

New Year Brings New Challenges and New Opportunities

As the pandemic continued to impact all of us throughout the fall and winter, the needs of our students and their families also increased. From the beginning of December, through to the end of February, the Angel Foundation for Learning was able to provide assistance in the form of:

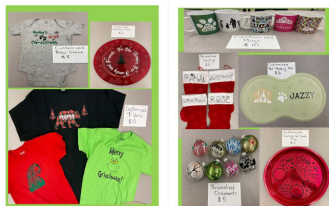
- Grocery cards--\$478,000+
- Emergency funds for basic and essential needs--\$38,002
- Camp funds--\$4,995
- Vouchers for school apparel--\$3,450
- Vouchers for college and university application fees--\$17,600

This was made possible through the incredible generosity of our donors throughout Advent and Christmas and into the new year, including many departments, schools and unions/federations who made donations rather than exchanging gifts, held fundraisers locally, purchased AFL Christmas cards or participated in the Christmas market at the Catholic Education Centre. Our sincere gratitude goes out to everyone who kept The Angel Foundation in mind throughout the holiday season and beyond.

We have lots more opportunities for everyone to get involved in helping AFL throughout the spring and beyond. We know that not everyone will be able to participate in each and every activity, but we hope that everyone will opt in to some of these initiatives and help us to continue the important work that we do for students across the city. Your continued support means that we will never have to turn down a student or family in need.

Highlighting Some of the Angels Among Us

Twenty-one families received a surprise delivery of gifts from the angels at **Josyf Cardinal Slipyj Catholic School** for Christmas. We thank the school for reaching out to The Angel Foundation for Learning for assistance with bringing their Advent/Christmas project to fruition. It could not have been possible without the leadership of the TCDSB Social Work Department who helped to identify the families, provide guidance as to what the needs were for each family, as well as coordinating the pick up and delivery of the gifts. The generosity of these #AngelsAmongUs brightened the holidays for these families, and they are but one example of the outpouring of kindness and compassion that we saw throughout the Advent and Christmas season.



A huge thank you also to Tristan, Anna-Marie, Abigail, Olivia and Isabela from **Msgr Fraser's SAL program** for donating the proceeds of their Pop Up Christmas Market to The Angel Foundation. Their unique and beautiful hand made creations (left) raised \$400.

Students from **St. Aidan Catholic School** created beautiful Valentine's Day cards (right) for the seniors and staff at Shepherd Village in their community. The beautiful messages from these angels let those at the retirement home know that "You are loved". More than 120 cards were created.



March is Nutrition Month

Let's Celebrate our Student Nutrition Program Volunteers!



Throughout March, share photos and stories of the many amazing volunteers who support student nutrition in your school communities. Tell us about all the wonderful things they are doing at the local level and tag us in your posts on Instagram

@angelfoundationforlearning and Twitter @AFLToronto. There will be a draw for prizes at the end of the month for a few lucky volunteers, so make sure you share all those great stories of dedication and compassion. Not on social media? Email us at angel.foundation@tcdsb.org with your stories and photos to be included in the draw. We extend our sincere thanks to our school administrators and SNP coordinators and volunteers for all that they do to ensure that no student goes hungry.

We were excited to hear that the dedicated staff at **St. John Paul II** have resurrected the Panther Pantry, and the **St. Mother Teresa** community is also continuing with its community pantry, both of which provide culturally sensitive non-perishable food to families in need on a regular basis. If your school is also operating a community pantry or similar program for families, we want to hear about the volunteers (staff, students or parents) who donate their time to ensuring that everyone has access to nutritious food. These Angels will also be entered into a draw for prizes.

Sign Up for Cents Off

Cents Off is a quick and easy way to support The Angel Foundation for Learning throughout the year. Sign up here <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/cents-off-program/> and AFL will receive a few pennies from each pay cheque, which on average is less than \$20 per year. You can opt to donate more if you wish and you can opt out at any time if your circumstances change.

Whether you are new to Cents Off, or have been a regular contributor throughout the year, we will be doing random draws every two weeks for the remainder of the school year for fun prizes. You have to be signed up for a chance to win. Tell your friends to sign up for more chances to win.



