

### Welcome Back!

As we began a new school year and a return to in person learning for many students, The Angel Foundation for Learning is pleased to resume support for in school student nutrition programs, while also continuing to provide grocery cards for families in need where students are continuing with remote learning. During the period of June-August, AFL provided families with close to \$1.5 million in grocery cards (including 4,000 cards for Focus on Youth program counsellors and campers, 8,000 for students in the grade 8 to 9 summer transition programs, 9,000 for students in summer school, 500 for students in the MEDD summer programs and 8,000 to support requests from individual schools. We also distributed \$29,600 for emergency needs, extreme needs and camp funds as well as more than \$21,000 in vouchers for school apparel thanks to the generosity of McCarthy Uniforms.

As always, AFL will also be here throughout the year to support students and families with urgent basic necessities and we will continue to rely on our school administrators and social work team to alert us to the many needs that exist.

The past school year ended on a positive note for the Foundation as our partners and donors continued to help us by participating in a variety of virtual and in person events and initiatives. We are always thankful for that support and involvement, and look forward to another successful year ahead. The needs in our community remain overwhelming, and we will continue to rely on your assistance in the months ahead to fulfill all the requests for assistance that will come our way.



Wishing you all a healthy, happy and successful start to the 2021-2022 school year!



### Profile of an Angel Among Us

There are so many amazing people in our TCDSB community helping out as best they can, and most, like our featured angel here, do so quietly and without any fanfare. Premila De Silva reluctantly agreed to sharing her story of giving simply in the hope that she could be an inspiration to others.

“When the pandemic hit last year, I thought of donating more to AFL,” says Premila, who became one of our most frequent donors. “I know that communities are in need, and I just feel this is the least I can do for those who are struggling to make ends meet in this very difficult and trying time of the unending pandemic.”

“I usually try to make an effort to appreciate my friends, colleagues and family on their special days by showering them with good wishes, prayers and a small gift,” she explains. “Sharing what I have, by donating has always been important to me. By giving to AFL, I felt it was a more thoughtful way of showing appreciation for friends and family by honouring them (with a tribute donation) and helping to meet the need in the community as well,” she adds.

Thank you to Premila, and all the Angels Among Us!

## And The Award Goes To...

Six outstanding students were recognized by The Angel Foundation for Learning in June 2021 for academic excellence, community service, and contributions to their local schools through AFLToronto's annual award and bursary program.

"It is a privilege for us to be able to make a positive impact on the lives of these outstanding young people, and we are truly grateful for the support of our many donors and sponsors for recognizing the diverse needs in our school communities," says AFL Executive Director, John Yan. "With the additional financial hardships that the ongoing pandemic has created for so many families, we are happy to provide some assistance to help these students achieve their post-secondary goals."

Kairra Clemente (Francis Libermann CSS) and Kavishka Gomes (Neil McNeil CSS) are the winners of the 2021 Tom Leon Bursaries. Each received their certificate and a \$5,000 bursary during a special, year-end TCDSB Webcast and YouTube livestream on Tuesday, June 22nd.



Since 2004, the Tom Leon Charitable Foundation has been awarding student bursaries to deserving students who require financial assistance in order to pursue studies at a post-secondary institution. Other 2021 Award and Bursary winners included: Bacchelli Family Bursary – Faith Omosefe Asemota, St. Joseph Morrow Park  
Exceptional Student Bursary – Shaleena Singh, Msgr. Fraser College, Isabella  
Mary Jane McKeen Bursary – Paula Alcantara, James Cardinal McGuigan CSS  
Murdocca Family Literacy Bursary – Yvvana Duku, Msgr. Fraser College, Isabella  
TANDIA Bursary – Cailean Valdez Cruzada, Notre Dame CSS

## Former Winner of Bursary Checks In

The Angel Foundation for Learning is always delighted to hear from recent graduates and former recipients of the Tom Leon Student Bursary Award. Joseph Magnoli completed his Bachelor's of Civil Engineering at Ryerson University last year, and following a 15-month internship program with Tridel, he is continuing on with them as a full-time employee in on-site construction management.

"While it's been a challenging year, it gives me great pride to be able to complete my degree and move towards the next stage in my life," says Joseph.

"I'd like to thank The Angel Foundation (as well as Connie Leon) for the support you've offered. You have afforded me an opportunity to not only gain an education, but to expand my skillset and network outside of the standard curriculum."



Joseph is justifiably proud of all that he has been able to accomplish while completing his studies, including:

- FEAS First-Year Engineering Office
- Ryerson Engineering Orientation (Frosh) Week
- Ryerson Engineering Student Society
- Ryerson Engineering Concrete Toboggan Team (Waterloo)
- Ryerson Society for Civil Engineering
- Conference on Sustainability in Engineering (Prince George, BC)
- Ryerson Engineering Competition (Toronto)
- Ontario Engineering Competition (Guelph)
- TimberFever Design-Build Competition (Toronto)
- Cooperative Internship Program with Tridel

"These are experiences that have shaped me as both a young professional and as an individual, and that I know will serve me well in the years to come," Joseph added.

