

## Angels are Among Us

This year has been difficult for all of us, and particularly for families with children in school. The school closures and lockdowns have contributed to higher than usual poverty rates, as well as rising rates of anxiety and mental health concerns for students and their families.

Charities such as The Angel Foundation for Learning are also struggling. Without the ability to host major fundraising events, and with corporate sponsorships and donors disappearing or reducing their own giving programs, we are relying more and more on the kindness of individual donors. We are truly blessed to see the outpouring of support from within the TCDSB community over the past few months. We have seen an increase of one-time and repeat donations, tribute and in memoriam gifts as well as more staff signing up for the Cents Off program which are helping us to continue our efforts to help students and their families in need.

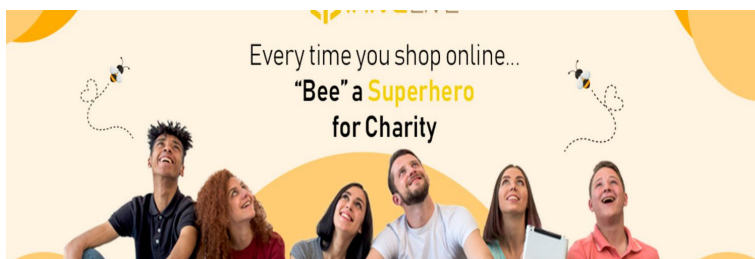


Thanks to the many Angels Among Us, we are able to continue to provide grocery cards to families in need to ensure that whether in school or learning remotely, students have access to nutritious food. We are also able to continue to respond to urgent needs as they arise whether it be assistance with purchasing eye glasses, hearing aids or school uniforms and much more. On behalf of all the families we were able to help, we thank you for your compassion and generosity.

## Join ihiveLIVE and Earn Cash Rewards for You and Your Charity

As we continue to do many of our daily activities in a virtual world, and turn to online shopping for some of our needs, we'd like to introduce you to ihiveLIVE. This eCommerce platform allows individuals to [sign up](#), designate a charity you wish to support, and then shop at many online retailers you likely visit periodically throughout the year anyway and earn cash rewards for yourself in the process.

There is NO SIGN UP FEE, and NO added cost to the items you wish to purchase online. It's easy as 1, 2, 3. Sign up, choose your charity, then go to the ihiveLIVE marketplace and get shopping. Earn cash rewards that you can keep, donate to your charity of choice or share the reward. This additional support throughout the year will enable us to continue to help students and families.



A number of other major retailers have joined ihiveLIVE including Amazon, Indigo, Mark's, Footlocker, Staples and Microsoft. Join the AFL Hive: <https://www.ihivelive.com/>

## Need Help with College and University Costs?

Most students could use a helping hand when it comes to paying for post-secondary education. Check out some of the links below to find information about scholarships and bursaries that are available to you.

- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/osap-ontario-student-assistance-program>
- <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/AwardsScholarshipsBursariesContests/Pages/default.aspx>
- <https://scholartree.ca/>
- <https://www.scholarshipscanada.com/>

The Angel Foundation for Learning also offers a numbers of awards: The AFL Literacy Award for Exceptional Students, the George Ermellini Literacy Award, the Spirit of Inclusion Award and the AFL Library Award in honour of Kathy Harding, as well as a number of bursaries: Bacchelli Family Bursary, Exceptional Student Bursary, Mary Jane McKeen Skilled Trades Bursary, Murdocca Family Literacy Bursary, Tandia Bursary, Tom Leon Student Bursary, AFL Music Bursary and AFL Visual Arts Bursary.

**Application deadline for all AFL awards and bursaries is Friday, May 14th at 5 pm.**

Details can be found on our website: <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/bursaries-awards/>

## Join the A-Team Be an Angel for Others

Initiate an A-Team (Angel Team) at your school. Raise awareness about the work of the Angel Foundation for Learning and how it helps students in your own school and around the Board. Raise funds for the Foundation. It only takes a little to make a big difference. Become Angels in your school communities, leading by example, and helping others in your school, in your community, around the world. Watch for detailed information coming to schools soon.



### Share your ideas

Do you have any good ideas for raising funds for charity? Email us with your suggestions: [angel.foundation@tcdsb.org](mailto:angel.foundation@tcdsb.org).

### Share your stories

Tell us what your team of Angels is doing to make the world a better place: Stop the Stigma, Bullying Awareness and Prevention, Environment Club, visiting the elderly, writing to veterans, food drives, clothing drives etc.



*Be a Leader  
Make a Difference  
Become #AngelsAmongUs*

## Calling all TCDSB Employees! Cents Off Makes Good Sense

Thank you to the many TCDSB employees who signed up for Cents Off. This is a quick and easy way to help students throughout the year. You won't miss the pennies deducted from each pay cheque, but for less than the cost of a cup of coffee, you can help us do what we do to support students and families by providing nutritious meals and snacks to children in our schools and providing emergency funds for basic necessities to families in need.

