

## Text for Change

On May 3, 2008 a group of young people from Hamilton met up at the bus terminal at their local mall and began to talk to people about poverty.

The group, known as Hamilton Youth Voice Against Poverty, and supported by the Hamilton Community Foundation, engages youth in discussion and solutions to reduce poverty and takes direct action or find those who can.

Why engage others in this conversation? HYVAP describes it this way:

“Because we are tired of poverty. Because we think everyone can do something about it.”

At the bus shelters youth engaged about 60 people in a conversation or asked them to write down their messages about poverty in Hamilton.

Initially, there was an intention to forward the poverty messages recorded on the bus cards to youth friends via cellular phones – hence the name of the event: “Text for Change”.

Though that didn’t happen at the bus terminal, the HYVAP’s idea was shared at Hamilton’s report to the community on June 5th, where everyone at the gathering took out their cell phones to text anti-poverty messages to five other people.

That day, HYVAP demonstrated that something *can* be done about poverty in Hamilton.



[Read HYVAP's Text for Change report.](#)

### Related Links:

- [Check out the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction’s report to the community](#)
- [Visit the HRPR website](#)
- [Learn more about HRPR’s involvement with Vibrant Communities](#)

By: Louise Kearney



©istockphoto.com/  
Chris Schmidt

