



It Has Never Been More Important to Become Angels For Others

As we all await the arrival of spring, and the renewal and warmth it brings, and we embark on the journey through Lent, leading to the joyous season of Easter, this is the perfect time to reflect on the needs of those who have so little.

We know times are tough for everyone. Economic uncertainty has taken the forefront of the news in recent weeks, and we understand that all are feeling the pinch of escalating taxes, food costs and rising prices for pretty much everything we do.

Please let's remember that despite the challenges we are all experiencing, there are many in our own TCDSB school communities who wish they could step into our shoes.

- Every time you grumble at your weekly grocery bill, please remember that for many students, the fridge and the cupboards often remain bare.
- Every time we step outside with our boots, coats and other layers of clothing, let's keep in mind that for some families, the cost of weather appropriate clothing is not within reach.
- Each time we shake our heads about our rent, mortgage or property tax bill, let's not lose sight of the fact that many of our students do not have permanent homes at all.

The needs in our community have been steadily rising in recent years, but sadly donations are down. We understand that our donors are also struggling, but we ask you to try to dig deep and give what you can as often as you can and help ease the burden for those who have much less.

<https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/donate/>

God bless all the Angels Among Us who are helping all students soar!

Join Us at our Second Annual Spring Fling Pub Night Friday, May 9, 2025 at Nickel 9 Distillery

Our thanks to Nickel 9 for once again opening its doors to us for this fun evening of music, food and fun. This year, the ticket price has been reduced to \$50 per person, \$90 per couple and \$20 for children and youth. Adult ticket price includes 1 ticket redeemable for an alcoholic beverage of your choice, and this year in addition to Nickel 9's assortment of unique cocktails and locally distilled spirits, they are also offering a sampling of beer from their partner brewery in the area. Tickets also include a hot and cold buffet and non-alcoholic drinks and a chance to win door prizes, and participate in a silent auction for some great gift baskets and more. Stay tuned for news about the musical entertainment for the evening. Tickets on sale now: <https://form.jotform.com/250414097293255>



Make Happy Tummies Launched at St Augustine

AFL was proud to support the annual launch of the regional Make Happy Tummies event at St Augustine Catholic School, along with TCDSB representatives. Make Happy Tummies, an initiative of The Grocery Foundation, is enabled by community partners, including the grocery industry, restaurants, individual donors, and organizations who come together to fundraise for local breakfast programs through an annual grocery store campaign and local initiatives.

100% of donations raised through Make Happy Tummies make their way to local stigma-free breakfast programs managed by our partners Student Nutrition Ontario and Breakfast Club of Canada.

The event kick starts the Toonies for Tummies fundraising campaign at participating grocery stores, which helps to support student nutrition programs in TCDSB schools.



Left to right: AFL's own Executive Director John Wujek, SNP officers Tashian Licorish, Angela Olmstead, TCDSB Director Dr Brendan Browne, TCDSB Executive Superintendent Shawna Campbell, AFL Vice-Chair Marguerite Thomson, AFL Office Manager Iris Martinez and Manager of Fundraising, Events and Communicatoins Emmy Szezers Milne.



City Announces Funding for 7 New SNP Programs in TCDSB Schools

AFL Executive Director John Wujek and AFL Trustee Representative Kevin Morrison and TCDSB Chair Markus de Domenico were on hand for the announcement of funding for 7 new student nutrition programs across the Toronto Catholic District School Board.



ATeam Pitch Day

Hundreds of students and staff mentors gathered at the Catholic Education Centre for the third annual ATeam Pitch Day. The A-Team is a year-long initiative for (TCDSB) secondary students who are passionate about creating change and helping other in their schools and neighbourhoods. Students who participate in the A Team are empowered to take a leadership role and explore innovative ideas to help bridge gaps that exist in their communities.

The A Team Initiative is designed to provide hands on experience that helps youth develop essential skills that can be applied to all aspects of their lives. Through leadership sessions, volunteer opportunities, and networking events, the A Team focuses on building leadership skills and tools while teaching the importance of charity and philanthropy as a student in the TCDSB community. Most recently, through a series of leadership sessions, students have collaborated with like-minded students at their school to identify a need or problem they would like to solve and then they have created an impact project that helps address that need.

For those who choose to participate, the culmination is an exciting ATeam Believe pitch day, where each school group pitches their innovative solutions.

This program is a catalyst for students to discover their passions, pinpoint prevailing needs in their schools, and effect lasting change through guidance and funding. Each participating school earns \$1000 towards their project no matter what, but the ultimate goal is securing a top-three project spot, with awards of \$2000 for 1st place, \$1500 for 2nd place, \$1000 for 3rd place, & finally \$500 for 4th place. This not only facilitates immediate impact but ensures sustained and meaningful change for years to come. The program instills in students the ability to confront challenges, adapt, and leverage their strengths, both individually and collectively, to create transformative change.

