

Since 1981
**THE ANGEL
FOUNDATION
FOR LEARNING**

AFL ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Message from the Chair

It is truly an honour to be selected as the new Chair of The Angel Foundation for Learning. Working in education my whole life, and most recently serving as the Executive Director of the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario, has given me insight into the growing needs of students and families in Toronto and across the Province. It is heartbreaking to hear some of the stories of students and families who are struggling simply to put food on the table or a roof over their heads.



I am grateful to serve with other committed volunteers on AFL's Board of Directors and gain an even greater understanding of the gaps that exist, but also to be part of an organization that dedicates itself to helping all students soar. By ensuring that children receive at least one nutritious meal daily, and by providing assistance so that no student is left behind when it comes to basic essentials such as school apparel, eye glasses, hearing aids, educational excursions and leadership opportunities, as well as bursaries and emergency funds, AFL is serving the community by supporting student success and well-being.

AFL accomplished so much throughout the past year, thanks in large part to the dedicated leadership of Past Chair Nancy Murdocca and Executive Director John Yan, the selfless service of the many AFL Board members, many of whom have served the Foundation for decades, and of course the amazing staff who worked tirelessly to respond to the growing needs in the community.

Although this annual report only reflects the highlights of the work of the AFL during the past academic year, I am honoured to present a short retrospective of all that was accomplished throughout 2022-2023.

To Nancy, and the other retiring Board members, I extend our sincere appreciation for laying such solid groundwork, and for giving of their time and talent for so many years. To the new members of the AFL Board I extend a warm welcome, and look forward to working collaboratively to ensure the continued growth and success of the Foundation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Walker".

Don Walker
Chair
The Angel Foundation for Learning

Supporting Students

As a charitable foundation, much of the work revolves around generating funds through grants, donations, special events, raffles, auctions and other initiatives, and the past school year was no exception. Some of the highlights from all that activity is highlighted later in this report.

Just as importantly, we remain focused on responding to the growing needs across the Toronto Catholic District School Board. When the pandemic ended, we were all hopeful that life would return to normal. Unfortunately for many families who were hardest hit during that two year period, there has been no economic recovery, and in fact the rapidly escalating cost of groceries, fuel and other basic necessities has driven even more students into poverty.



Throughout the past year, we provided financial support in a variety of ways to our most vulnerable students:

- Student Nutrition Programs feeding more than 60,000 students daily
- SNP Emergency Top Up (to help school nutrition programs with the rising cost of nutritious food): \$351,000.00
- Grocery Cards (to help feed hungry students during the summer): \$277,250.00
- School Allocations (to ensure that financial

circumstances do not prevent students from participating in excursions, overnight learning experiences and leadership opportunities): \$13,383.99

- Vouchers for school apparel: \$25,000.00
- Vouchers to offset the cost of application fees to college and university: \$25,300.00
- Reliable Life Fund (for eye glasses, hearing aids, Epi-pens and more): \$13,263.43
- Extreme Needs Fund (to provide support in catastrophic circumstances): \$17,268.58
- Social Work Emergency Fund: \$97,954.47
- Student Bursaries: \$49,268.00
- Support for Newcomers through the Loretto Fund: \$32,222.64



For additional information, please visit our website and check out our audited financial statements, past annual reports and more: angel.foundation@tcdsb.org.

Fond Farewells and Warm Welcomes

Our gratitude goes out to retiring Board members including (left to right) Odette Fernandes, Carmela Giardini, Nancy Murdocca, Mary Eileen Donovan and Liz Gabbott (not in the photo). Our thanks for your many decades of service and all that you have done to ensure the success of the Foundation and continued support for students.