The Angel Foundation for Learning is also grateful to Connie Leon and the Leon family for funding the bursary that enables so many young men and women to pursue their post-secondary dreams. For details about awards and bursaries see <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/bursaries-awards/>.

We congratulate Joseph on his success, and wish him well in his future endeavours.



## Recent Highlights

### Give and Get Back Pizza Promo

What an amazing June it was! Thanks to a donation of coupons for large pizzas from Domino's, we were able to reward our donors with free pizza as a small thank you for their generosity. The TCDSB community showed how much they loved pizza, and more importantly, how much they care about our students and families, by donating more than \$3,600 to The Angel Foundation.

### Father's Day Auction

For the first time ever, The Angel Foundation held an auction of gifts for dads in honour of Father's Day. Themed baskets focusing on hockey, golf, coffee and barbecue were among the items up for bids. Our heartfelt thanks to all who participated and helped us raise \$1,220 through this initiative. A huge shout out to the Toronto Marlies, Major League Socks and Indigo Yorkdale for donating items for our gift baskets.

### Summer Auction and Social Media Contest

As the year drew to a close, the TCDSB community was invited to participate in an online auction with a wide range of items up for grabs including theme baskets, small appliances, gift cards and electronics thanks to sponsors such as Bell World Markham, Dell, Compugen, The Runners Shop and Metro. We were able to raise \$2,155.50 through the July auction.

Everyone was also invited to participate in a social media contest to coincide with the golf tournament, sharing their wildest wackiest golf attire, or best or silliest putts, drives or pitches. Fun prizes were awarded to those with the most likes and shares thanks to our sponsors Toronto Popcorn Company and The Keg. (Photos of our winners below)

Follow us on social media for more opportunities to win throughout the year.



## Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Our annual golf tournament was a huge success thanks to the generosity of Lebovic Golf Club and our other sponsors and supporters. We raised more than \$45,000 for urgent student needs.



The participants enjoyed the experience to play this world class golf course, while also helping students and families in our schools. We appreciate the support of everyone who joined us on one or both tournament dates and we look forward to seeing you again next year.



## Bequests

Thank you for the work of Honorary Treasurer Mary-Eileen Donovan for finalizing the bequest of \$144,484.07 from the estate of former MSSB Director of Education Norm Forma. We also received notice on August 31, 2021 from lawyers for the Estate of Mary Augustine Lynch finalizing the bequest of \$117,000 to the AFL. This outpouring of generosity will go a long way to supporting the work of the Foundation throughout the years ahead. Please email us at [angel.foundation@tcdsb.org](mailto:angel.foundation@tcdsb.org) for more information about how to make a bequest.

## Congratulations to the New OSTA President

We were delighted with the news that TCDSB's own Keith Baybayon has been elected as president of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association. Keith has been a compassionate, caring and creative voice at The Angel Foundation for Learning board meetings, raising issues of concern for youth across the Board. With a commitment to equity for all students, we know that he will be a passionate voice for his peers across the province. He has already met with Minister of Education Stephen Lecce to begin discussions around the concerns that students have about health and safety and the quality of education in the year ahead. We look forward to hearing more from Keith as well as our new Student Trustee Stephanie De Castro in the coming months. Wishing you much success Keith!



## The Latest Contests

As the new school year began, two new promotions were launched. The first, a Blue Jays socks giveaway on Instagram as fans cheer on the hometown team in their quest for a playoff spot. Congratulations to the following winners: Lisa Bourne, Jimmy Sgourakis, Teresa Pantalone Colonna and Aaron Wright. We thank Major League socks for the donation of prizes. The second contest, Treat Yourself, encouraged folks to make a donation to the Angel Foundation for a chance to win free pizza courtesy of Dominos or free ice cream thanks to Ed's Real Scoop.



## Easy Ways to Help AFL Throughout the Year



All staff are invited to sign up for [Cents Off](#). The form takes just a few seconds to fill out. For just a few pennies deducted from each pay cheque, you can help students year-round. All new sign ups during the month of October will be entered into a draw for prizes. Watch for more details coming via email very soon.

Join [iHiveLIVE](#). Sign in before you shop at your favourite online retailers like Amazon, Footlocker, Indigo and more, and watch the cash rewards accumulate for you, and/or

for your favourite charity, without incurring additional costs. It does add one step to your online shopping experience as you need to log into iHive before proceeding to your favourite vendor to make your purchase, but we are hopeful that the extra few seconds won't dissuade you from shopping and helping AFL at the same time.

Become a monthly donor, celebrate special occasions, or remember a loved one with a donation to The Angel Foundation for Learning. Visit CanadaHelps for details: <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/donation-canada-helps/>

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