



December 2024 Newsletter



Looking Forward to the Christmas Holiday Season

As Advent begins, so does the anticipation around the lead up to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time for us to remain mindful about the many in our community who may be struggling with financial as well as other challenges. While we are preparing to break bread with family and friends, and exchange gifts with those closest to us, we are called upon to reach out to those for whom the holidays might be less than joyful due to loneliness, personal loss or lack of funds to provide for their families.

The Angel Foundation for Learning is truly proud of all that we are able to do throughout the year to make things just a little bit easier for students and their families who are in need of assistance. We know that you all share our belief that every child deserves nutritious food, and that every student is entitled to basic essentials such as clothing, eye glasses, hearing aids, dental care, shelter, and the opportunity to fully participate in everything that school has to offer.

Fundraising is always challenging in these uncertain economic times, and our ability to raise funds externally is more difficult because we only serve students within Toronto so we can't tap into grant funding aimed at more regional, provincial or national initiatives. Many secular foundations, organizations and corporations are hesitant to support a charity whose mandate is to help students attending a Catholic school board. This is why AFL relies on the generous support of individual donors across TCDSB, as well as sponsors and partners who are sympathetic to the needs of our students, and enable us to do all that we can to make life easier for those who need a bit of a hand.

This edition of the newsletter highlights of the few of the many ways that you can continue to help us help kids. We thank you for helping to spread the word about the work that we do, for participating in our various fundraising initiatives, and for donating whenever you can, and however much or however little you are able to give. Every effort, large or small, helps to make a positive difference to so many children and youth across the Toronto Catholic District.

Our heartfelt appreciation for continuing to be Angels Among Us throughout the year. Wishing you all a blessed, safe and happy Advent and Christmas season!

AFL's Christmas 50-50 Raffle Draw is coming up on December 19th. Get your tickets before 1 pm on that day to be eligible for the cash jackpot. Two early bird draws are preceding the cash jackpot--December 5th and December 12th. Get your tickets before 12 noon on December 5th to be eligible for both early birds as well as the cash jackpot. Our jackpot winner in October took home over \$18,000. Click below to order your tickets for a chance to win big for the holidays <https://angelfoundation.rafflenexus.com/>



Visiting our AFL School Award Winners

AFL is always delighted to visit TCDSB schools, particularly when the reason for the visit is to present cheques in support of student literacy and library resources.

This fall, Executive Director John Wujek presented the AFL Literacy Award to St Andre Catholic School (below top) and the AFL Library Award (in Honour of Kathy Harding) to Prince of Peace Catholic School (below bottom). Just one more way that AFL is responding to the needs of students in TCDSB schools.



A Word from Our Sponsor

Our sincere thanks to our bronze level sponsor, belairdirect who supports us throughout the year with our events and initiatives. When you support our sponsors, they are able to help us help even more kids with food, clothing, bursaries, emergency funds, student leadership opportunities and much more.

EXCLUSIVE

It pays to be a member!

belairdirect.
car and home insurance



MLSE Continues to Support AFL with Proceeds from Tickets

Thanks to our continued partnership with MLSE, we receive \$3 from every Toronto Marlies ticket sold, and \$5 from every Raptors905 ticket sold to home games all season long.

Looking for some family fun for the holidays? Get your discounted tickets

to upcoming games and save up to 40% on the regular ticket price. Visit our website for details:

<https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/discounted-sports-tickets/>



Time to Order Your AFL Christmas Cards

Once again we are selling AFL Christmas cards to support urgent student needs. Just as in past years, we are offering a unique student design collection, as well as what has become known as the classic collection of old favourites.

Our thanks to all the students who submitted artwork for consideration, and our congratulations to the 12 students whose designs were selected for this year's cards: Carolina W, St Leo, Lucia M, St Helen, Maria G, St Mary CA, Maya P, St Oscar Romero, Destiny L.Y., Mary Ward, Anna S, Father John Redmond, Alicja C, Father John Redmond, Ciara W, St Ann, Clarissa P, St Cecilia, Oleksandra S, Father John Redmond, Peter D, Father John Redmond and Juliana S, Bishop Allen.

Become an Angel Advocate Sign Up for Payroll Deductions: A New and Easy Way to Give

As of November 1st, 2024, all TCDSB staff are able to make donations to AFL through a simple payroll deduction by logging into the Employee Self Service Portal. Staff have been able to donate through payroll deductions to ShareLife; now staff will be able to opt in to donate to TCDSB's other official charity, the Angel Foundation for Learning, which is the only charity with the mandate to assist TCDSB students and their families.