Marlies Day Cancelled

We regret to inform everyone that due to restrictions on attendance at indoor events in early 2022 and uncertainty about plans to return to normal capacity, MLSE has cancelled the annual event in the interest of the health and safety of everyone concerned. We share your disappointment with this news, but hope to have some exciting information to share about upcoming events/initiatives in partnership with MLSE and the Toronto Marlies, including a date for the Marlies Health Action Day 2023.



Recent "Fun"draising and Outreach Activities

January began with a return to remote learning, and a return to restrictions to slow the spread of COVID. In an effort to lighten the mood, we held another give and get back promotion inviting our angels to make a small donation and receive a winter sports themed mug donated by Indigo Yorkdale and a little treat to enjoy. This Warm Up to Winter promotion brought in almost \$4,000 in just a couple of weeks.



February's fundraiser was Toonie Tuesday held February 22, 2022, with all schools and offices encouraged to donate a toonie or more to The Angel Foundation for Learning. The money is still trickling in and we remind everyone to get their

donations in by March 4th in order to be eligible for a draw for prizes. We are extremely grateful to all who participated.

Our sincere thanks goes out to all who participated in our Valentine's Day Auction. Congratulations to the winners. You helped us raise almost \$1,300 to help children and youth across the Board.



Coming Soon

AFL's 35th Anniversary Gala

The Angel Foundation for Learning is turning 35 years old in April 2022. We had hoped to resurrect our annual gala to celebrate this milestone, but we may have to look at a date in the fall instead of the planned date in May. Please watch for emails in the future to confirm plans for that event.



Get Your Golf Clubs Ready

Mark your calendar for July 7th, as we are hopeful that our annual golf tournament can move forward as planned. We should be sharing some detailed information with everyone very soon.



We enjoy these opportunities to connect in person with many of our generous donors and corporate sponsors, and hope that soon we will be able to safely return to gathering in person with everyone for these and other special events throughout the year.

NEW!!!! Jackpot Alert: 50-50 Raffle

Just in time for March Break, The Angel Foundation for Learning is excited to launch our first ever online 50-50 raffle draw. Tickets are on sale at <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/angelfoundation> until the draw date of **Friday, March 11, 2022**. The more tickets we sell, the bigger the grand prize. Follow us on Twitter @AFLToronto for jackpot updates.



AFL thanks Johnson Insurance for sponsoring our raffles for 2022.



Treat Yourself this Spring

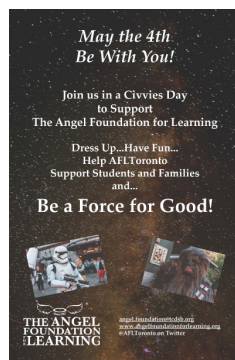
Get ready to give and get back as we celebrate spring and the end of Lent. Donate \$10 or more from April 1st to 8th for a chance to get a coupon for a free large pizza courtesy of Domino's. If you love pizza, and love knowing that you are helping students and families during challenging times, you won't want to miss this Give and Get Back promotion for Nutrition Month <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/70460>.



May the 4th Be With You

The annual tradition continues. All schools and offices are encouraged to consider participating in this Star Wars themed civvies day. Dress up like your favourite character, share your photos on social media and tag us in your posts.

We will be holding a draw for some prizes from among those who have participated, as well as from among those who make a donation online at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/70457>.



Mothers' Day Flowers

Thinking of getting your spouse, mom, grandmother or other special someone some flowers for Mother's Day? Consider ordering from Thornhill Florist, our corporate partner, who will donate 20% of their sales from staff and families across the TCDSB to The Angel Foundation if you use the code Angel when placing your order.



We will also be inviting those on Instagram to follow us and share our post for a chance to win one of two sets of mugs for mom. Watch for details about both initiatives coming soon.

