

## Charitable Donations in Halton – Part 1



In Community Lens #36<sup>1</sup>, we learn about certain aspects of charitable giving of the residents of Halton. The data for the analysis came from the Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating<sup>2</sup> which was designed primarily to better understand the habits and motivations of volunteers at the national and provincial level. Past surveys were conducted in 2004, 2007 and 2010.

Statistics Canada also compiles data on charitable donations from the annual tax returns submitted by Canadians. The data are not survey samples but direct counts from the tax files. These data include only amounts given to charities and approved organizations for which official tax receipts were provided and claimed on tax returns. It is possible to carry

donations forward up to five years after the year in which they were made. Therefore, donations reported for 2010 tax year could include donations that were made in any of the five previous years. According to tax laws, taxfilers are permitted to claim both their donations and those made by their spouse to receive better tax benefits. Consequently, the number of people who made charitable donations might be higher than the number who claimed the tax credits.<sup>3</sup>

In 2010, over 100,000 residents representing almost 30% of the taxfilers in Halton made a charitable donation. This proportion is higher than the national (23.4%) and provincial (24.5%) averages. The City of Burlington and the Town of Oakville tie at 30% followed closely by Georgetown (29.5%), Milton (26.4%) and Acton (25.6%). Collectively, we donated over \$177 million to charities. The average donation is over \$1,700 per donor. However, the average donation can be distorted by extreme high and low values, median donation is a more representative measure. The median donation for the Town of Oakville is \$390 which means that half of Oakville's donors contribute more than \$390 and the other half less than that amount. The median donation for Burlington is \$310, followed by Georgetown at \$280, Acton at \$250 and Milton at \$240. The median donation for Canada is \$260 and Ontario is \$320 respectively.

As expected, higher income donors contribute more than their lower income counterparts. For example, over 60% of the donations in Burlington came from donors with total income over \$80,000. Those with total income less than \$40,000 contributed about 10% of the total donations. Also, almost half (48%) of the donors in Oakville have a total income of over \$80,000 compared to 4% with income less than \$20,000.

1 Community Development Halton, Community Lens #36, Charitable Giving, September, 2009

2 Statistics Canada, Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians: Tables Report, March, 2012, cat. No. 89-649-XWE

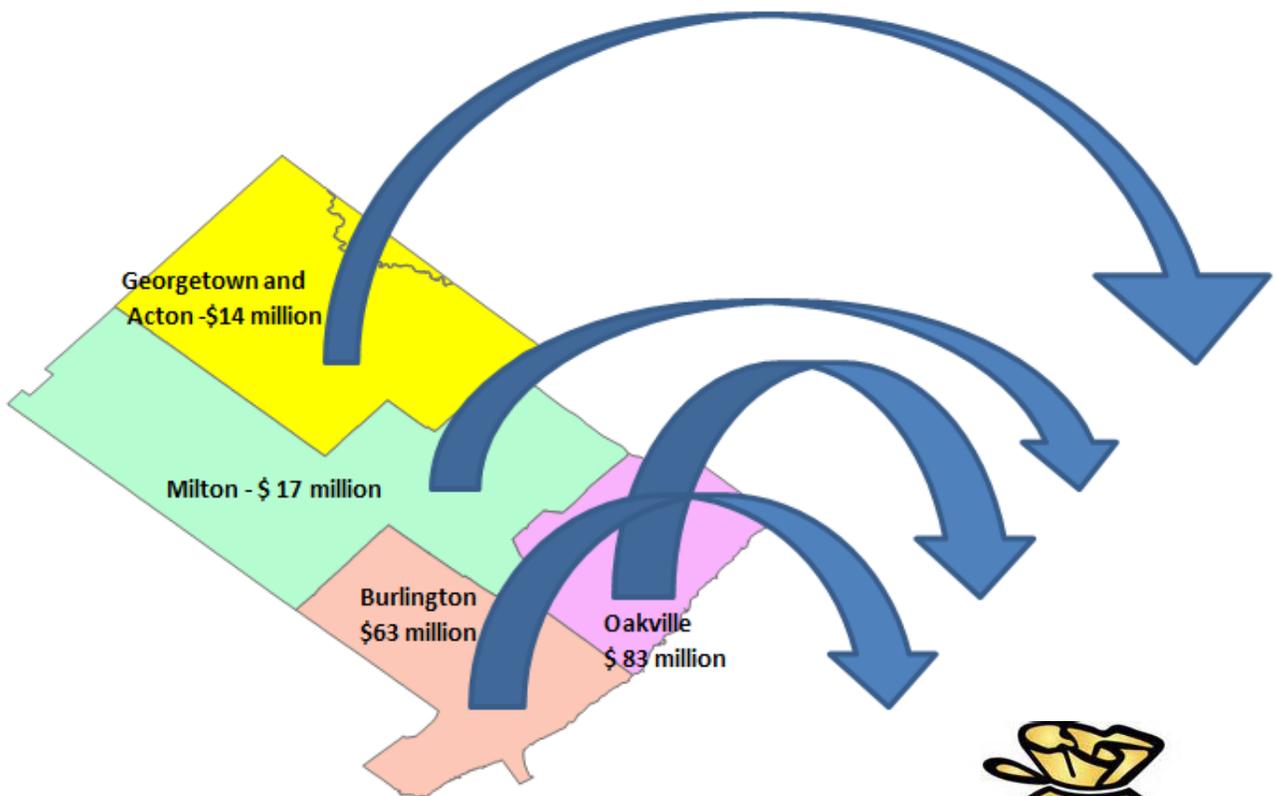
3 Statistics Canada, Financial and Charitable Donors, Income Statistics Division, User's Guide, February, 2013

# Charitable Donations

## 29.5%

of taxfilers (over 100,000 individuals) in Halton donated to charities, which is higher than the national (23.4%) and provincial (24.5%) averages.

| T1-2010   | Donations and Gifts | Schedule 9  |
|---|---------------------|-------------|
| Enter the total of lines 2 and 5 or the amount on line 236 of your return, whichever is less.                   |                     |             |
| Allowable charitable donations and government gifts (enter the amount from line 1 or line 6, whichever is less) |                     |             |
|   |                     | <b>340</b>  |
| Eligible amount of cultural and ecological gifts (see line 349 in the guide)                                    |                     |             |
|   |                     | <b>342+</b> |
| Add lines 340 and 342.  |                     | <b>344=</b> |



We donated over

# \$177,000,000



Total donations vary among neighbourhoods (population range 2,500 to 8,000). The highest was over \$10 million and the lowest was \$310,000.

United Way Funded Agency



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