A little goes a long way to making a positive impact. Learn more about the Cents Off Program here:

[https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/?page\\_id=6110](https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/?page_id=6110)





## Angels Among Us

### **"Panther Pantry"--Supporting Families in Challenging Times**

There are many Angels among us, and the staff at St. John Paul II Catholic Secondary School in Scarborough are living examples.

When Jill Forester, the school Chaplain, started hearing from staff about students who were not eating lunch, or who admitted that they did not have enough food at home, she sprang into action. Together with Debbie Richards-Broomfield, Child and Youth Worker and Vera Mawhinney, Attendance Secretary, they launched the Panther Pantry in the fall of 2019 with the full support of the Principal and the administrative team, custodial staff and other members of the SJPII community.

Families were asked to come forward and self-identify if they needed some assistance, and they were invited to specify their general preferences for the types of non-perishable items they would typically stock at home if they could.

"We saw a need and we wanted to help. It fits with our mandate of taking care of the community in every way possible. It's good for families to know that we are not just teachers or staff working in a brick building," says Jill.

Funding for the Panther Pantry comes primarily from private sources. Individual donations, funding from The Angel Foundation for Learning, and donations of food items from local businesses and families have kept the initiative going.



A major contribution of more than \$3,000 came directly from parents of grade 12 students at the school who opted to direct their \$50 refund from student fees to the Panther Pantry.

Read the full story on our website: <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/panther-pantry/>



### **Special Gift for Chapel at St. Joseph Morrow Park**

An original piece of artwork depicting the last supper now graces the wall of the chapel at the newly rebuilt St. Joseph Morrow Park Catholic Secondary School in North York. The sculpted wood piece was commissioned by the late Tom A. Leon many years ago, and was donated to the school by his widow Connie Leon.

According to Connie, the family has a strong connection to SJMP as Tom's two daughters and three granddaughters all attended school there, and she feels that the artwork has come to its second home.

On hand for the blessing and dedication were (left to right): Catherine Moynihan, Vice-Principal at St. Joseph Morrow Park, Patricia Coburn, Principal, John Yan, Executive Director of The Angel Foundation for Learning, Connie Leon, Norm Di Pasquale, Toronto Catholic District School Board Trustee for Ward 9, Anne Marie Selvaggi Lacaria, school Chaplain and Fr Ed Murphy, Pastor of Blessed Trinity Parish.



The Angel Foundation for Learning is grateful for the ongoing support of Connie Leon and the Leon family, most notably through The Tom Leon Student Bursary. The bursary provides \$5,000 for each recipient to help defray the cost of post-secondary school education for TCDSB students that require financial assistance. Read more: <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/special-gift/>

## Students Leading the Way

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team for all they do to support the work of AFL. This spring they are selling Easter Baskets to help raise money for students and families in need. Students have also initiated a campaign to send personalized Easter postcards to seniors and shut ins who are feeling lonely and isolated. The cards will be delivered on Easter Saturday to Chartwell Lansing Retirement Home. We are so proud of their kindness and compassion. They truly exemplify our Catholic Graduate Expectations, and serve as wonderful role models for all.



## McCarthy Uniforms Supports Student Equity

We are pleased to announce that thanks to a generous donation by Martin McCarthy and McCarthy Uniforms, the AFL is able to expand the reach of our Student Equity Fund and provide additional support to students and families who are struggling with the cost of school uniforms. McCarthy has supplied the Foundation with E-Vouchers which are available to families in need for use towards the cost of purchasing required school apparel whether that be secondary school uniforms, or the elementary dress code of blue and white clothing. Each AFL E-Voucher has a \$50 maximum value and is redeemable via telephone, online and in person at any McCarthy Uniform location in Ontario.

## Let's Go Marlies!

Plans are underway for **March 29, 2021** to be declared **Marlies Blue&White Day** to show support for the Toronto Marlies and Maple Leafs.

With the Board's approval, all schools would be asked to:

- **Wear blue & white, or your Leafs or Marlies gear March 29th.**
- **Tune in** to the Marlies game at 2 and/or the Leafs Next Gen game at 7 pm.
- **Tweet out a photo** of your class (if you have parental consent to do so) or your family in their blue and white or share a photo/video of your class/family enjoying a game of ball hockey. Tweet @AFLToronto to be entered into a random draw for prizes for your class or your family.
- **Participate in a Civvies Day on March 29th** and support AFL with your loonies and toonies, and know that you are helping the students and families in our schools. Funds can be submitted by cheque to Angel Foundation for Learning, 80 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto ON M2N 6E8 or at Canada Helps at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-angel-foundation-for-learning/>

Watch for more details soon and get ready to cheer the boys in blue to victory and thank them for their ongoing support of AFL.



## Happy Easter!

Wishing students, staff and families a blessed, happy and healthy Easter.

Let's count our blessings, and remember that it's not too late to make a difference in the lives of those who are alone, ill or need of assistance or friendship.

## Follow Us...

Twitter [@AFLToronto](#) Web [www.angelfoundationforlearning.org](http://www.angelfoundationforlearning.org)

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/angelfoundationforlearning/?hl=en>

Facebook [@angelfoundationforlearning](#)

