



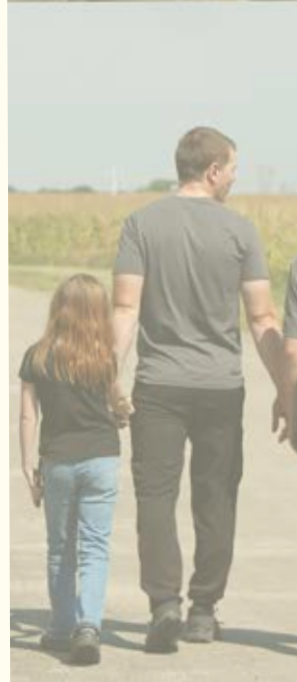




**Student  
Nutrition  
Programs**  
*Feed More  
Than 70,000  
Students Daily*



**Guardian  
Angel Funds**  
*Help Families  
Experiencing  
Hardships*



**Student  
Awards and  
Bursaries**  
*Help Students  
Achieve their  
Post-Secondary  
Goals*



**Empowering  
Student  
Leadership**  
*Inspiring  
a new  
generation of  
philanthropy  
and community  
service*



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# Message from the Chair

We are proudly presenting our Annual Report for the 2024-25 fiscal year. The overarching theme of the Angel Foundation for Learning's mission, at both the Board and Staff level, is "called to serve."

Cardinal Leo recently said that the profound gift we have is to "use the ears of the heart" to respond to others. Cardinal Leo's premise is that we allow ourselves to be active listeners with our hearts to take in what we hear, responding with the loving eyes of Jesus and to act through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

I am so pleased that Toronto Catholic staff, through social workers, teachers, support staff, parents and administration, have the gift of the heart to advocate for students and consequently turn to the Angel Foundation for their help and direction. As a community, too, we are listening and responding through our decisions to hold local fundraisers, purchase AFL Christmas cards, attend events, make a donation and support A-Team initiatives, to name some of the ways we communally respond.

As a Board, we are a committed group representing employee groups, corporate expertise and the community-at-large — each of us has a varied set of talents, perspectives, values and experiences that we bring to the collaborative table. I am particularly proud of the sub-committee work we have done over the course of 2024-25. We began the journey of enhanced corporate outreach and have contributed to the continuing work of strategic direction--including our establishment of Core Values. Our work in charity is also anchored through our association with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto as seen in the report through our involvement in the Pilgrims of Hope Pre-conference at Brennan Hall at the University of St. Michael's College last June.

Most significantly, the day-to-day response of the Angel Foundation staff to our children and families in need is paramount. With the addition of Luisa and Cecilia, the ever-growing needs of food insecurity across the city are attended to through the great work of the SNP Team. The economic and social challenges of today could not be met were it not for our various Funds which are carefully disbursed to families who require immediate relief, the exceptional response of the TCDSB social workers who go above and beyond to advocate for students and to help staff understand and appreciate the needs in the school communities, and finally, the communications and outreach team who gently and consistently remind us of the events and needs through weekly email pushes and daily social media updates. Our wonderful events, flash auctions and 50/50 draws also provide that connection, not only to raise funds and awareness but to raise spirits and spread joy.

Please take a moment to meet our staff introduced in the report below, and on your behalf and on behalf of the families we continue to serve, we offer them our gratitude. As a team, they share a call to service.

Thank you for reading our 2024-25 fiscal year report; may 2025-26 see the AFL continue to live out our core values: to inspire, nurture, collaborate, champion equity, innovate, advocate and act with integrity

In partnership,



Don Walker  
Chair of Board





## Student Nutrition Expansion in 7 TCDSB Schools – January 2025

### Mayor Chow joins Director Browne in Support of AFL

2025 started with tremendous excitement as 7 new student nutrition programs opened thanks to additional funding received through the Government of Canada and the City of Toronto. Through this new funding, programs were launched at Venerable John Merlini, The Divine Infant, St Malachy, Nativity of Our Lord, St Mary of the Angels, St Victor and Josyf Cardinal Slipyj.



Mayor Chow with TCDSB Chair Markus de Domenico and Trustee Kevin Morrison and AFL's John Wujek at the announcement (above).

### Student Nutrition is a Collective Commitment

Shortly after the Mayor's Announcement AFL was pleased to learn that Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto with the support of ShareLife was donating \$50,000 to support pilot snack programs at 6 TCDSB schools (photo left). A grant from the Hodgson Family Foundation was used to further enhance those snack programs which operated one to two times weekly in the six locations: St. Margherita of Citta Di Castillo, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, Our Lady of Peace, St. John, St. Michael Choir and St. Elizabeth.