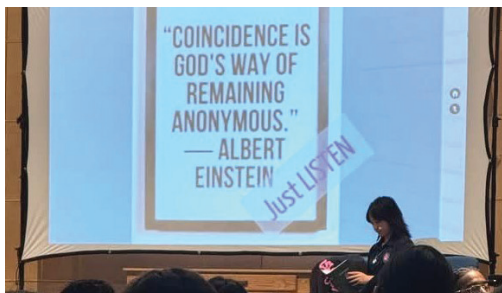
The ATeams are a collaborative project of The Angel Foundation for Learning and TCDSB's Student Leadership Department, in collaboration with Canadian Olympian Sarah Wells, and partially funded by our amazing corporate partner, belairdirect and Focus on Youth.



Congratulations to the four winning teams: Marshall McLuhan for their initiative to help newcomer families, Loretto College for their project focusing on empowering women, Loretto Abbey for their Podcast to connect students on important issues and Fr Henry Carr for their backpack project to provide non-perishable food for students to use on the weekends.

AFL Supports Student Leaders

The Angel Foundation recognizes the importance of student voice, and is always happy to support any leadership development events that happen throughout the year. Most recently, Shayna McNall represented the team at the iLITE workshops, and the Young Disciples events to help raise awareness about all we do to help students, and to engage students in conversations about their role in making a difference in our world.



Celebrating the Legacy of the Loretto Sisters

AFL was proud to work alongside Loretto College, Loretto Abbey, Mary Ward and St Mother Teresa to celebrate the annual IBVM (Loretto Sisters) Day on January 23rd. A special event hosted by Loretto College focused on the rich heritage of the Loretto Sisters including multi-media presentations, dance, drama and prayer, with Mass celebrated by Fr Michael Lehman.

Schools were encouraged to engage in fundraising initiatives to support the Loretto Fund for Newcomers, and we hope that many decided to participate. There is always time to donate to that fund or any others online at <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/donate/>



Thank You

AFL is extremely grateful for a grant from the F.K. Morrow Foundation who have donated \$10,000 to support the reliable life fund for urgent necessities for students such as eye glasses, hearing aids, emergency dental work and much more. Though the grant does not fully provide for all the needs in the community, it goes a long way to easing the financial burden for many of our families who do not have medical benefits.

How this and other donations are used (since December):

School allocation: \$7,578

Bursaries, awards, and youth programming: \$19,000

Arts Fund: \$890 Camp Fund: \$2,009

Extreme Needs: \$8,500

Loretto Fund for Newcomers: \$7,250

Reliable Life Fund: \$3,675

Social Work Emergency Fund: \$36,000

For more information, check out our annual report for 2024-2025. <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Annual-Report-2023-2024.pdf>

March is Nutrition Month

This is nutrition month, a wonderful opportunity to showcase the incredible staff and volunteers who ensure the smooth operation of student nutrition programs which provide 1.3 million snacks each and every month during the school year.

All schools are encouraged to share photos and information about the amazing volunteers who keep students nourished and happy either by tagging us in socials, or by emailing us at angel.foundation@tcdsb.org. We will do a random draw at the end of the month and surprise our lucky winners with a visit and a gift during Volunteer Month in April.

You can make a difference and help us feed the more than 165,000 students in TCDSB schools who have access to these valuable programs by purchasing one of our Fight Hunger long-sleeve shirts. Send us an etransfer at angel.foundation@tcdsb.org or a cheque for a minimum of \$10 and let us know your preferred size and we will send out a shirt to your school or office by inter-office mail.

EXCLUSIVE

**It pays
to be a
member!**



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Cheers to the Toronto Marlies!

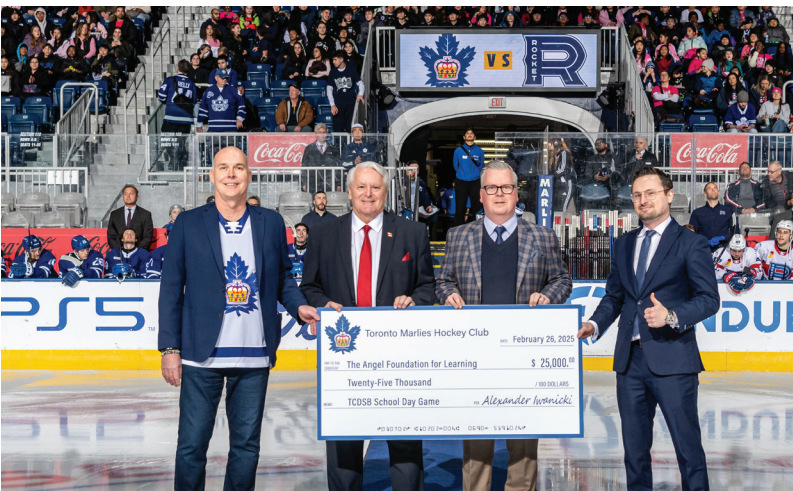
The annual school day game with the Toronto Marlies was a resounding success. Thanks to all the schools who came out to support the Angel Foundation for Learning, and the boys in blue, the game was a complete sell out. There was lots of fun to be had with friendly competition between schools during intermissions, student zamboni riders, fan tunnels and student announcers. Most importantly, MLSE made a donation of more than \$26,000 to AFL from the proceeds of the game. Our sincere thanks goes out to all the sponsors and partners who joined us for the game, and to MLSE for their amazing support for over a decade.



