampments across Canada.

Safer Opioid Supply: We examined the feasibility and outcomes of safer opioid supply prescriptions in primary health care.





ONGOING RESEARCH

Hamilton Homeless Mortality Data Project:

We are researching the deaths of people deprived of housing in Hamilton and collecting relevant data alongside the University of Waterloo.

The Injection-Related Infections (IRIS) Program:

A sister to the Second Heart study, this pilot program aims to improve health outcomes for people with injection-related infections through a multidisciplinary approach.

Ontario HIV Treatment Network study:

In 2024, our team started this 2-year project exploring the effects that access to low-barrier medical care has on patients living with HIV.

The PRESSING Study

(PREnatal Syphilis point-of-care SCREENING):

This research study, led by HAMSMaRT's Dr. Turner, is testing how to integrate a rapid test for syphilis and HIV into a prenatal care clinic in Hamilton. PRESSING is a collaboration between McMaster researchers, community organizations such as YWCA Hamilton, and people with lived experience. HAMSMaRT has provided staff for ongoing knowledge mobilization.



HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER EDUCATION

HAMSMaRT provides training, shadowing, and clinical opportunities to health and social service workers that challenge the conventional power relations in healthcare. We teach that providers should and can leverage their power to better listen to and serve the patients in their community.



We had over 10 medical residents, fellows, and learners cycle in and out of our clinics throughout the year.

We currently have a group of eight social work students from McMaster who are learning about our organization, as well as assisting us in revamping our website.





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Some of our staff and peers provided guest lectures to health and social service workers in different classrooms and workshops.

Two of our employees taught undergraduate courses at McMaster University based on their leadership roles at HAMS MaRT this past year.

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Nursing services have provided wound care training at multiple organizations throughout the city, including YWCA Hamilton, the Salvation Army, the Positive Health Network, and others.



A NEW COLLABORATION

This year, one of our very own staff members (and cofounders!) has started a program through St. Joe's hospital, which has opened a new door for community collaboration and filled a long-time gap in care for our clients.

St. Joe's Substance Use Support Team

This year, **Marcie McIlveen** started the Substance Use Support team at St. Joe's Hospital. Her team consists of peers, social workers, and nurses who work to give people who use drugs the dignity they deserve during their hospital stay and afterwards. This has allowed HAMSMaRT and other community partners to be able to conduct a warm transfer for clients who need emergency care, knowing that a member of the team will be with them when they come in and assist them in navigating the hospital system. The team will also follow them when they are discharged from the hospital.

Marcie also won the 2025 Spirit of Hope award at St. Joe's Mental Health Morning, with her team by her side (pictured right).





The making of the Butterfly Memorial for IOAD. A community project.

660 Main Street East
Hamilton, ON, L8M 1J8
1-833-426-7678
info@hamsmart.ca
www.hamsmart.ca
@HAMSMaRTeam