A warm welcome is also extended to our newest Board members: Marguerite Thomson (our new Vice-Chair-second from right), Irene Passos-Gold (far right), Catherine Turner-Gould, Vanessa Iarocci, Rosella D'Angelo, JoyGold Goodluck (Student Trustee), Kayla Burzese and Dennise Lorenzini Juarez (CSLIT Charity Committee Reps). With the collective talents of everyone on the Board, we are sure to accomplish great things in the years ahead. (Also in the picture are TCDSB Executive Superintendent Shawna Campbell and AFL Executive Director John Yan.

Calling All Angels

It has been an incredible experience leading this amazing organization for the last 4 years as the Executive Director. As a former student it has also been the dream of a lifetime to return to the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), first as the official spokesperson in my role of Chief of Communications and Government Relations, and most recently, guiding the Foundation through its transformative evolution during the COVID pandemic emergency.



Leading the official charity of Canada's largest Catholic school board is difficult at the best of times, with its unique, multi-dimensional responsibility to respect and represent the divergent needs of all our students and their families. I am profoundly grateful for the incredible efforts of the new AFL team who were able to embrace and surpass this challenge during my tenure. Whether it is overseeing the delivery of more than 1.2 million meals per month that feed 61,000 students or, providing \$1,000 daily in direct assistance to the most vulnerable in our school community, we are ensuring no student is left behind, and empowered to soar.

As I retire and return home to Ottawa, my profound appreciation goes out to the legions of Angels in our midst for your inspirational support and kindness. God Bless you all.

John Yan, Executive Director

Award and Bursary Results

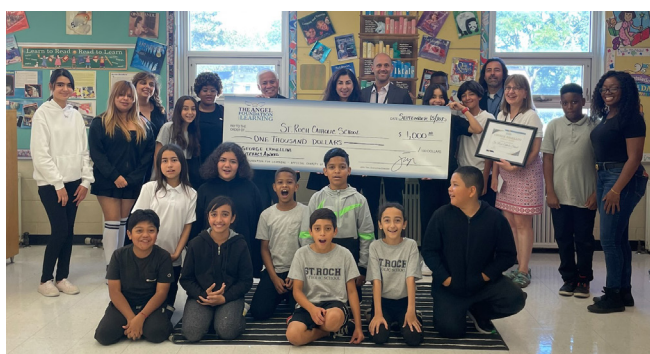
The Angel Foundation for Learning was pleased to disperse a record number of student bursaries and school awards to support student success. The incredible stories shared by this year's applicants spoke volumes to the determination and commitment of these young people to overcome life's challenges and do whatever it takes to fulfill their aspirations for the future. Seeing all that these candidates have accomplished in such a short time leaves us all feeling confident that the future is in good hands as these young people continue on the path of giving back to their communities.

The 2023 winner of the AFL Student Bursary for Indigenous Youth was Christopher Canning from St Joan of Arc Catholic Academy. This is only the second time that this \$5,000 bursary has been offered, funded jointly by the AFL and the TCDSB's Equity, Diversity and Indigenous Education Department.

Thanks to the continued generosity of Connie Leon and the Leon Family, four students again received the Tom Leon Student Bursary, valued at \$5,000 each: Karissa Cruz, Mary Ward, Tristan Robles, Neil McNeil, Kayla Siriban, Francis Libermann and Paulina Sieczka, Michael Power-St Joseph (below).



Bursary: Nicole Johnson, St Joseph Morrow Park, AFL Visual Arts Bursary: Jimin Seo, St Joseph College, Spirit of Inclusion Award: Joshua Tiglaio, St Victor, AFL Literacy Award: St Roch (below left) and AFL Library Award: Nativity of our Lord (below right).



Our thanks goes out to everyone who supports AFL's award and bursary program which enables these outstanding individuals to pursue their post-secondary goals.