Benefits to Becoming an Angel Advocate:

Tax Receipts: The 2024 tax year is almost at an end, and by making a donation through a payroll deduction, your donation(s) will appear on your T4 slip issued by TCDSB, making it easy to claim your charitable donations.

Choose How Much You Want to Give: You can give as little or as much as you want,

and indicate how often you wish to give: one time only, monthly or every pay period.

Updating Your Options is in Your Hands:

You have the power to update your preferences as often as you want throughout the year by signing into the Employee Self Service Portal.

Cents Off Program Continues

Please note that this initiative does not replace the Cents Off program. If you are already signed up for Cents Off your pay cheque, you can stay signed on and continue to donate your small change through that program. New sign ups are also welcome. And all who are signed up are eligible for prize draws throughout the year including our next grand prize draw coming on December 10th - your chance at gift cards for gas, groceries or beverages.



For reference, this information is posted on our website: <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/angel-advocate/>

First Family Bowling Event Was a Hit

More than 100 bowling enthusiasts came out in support of AFL, helping us raise close to \$3,000. Our thanks is extended not only to those who participated, but also to our sponsor the Filipino Centre Toronto, Trustee Garry Tanuan who rallied the Filipino community to come out and support the event, and of course to our delightful hosts at Markham Bowl. Lots of prizes were handed out, and everyone enjoyed a great day of fun, food and friendship.



We Love Our Student Leaders

The energy and enthusiasm was palpable at this year's kick off for the ATeam initiative. More than 20 schools have signed on, including our first ever elementary ATeam group. These incredible student leaders gathered to hear about the plans for the year ahead focusing on philanthropy and community service, and to pick up their resource materials to guide their plans throughout the coming months. Congratulations to AFL's own Shayna McNall, TCDSB's Mike Consul and Olympian Sarah Wells for an incredible day. We can't wait to see what these amazing student leaders will accomplish.



A-Team Kickoff !! 🌱



Check Out the Highlights from our Snow Ball Gala: An Evening to Feed Dreams

What a night it was as TCDSB students, staff, families, Trustees, sponsors and business partners came together in support of student nutrition and well-being!

With the common goal to help children and youth in need, these generous supporters enjoyed an evening of dining and dancing, a silent auction, raffle draw, and of course one of the highlights of the evening: performances by talented students from Holy Spirit Catholic School, Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School and Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School.

If you missed it this year, watch for future emails about upcoming special events.



Awaiting guests to arrive for our Gala (above left), Emcee Michael Caccamo (above right), Steelpan group from Holy Spirit Catholic School (right) under the direction of Andre Rouse, dancers from Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School (bottom left and right) directed by Janine Mullaney.



More from our 2024 Gala



Thanks to all our sponsors and donors (top left and top right). Food for Good, our raffle sponsor, preparing to make the grand prize draw for a weekend in the Kawarthas at a luxury cottage (above left) and the string quartet from Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School, under the direction of Aneta Granowski (above right).

New TPH Director Visit Two SNP Programs

It was a pleasure for the Student Nutrition Program team and AFL Executive Director John Wujek to visit the programs at St Edward and St Gabriel Catholic School in November along with Denise Vararoutsos (TPH, Manager Healthy Living), and Myuran Palasandiran (TPH, Director, Operations and Business Services). The visits with parent volunteers and SNP Coordinators Antoniette Uy, St Edward (first photo) and Yumiko Hashimoto, St Gabriel.



As the new finance officer, Mr Palasandiran was given a first hand look at how programs run, and also get a glimpse into some of the challenges each unique program encounters. He also saw the distinctiveness of these programs and how personalized they are at each site to suit the facility, the students and the Nutrition Program coordinator. He was able to see how programs such as this are a distinctive and vital part of the overall school culture. The capabilities and breadth of knowledge of the local Nutrition Volunteers is incredible as they prepare food daily on a tight timeline, shop for food with a very small budget and always deliver the food with a smile.



AFL Celebrates Future Educators from the Filipino Community

The inaugural AFL Bursary for Filipino/a/x students pursuing studies in education was funded jointly through the efforts of the Angel Foundation, the Equity, Diversity and Indigenous Education Department at TCDSB and TCDSB's Filipino Advisory Committee.

Congratulations to this year's winners:



Angelo Jerome Pangan
Brebeuf College



Chelsea Samantha Corpuz
Marshal Mcluhan CSS

Our Staff Are Always Available to Share Information About the Many Ways We Help Students and Families

This fall, AFL staff were on hand at various gatherings of school administrators, Religion Reps, new teachers and other staff to share our story about the positive impact that we make on the lives of TCDSB students. We are also happy to share information about the many ways that individuals can choose to help us in our efforts.



