



Call for Expressions of Interest

Join the Denise J. Brooks Legacy Committee

The Board of Directors at the Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre are calling for expressions of interest to join a vital new initiative: the Denise J. Brooks Legacy Committee. This committee will play a leading role in ensuring that the Denise J Brooks Community Hub, a facility dedicated to providing essential primary health care, community health, and wellness services, thrives for years to come.

The Legacy Committee's mission is to build meaningful partnerships and secure commitments that will support and sustain the work of the Community Hub. With your participation, we can help create a legacy that honors Denise J. Brooks' vision of accessible, compassionate care and community support. In doing so we will build a foundation for long-term sustainability and ensuring that the mission and values of the organization continue to thrive for generations to come.

About Hamilton Urban Core

For more than 25 years, Hamilton Urban Core has been a trusted pillar in the heart of the city, offering high-quality, accessible health and social services to individuals and families who are often marginalized or underserved.

- *Our Mission:* To improve the health and well-being of people and communities who are marginalized and vulnerable, by providing high-quality primary health care services and addressing the social determinants of health. [about-us - hucchc](#)
- *Our Vision:* Empowered, healthy and inclusive communities. [about-us - hucchc](#)

Honoring the Legacy of Denise J. Brooks

The Legacy Committee is grounded in the enduring vision of Denise J. Brooks, the Centre's beloved long-serving Executive Director. A tireless advocate for health equity and justice, Denise led with integrity, courage, and deep community wisdom. Her decades of leadership positioned HUCCHC as a champion for those whose voices are often unheard.



Denise J. Brooks (1956–2020)

Denise Janet Brooks was the long-time Executive Director of the Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre (HUCCHC), where she led the organization from 1998-2020. A dedicated advocate for equity, health justice, and community empowerment, Denise committed her life to serving marginalized and vulnerable populations in Hamilton ([Dignity Memorial](#)). Denise attended and studied at McMaster University for two years prior to settling in Hamilton. She was known early on for her leadership—receiving speaking awards in high school and demonstrating a lifelong passion for social justice ([Dignity Memorial](#)).

Under her leadership, HUCCHC evolved from a modest clinic into a comprehensive community health centre offering primary care, mental health supports, nutrition, addictions services, and newcomer programs. She spearheaded the capital project to build a modern facility—now named the **Denise J. Brooks Community Hub**—intended to serve over 9,000 clients annually ([Alliance on](#)). Denise's relentless advocacy extended beyond HUCCHC. She championed anti-racism and anti-poverty initiatives across Ontario, including convening Hamilton's Community Truth Hearings on poverty and inequality ([Alliance on](#)). In recognition of her service, she received multiple honours, including the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 ([Dignity Memorial](#)).

Her passing in July 2020 was deeply mourned by community members and partners alike. Today, her legacy lives on through the Community Hub named in her honour, the deep-rooted culture of social justice she instilled at HUCCHC, and the ongoing impact of her bold and compassionate leadership ([Dignity Memorial](#)).

The establishment of the Denise J. Brooks Community Hub marked a new chapter in our history — and this committee will carry forward her life's work by supporting strategic fundraising initiatives that honor her legacy and secure the future of the Centre.

About the Denise J. Brooks Legacy Committee

Inspired by the bold vision of founder Denise J. Brooks, the committee will work to:

1. Grow HUCCHC's legacy giving portfolio to expand and strengthen core services for the diverse communities the Centre serves and,
2. Secure transformational gifts to support capital expansion of the Denise J. Brooks Community Hub.

Through strategic fundraising efforts, the committee will help ensure that the Centre remains a thriving anchor of equity, care, and community leadership for decades to come.



Who Should Apply?

We welcome expressions of interest from individuals who:

- Believe in the mission, vision, and values of HUCCHC.
- Have skills or experience in fundraising, philanthropy, financial planning, marketing, law, estate planning, or community leadership, Health Equity, or social determinants of health.
- Are passionate about building healthy, inclusive communities.
- Value the legacy of community leaders like Denise J. Brooks and want to be part of continuing that work.

Commitment

The Legacy Committee will meet as needed to fulfill its responsibilities, with a minimum of four (4) meetings per year. Additional meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the Chair in consultation with the Executive Director or Board Liaison.

- Attend quarterly committee meetings (virtual or in-person)
- Contribute 2–4 hours per month.
- Commit to a 1-year renewable term.

How to Apply

To apply, please email your expression of interest and resume to boardadmin@hucchc.com.

Thank for your interest and consideration.