Other Award and Bursary winners included:
Bacchelli Family Bursary: Trinity Osamuyi, St Basil-the-Great, Exceptional Student Bursary: Sara Galinato, Dante Alighieri, Mary Jane McKeen Bursary: Jicoy Bascombe, St Martin, Murdocca Family Literacy Bursary: Charlyze Marshall, Mary Ward, Tandia Bursary: Tharushi Nathasha Perera, Mary Ward, AFL Music



Angels Are Everywhere

We can all do the work of angels, and looking back on the year that was, it is clear that there are countless individuals who are making a huge difference in the lives of others. Check out some of these highlights from 2022-2023:

A-Team Believe Initiative

With the partnership of TCDSB's Focus on Youth and former Olympian and motivational speaker Sarah Wells, AFL embarked on a new venture, The A-Team Believe initiative. All secondary schools were asked to consider starting up on A-Team in their schools to lead the charge with philanthropy and social justice, and these teams and staff mentors were invited to a series of workshops to discern local goals and develop plans as to how best to respond to the needs in their local school communities. Seven schools participated in the pilot, and after completing the virtual sessions, they were invited to an in person pitch day to present their passion projects. All participating schools received \$500 simply for participating in the pilot project. A panel of volunteer judges reviewed the presentations and tried to determine the top three presentations. The winning schools, Notre Dame, St. Mother Teresa and St. Basil the Great won an additional \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 to help them put their plans into action.



A-Team at Notre Dame began working on their new student lounge in the spring of 2023.

The first school to launch an A-Team was St. John Paul II, with one of their first initiatives being the packaging and distribution of meals to the homeless in downtown Toronto.



By the end of the year, up to 10 local A-Teams were active or planning ahead for the 2023-2024 school year, and at least one elementary school has expressed interest in starting an A-Team. To learn more visit: <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/join-the-a-team/>

Caines Arcade

What an amazing concept!

Student leaders at The Holy Trinity Catholic School, under the guidance of some creative teachers, Tim Martin and Francesco Severino, created their own version of some popular arcade games out of boxes and other common household materials. For one week in June all students, staff and families were invited to buy tickets to play these games during recesses and lunch breaks, and they raised over \$2,000 to support AFL.



Tim Martin has since been recognized with the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in STEM. The annual arcade initiative is an example of engaging students in learning through creative hands on activities.

Marlies Recognized for Ongoing Commitment to Students

AFL was proud to nominate The Toronto Marlies (MLSE) for the Friends of Catholic Education Award 2023 to Marlies Award in recognition for their long-standing partnership.

For more than a decade, the Marlies have partnered with AFL on the annual "fun-raiser" the AFL-TCDSB-Marlies Health Action Day (also known as the Marlies School Day



Game) which brings together elementary students for a home game at Coca Cola Coliseum. The 2023 game was pretty much a sell out, and the Marlies donated more than \$21,000 from that game to The Angel Foundations.

New during the 2022-2023 season, the Marlies also offered discounted tickets to the AFL/TCDSB community with \$3 from each ticket sold being donated to AFL. They also offered free tickets to newcomer students and families from Ukraine, and to the 2023 TCDSB Student Achievement Award winners, and worked closely with staff in some of the Specialist High Skills Major programs on career forums. This is all in addition to their support of a variety of AFL events throughout the year such as auctions and the Charity Golf Day.



AFL Executive Director John Yan with Alex Iwanicki and Marc Lira from the Toronto Marlies, Emmy Szekeres Milne and Shay McNall from AFL.

Student Nutrition Program Heroes

For the second year, AFL was proud to recognize some of the incredible volunteers in our Student Nutrition Programs. It is only with the support of the entire school community, and the tireless dedication of these SNP coordinators and volunteers that we are able to ensure that more than 60,000 students receive a nutritious meal or snack each and every day.