A Little Something for Father's Day

Trying to figure out what to get dad or other significant person for Father's Day? Why not honour that special someone with a tribute donation to The

Angel Foundation for Learning and let him know that your gift is making a positive impact on the lives of students and families in need. As a bonus, everyone who makes a donation from June 1st to June 10th will be entered into a draw

to win one of six \$50 gift cards to Home Depot or Canadian Tire <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/70469>.



In addition, a social media contest will be held for a chance to win one of more than a dozen survival kits for men. Watch for more information coming later this spring, and follow The Angel Foundation for Learning (on Instagram/ Twitter) for updates and opportunities to win throughout the year.



On the Hunt for Ideas

Do you have ideas for raising funds, or raising the profile of The Angel Foundation for Learning? Email us at angel.foundation@tcdsb.org or AFL.fundraising@tcdsb.org. We always welcome feedback from students, parents and staff about how we can build on past successes and create new opportunities for everyone to get involved.



Awards and Bursaries

It's that time of year once again. Applications for the following awards for schools are due April 29, 2022: George Ermellini Literacy Award, Spirit of Inclusion Award, The AFL Literacy Award for Exceptional Students and The AFL Library Award in Honour of Kathy Harding.

Applications for the following student bursaries are also due on April 29, 2022:

The Bachelli Family Bursary, The Exceptional Student Bursary, The Mary Jane McKeen Skilled Trades Bursary, The Murdocca Family Bursary, The Tandia Bursary, The Tom Leon Student Bursary, The AFL Music Bursary and the AFL Visual Arts Bursary.

NEW!!! As part of the ongoing journey towards Truth and Reconciliation and ensuring Every Child Matters, a new **Student Bursary for Indigenous Youth** is being launched. Administered through the Angel Foundation for Learning and co-sponsored with the TCDSB's Department of Equity, Diversity, Indigenous Education, and Community Relations, the bursary is intended to help defray the cost of post-secondary education. Two (2) bursaries of \$5,000 each are available to a graduating First Nations, Inuit and Métis student who are registered in the Toronto Catholic District School Board and require financial assistance in order to pursue post-secondary studies at a college or university and has made outstanding contributions to their school community.

Check out all the details for this new bursary, as well as the other awards and bursaries at <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/bursaries-and-awards/>

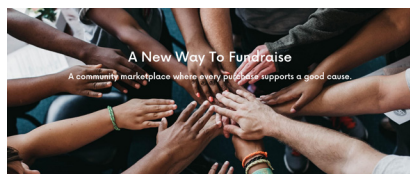
Consider a Monthly Donation to The Angel Foundation

For the entire month of March, CanadaHelps will make a one-time extra \$20 donation for every new monthly gift of \$20 or more made to The Angel Foundation for Learning using CanadaHelps. Sign up before March 31st for a monthly donation of \$20 or more through CanadaHelps <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/13480>! As an added incentive, everyone who signs up to be a monthly donor will receive an AFL face mask, and will be entered into a draw for a chance to win other prizes as well.



Virtual Yard Sale for a Cause

Time to tackle some spring cleaning and do some decluttering? Don't throw it away. Items you no longer want or need can be passed on to others instead of ending up in landfills. Watch for an email coming soon about a new buy and sell site: <https://giverise.ca/> that enables individuals, student councils or school councils to raise money for themselves/their school as well as a charity of their choice. It's a win-win-win: Get some money for the stuff you want to get rid of, help a charity of your choice, reduce waste and help our environment. With Earth Day just around the corner, it's a great way to show you care.



Corporate Donors and Sponsors Always Welcome

Calling all Angels!

AFL Toronto welcomes donations and sponsorship opportunities from local businesses for events throughout the year. We are grateful for any support that can be provided, whether it be items for future auctions or contests, or sponsorship for upcoming events such as our annual gala and charity golf tournament.

The past two years have been a struggle for many companies, particularly smaller businesses, and donations are harder to come by. We are hopeful that the situation will improve over time as restrictions are lifted and everyone beings to return to normal operations.

Please contact us if you have any items you wish to donate or if you have a connection with any potential corporate sponsors who we could contact to make inquiries.

Email us at angel.foundation@tcdsb.org with your suggestions.