GiveRise--A New Way to Shop and Help Local Charities

Check out the GiveRise Marketplace for some great gift ideas. Visit the Angel Foundation virtual store, or check out the other vendors who have chosen AFL as their charity of choice for a [] percentage of their proceeds. Have an idea for items you want to sell? Sign up as a vendor on GiveRise <https://giverise.ca/> and start selling and donating.



Make a difference this holiday season and throughout the year by posting your new and gently used items for others to enjoy. Sell it forward!

Don't Miss Out

Follow us on our social media channels so you never miss any news about the Angel Foundation.

- Twitter: @AFLToronto
- Instagram: angelfoundationforlearning
- Facebook: angelfoundationforlearning

Need to Get Rid of a Junk Car?

To coin a phrase, one person's junk is another person's treasure. Your junk car can be turned into dollars and cents that will help feed hungry students.

The Angel Foundation for Learning has partnered with Donate a Car Canada to accept your car donation.

You will be provided free towing, or you can drop off your vehicle to maximize your donation.

When you donate your car, truck, RV, boat, or motorcycle to The Angel Foundation for Learning through Donate A Car Canada, it will either be recycled or re-sold (depending on its condition, age and location). Your vehicle may not be a junk car, and they can help with that, too!

Donate a Car Canada will look after all the details to make it easy for AFLToronto to benefit.

You will receive a tax receipt after your vehicle donation has been processed!

Ready to donate? Or need more info?
[Visit Donate A Car Canada for details.](#)

Celebrating our Newest Donors

Special thanks to the Hodgson Family Foundation for providing AFL with a grant of \$8,000 to help support student nutrition programs. They were made aware of the challenges faced by our school nutrition programs which struggle to provide a wide range of healthy snacks to students given the continued escalation in the cost of groceries.

These funds will go a long way to helping out some of those valuable programs.

Thank you also to TD Underwriting Hope for renewing their support for the AFL Fund for Extreme Needs. This year they are donating \$15,000 to ensure that students and families can receive some assistance when catastrophe strikes.

Our heartfelt gratitude to both of these angels for helping our most vulnerable student soar.



The Angel Foundation Receives \$50,000 from Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto and ShareLife

The Angel Foundation is proud to announce that it recently received notice of a \$50,000 donation from ShareLife and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto (CCAT). The award is a result of the ongoing commitment of the Archdiocese of Toronto to address the hunger crisis. On August 26, 2024, it announced its commitment to this cause pledging \$375,000 to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto who would adjudicate applications from community organizations involved in food programs. This offering by CCAT is part of a total \$750,000 pledge by the Archdiocese to support action against this rising problem in the Greater Toronto Area. The Angel Foundation for Learning is honoured to receive this relief for its student nutrition programs which support students across the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB).

In addition, The Angel Foundation has been granted recognition as a “lay association of the Lay Faithful in the Archdiocese of Toronto.” The AFL is very proud to receive this designation and ongoing support from the Archdiocese as it continues to walk in service aligned with Church teachings.



The Angel Foundation for Learning was well represented at the annual Cardinal’s Dinner hosted by the Archdiocese of Toronto to raise funds for Catholic Charities. Among those in attendance were Executive Director John Wujek, Vice-Chair Marguerite Thomson, TCPVA rep Caroline D’Souza and staff members Angel Olmstead, Iris Martinez and Emmy Szekeres Milne with their guests.

GIVE THE GIFT OF GIVING

Be an Angel
This Advent



THE ANGEL
FOUNDATION
FOR LEARNING

WITH A DONATION OF JUST \$10 OR MORE, YOU CAN FEED A HUNGRY TCDSB STUDENT FOR 2 WEEKS.



WHEN YOU MAKE A DONATION OF JUST \$15 OR MORE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, YOU SUPPORT AFL'S FUNDS TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND CAMPS,

WITH A DONATION OF \$25 OR MORE, YOU CAN FEED AN ENTIRE CLASS OF STUDENTS FOR THE DAY



WITH A DONATION OF \$50 OR MORE, YOU PROVIDE MORE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO THE NEXT GENERATION

WITH A DONATION OF \$100 OR MORE, YOU SUPPORT FAMILIES IN NEED WITH BASIC NECESSITIES SUCH AS EYEGLASSES, SCHOOL APPAREL, EPIPENS AND MORE