St Conrad Principal Cristian Fazzini with SNP Coordinators Lisa and Susie, and Angie Olmstead, AFL's SNP Manager



AFL SNP Officer Sherry Pearson with Marshall McLuhan Principal Patricia Coburn, SNP volunteer Kayla, and Iris Martinez,



Maria Baskaran with AFL SNP Officer Sherry Pearson

AFL Celebrates with the Loretto Sisters the 175th Anniversary of IBVM in Canada

AFL was honoured to play a major role in the celebrations to recognize the 175th anniversary of the IBVM (Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary) in Canada. The Loretto Sisters founded an/or had a major role in the creation of more than 70 schools across the Toronto Catholic District School Board, and the remaining members continue to work closely with staff and students at some of those schools. Staff, students, family and friends came together for a special service to pay tribute to an incredible legacy of devotion to Catholic education and dedication to community service. A commemorative book created jointly by students from Loretto College, Loretto Abbey, St Mother Teresa Catholic Academy and Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School, was available for sale with all proceeds going to support the Loretto Fund for Newcomers.



Special Thanks to our Recent Donors

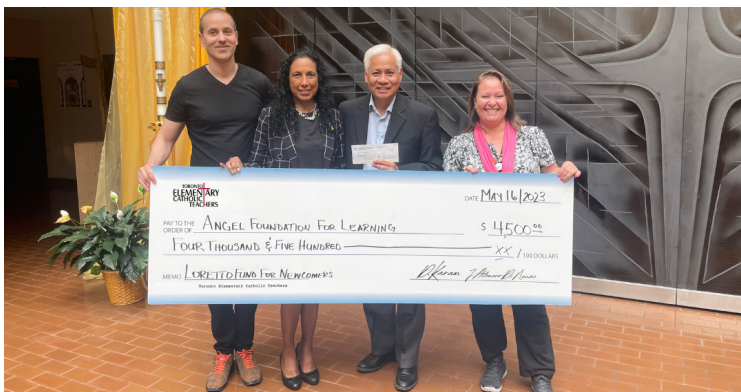
AFL could not do all that we do to support students if it were not for the generosity of our individual donors, corporate sponsors and partners. Most recently we extend our sincere appreciation to the Basilian Fathers for their donation of \$4,000 to support the Peggy Project—the Student Equity Fund for Post-Secondary Studies, which helps to offset the high cost of applications to Ontario colleges and universities, The John C. and Sally Horsfall Eaton Foundation who donated \$500 for urgent student needs, the Toronto Elementary Catholic Teachers for their generous donation to the AFL Loretto Fund for Newcomers which provided a \$4,500 donation to support students in the three TCDSB Ukrainian schools - St. Demetrius, Josyf Cardinal Slipyj and St. Josaphat, and CUPE Local 4400 who made a special donation to support students at St. Josaphat Catholic School.

The Grocery Foundation's Toonies for Tummies Campaign was a resounding success, with the kick off taking place this time at The Holy Trinity Catholic School. Through this program, AFL is able to provide additional support to local Student Nutrition Programs across the TCDSB.

AFL also received generous donations from Old Republic Canada, the TD Securities Underwriting Hope Foundation, the Arbor Memorial Foundation and the Segal Family Foundation, and of course we are truly grateful to all the large and small businesses, employee federations and private foundations who sponsor events and initiatives throughout the year, and invite you to check our donor page to see a complete list: <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/our-donors>.



Lina Gikas from the Arbor Memorial Foundation presents John Yan with a cheque for \$1,000. (left) TECT donated \$4,500 (\$1,500 for each of the three Ukrainian schools to help assist newcomers from Ukraine (below left). Trustee Frank D'Amico presented a cheque for \$2,400 raised through the 2023 hockey playoff pool. (below right)



Keeping the “Fun” in Fundraising

AFL continued the tradition of engaging the community in a wide variety of fundraising activities. We continued to run 50-50 Raffles, fully licensed by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario three times during the 2022-23 school year. The last draw of the school year brought in a record setting jackpot of \$60,000 with one lucky individual taking home a cash prize of just over \$30,000. Johnson Insurance sponsored some of these online raffles to help defray the administrative costs associated with the raffle platform.