TCDSB Chair Markus de Domenico and Director of Education Dr. Brendan Browne do the ceremonial puck drop as AFL Executive Director John Wujek and MLSE's Alex Iwanicki look on.



Great to celebrate the school day game with so many of our corporate sponsors, TCDSB leaders and other education partners.



The official cheque presentation is always a highlight. With last minute ticket sales, MLSE's total donation to AFL will exceed \$26,000.



COMING SOON!

Lots of Ways to Help AFL and in Turn Help TCDSB Students

Watch for our weekly email updates for news about the many ways that you can help us help kids simply by taking part in events and contests throughout the coming months.

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events/initiatives:

- **Believe in Angels Week: May 4-10, 2025** (Including **May the 4th Be With You Civvies Day** Fundraiser, and other ways you can be an angel for others throughout the week <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/believe-in-angels-week/>)
- **Spring Fling Pub Night, May 9, 2025** featuring student performances, a raffle, silent auction and refreshments all for a reduced price <https://form.jotform.com/250414097293255>
- **Spring Auction:** Online starting June 15, 2025. Lots of great family excursions, gift cards and merchandise will be available to the top bidders.
- **Charity Golf Tournament, July 3, 2025** at Glen Eagle Golf Course. Let us know if you have some tips on potential sponsors. Get your tickets here: <https://form.jotform.com/250545190861255>
- **Year End 50-50 Raffle:** Jackpot draw to happen Wednesday, June 25th with early bird draws happening earlier in the year.
- **Year End Cents Off Draw:** All who are signed up are eligible to win a gift card of \$50, \$100 or \$150 just for becoming (or continuing to be) a regular donor through payroll deductions of just a few pennies every two weeks. <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/cents-off-program/>

So many ways to be angels and help students soar!

Over \$50,000 in Student Bursaries Available

Students are reminded that the deadline for most of these bursaries is April 25, 2025. Please refer to our website for full details: <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/bursaries-and-awards/>

- Proudly Pinoy: Two bursaries of \$5,000 each
- belairdirect Bursary for Newcomers: \$5,000
- AFL Bursary for Exceptional Students: \$1,000
- AFL Bursary for Indigenous Youth: Two bursaries of \$5,000 each
- AFL Skilled Trades Bursary: \$1,000
- AFL Visual Arts Bursary: \$1,000
- AFL Music Bursary: \$1,000
- AFL Bursary for Studies in Mental Health: \$1,000
- Murdocca Family Bursary: \$1,000
- Tom Leon Student Bursary: Four bursaries of \$5,000 each
- Spirit of Inclusion Award: \$500



PLUS

Three Awards for Schools to support student success in the area of literacy:

- AFL Literacy Award for Resources to Support Students with Special Needs: \$1,000
- AFL Library Award in Honour of Kathy Harding: \$1,000
- AFL Literacy Award: \$1,000



More Good News for Student Nutrition

AFL staff were absolutely delighted to support seven schools in the start up of their student nutrition programs funded by the City of Toronto. These new sites at Josyf Cardinal Slipyj, Nativity of Our Lord, St Malachy, St Mary of the Angels, St Victor, The Divine Infant and Venerable John Merlini opened in January 2025.

The Foundation is also working to solidify the start up of programs at six additional sites supported by a grant from ShareLife/Archdiocese of Toronto and from the Hodgson Family Foundation.

More good news is coming this spring as the City has committed to further expansion of SNP programs to more schools for the fall of 2025. Details are still pending as to how many TCDSB school programs will receive this new money.

AFL is also looking for sponsors for our golf tournament. If interested in finding out about the various sponsorship opportunities, or if you wish to donate items for our raffle and silent auction visit [our website](https://www.angel.foundation@tcdsb.org) or email us at angel.foundation@tcdsb.org.

All sponsors and donors are acknowledged on AFL's website and social media channels. And all proceeds from the golf tournament and auction will be used to support student nutrition programs and other basic essentials for students in need across the City of Toronto.

AFL Welcomes Its Newest Angels to the Board of Directors

A warm welcome to the newest members of the AFL Volunteer Board of Directors: Nicola Netta, representing TCPVA and Ida Li Preti, TCDSB Trustee representative.

We look forward to working with you in the months ahead.



SNP Coordinator at The Divine Infant delivering morning snacks

Healthy snacks ready to roll at Josyf Cardinal Slipyj



Student helpers at Venerable John Merlini enjoy taking snacks to classes