Two online auctions were held during the year, with a wide variety of merchandise and experiences up for grabs. In addition, thanks to the generosity of individual donors, several flash auctions were also held for private suites to hockey games, and soccer and hockey tickets at various times during the year. We thank Edge Imaging for sponsoring the spring auction.



AFL also thanks the following partners/sponsors for their support and participation:



The annual Charity Golf Day, hosted by Lebovic Golf Club, was once again a huge hit, with sponsors and participants helping to raise just over \$40,000. We also continued the annual traditions of our May the 4th Be With You boardwide civvies day, our Christmas Market

and Christmas card sales featuring cards designed by talented TCDSB students, in addition to a few promotional contests held just for the fun of it to celebrate special occasions like Mother's Day and Father's Day.

New connections with Argos and Raptors905

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Angel Foundation embarked on new initiatives with MLSE's Toronto Argos and Raptors905.

Both organizations provided discount codes to the AFL and TCDSB communities, which also had a charitable component. All who bought tickets to home games using the special discount code would not only save money, but know that a portion of the ticket price would be donated to AFL. Both clubs also provided some items for auctions held during the year.



Our Team of Angels

Board of Directors 2022-23

The Angel Foundation for Learning is grateful to the dedicated Board Members who bring their experience and dedication to support TCDSB students. **John please highlight any that were not on the board during the 2022-23 school year**

Nancy Murdocca	Chair
Odette Fernandes	Social Worker
Carmela Giardini	Community Member
Shawna Campbell	Executive Superintendent, Field Services
Mary Eileen Donovan	Honorary Treasurer and Community Member
Gabriella Zazzarino	APSSP
Liz Gabbot	Community Member
Catherine Turner-Gould	Community Member
Vanessa Iarocci	Community Member
Marguerite Thomson	Community Member
Don Walker	Community Member
Jeanine Amaral	CUPE 1328
Raffi Guluyan	MAPA
Tony Pucci/Caroline D'Souza	TCPVA
Rita Leone/Jose Flores	TCSSPA
Gabriella Figliano	TECT
Markus de Domenico	TCDSB Trustee
Kevin Morrison	TCDSB Trustee
Student Members	
David Beshai	TCDSB Student Trustee
Stephanie De Castro	TCDSB Student Trustee
Roy Abboud	CSLIT
Neslihan Apacik	CSLIT

AFL Staff

John Yan	Executive Director
Ivonne Mariana Kartarahardja	Finance and Accounting Officer
Iris Martinez	Operations and Programs Manager
Emmy Szekeres Milne	Communications, Events and Fundraising Manager
Shayna McNall	Communications and Outreach Officer
Angela Olmstead	Student Nutrition Program Coordinator
Tashian Licorish	Student Nutrition Program Officer (Area West)
Sherry-Anne Pearson	Student Nutrition Program Officer (Area East)

THE ANGEL FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the year ended August 31, 2023

	Unrestricted Fund \$	Restricted Fund \$	Total 2023 \$	Total 2022 \$
Revenue				
Grants	7,628,359	-	7,628,359	7,644,550
Donations	521,480	-	521,480	1,127,563
Fundraising events	178,629	-	178,629	356,196
Interest	28,262	19,576	47,838	19,303
	<u>8,356,730</u>	<u>19,576</u>	<u>8,376,306</u>	<u>9,147,612</u>
Expenditures				
Program	8,299,389	-	8,299,389	9,180,128
Fundraising	20,973	-	20,973	12,752
Office	188,518	-	188,518	88,399
Salaries and benefits	472,164	-	472,164	456,416
Professional fees	19,325	-	19,325	14,716
	<u>9,000,369</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,000,369</u>	<u>9,752,411</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures for the year	(643,639)	19,576	(624,063)	(604,799)
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>2,436,605</u>	<u>1,177,480</u>	<u>3,614,085</u>	<u>4,218,884</u>
Net assets, end of year	1,792,966	1,197,056	2,990,022	3,614,085

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



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