John with some dedicated SNP volunteers at one of the new sites (above).

Everyone involved in student nutrition understands the direct correlation between good nutrition and success in school. A well fed child is more focused and better prepared to learn. We also know it takes a village, and we are truly grateful for the three levels of government who are taking that responsibility seriously by funding these critical programs for children and youth.

We are also thankful for the other angels in our community, other charitable foundations,

TCDSB staff and families, and our many corporate partners who understand the impact that their donations and involvement make to the lives of our students.

Anyone wishing to make a donation, is invited to do so online at <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/donate/>



Once again, largely due to the support and leadership of SNP volunteers, students across the board participate in the annual Great Big Crunch to focus on healthy eating habits (above).

## City Announces Further Expansion of SNP Programs Across the City

AFL Executive Director John Wujek, AFL Chair Don Walker and SNP Officer Sherry Pearson, along with AFL Trustee Representative Kevin Morrison and TCDSB Chair Markus de Domenico were on hand for the announcement in June 2025 by Mayor Olivia Chow of additional funding for further expansion of student nutrition programs across the Toronto Catholic District School Board for the Fall of 2025.

While visiting the newly funded program at The Divine Infant, Mayor Chow expressed her commitment to the continued expansion of programs so that eventually all students across the city will have access to healthy snacks every day.



Principal Leslie Galiotos, SNP officer Sherry Pearson, AFL Chair Don Walker, SNP coordinator Stephanie Brenna, Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow, AFL Executive Director John Wujek, Mayor Chow preparing snack bins to take to



SNP coordinator Stephanie Brennan with Mayor Chow preparing snack bins to take to students.



Mayor Chow enjoys a moment with students from The Divine Infant.



## Make Happy Tummies Annual Kick Off 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 Clubs of Canada.

The event kick starts the regional fundraising campaign at participating grocery stores in the Greater Toronto area, which helps to support student nutrition programs in TCDSB schools.



## Annual Celebration of SNP Volunteers

AFL is forever grateful to the many incredible volunteers who dedicate their time to ensuring the smooth operation of student nutrition programs.

With creativity and caring, they show up day after day with energy and enthusiasm to prepare and serve nutritious meals and snacks to students in their schools.

Each year we invite our school communities to share stories and photographs of their amazing SNP volunteers and AFL visits the winners of a random draw to see them in action and express our sincere thanks to these wonderful individuals in person.

In the spring of 2025 we celebrated Monica George at St Mother Teresa (below left), Paula Furtado at St Anthony (below right), Tamara Rodriguez at St Francis Xavier (bottom left) and the team of Carlo Cassano and Mary Ariganello Araujo at St Oscar Romero (bottom right).





## Community Partners Help Us Feed Kids

Among the many corporate supporters is the Metropolitan Toronto Convention Centre. Whenever they have food from events, they offer the fruit, veggies, milk, juice, sandwiches, pastries and other delicious prepped and packaged food to TCDSB schools in priority neighbourhoods, which helps many families experiencing financial hardships. AFL was proud to nominate MTCC for the TCDSB's Friends of Catholic Education Award in recognition for their longstanding support of student nutrition. The award was presented in May at TCDSB's annual Awards Night.



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## Angels Helping Angels

A shout out to the schools who support AFL and student nutrition through their local fundraisers, including the crochet club at St Leo who sold their unique creations to help us feed kids, and to St Maurice who held a pasta fundraiser to support their own school's nutrition program



## AFL Supports Student Leadership

The ATeam Believe Initiative is an opportunity for Toronto (TCDSB) secondary school students who are passionate about creating change and helping others in their schools and neighbourhoods. ATeam participants are empowered to take a leadership role and explore innovative ideas to help bridge any gaps that exist within their communities. The ATeam Believe 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 ATeam focuses on building leadership skills and tools while exemplifying the gospel message to amplify the importance of charity and philanthropy as a student in the TCDSB community.

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, and 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, with the support of Canadian Olympian Sarah Wells, and jointly funded by our amazing corporate sponsor, 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.





## Awards and Bursaries Support Students' Post-Secondary Aspirations

The Angel Foundation for Learning is pleased to announce the winners of the many student bursaries and school awards for 2025 this past June. With so many diverse and inspiring applications, it was definitely a challenge for the various review panels to come up with their recommendations.

This year's winners of the AFL Student Bursary for Indigenous Youth are Brooke Dusome-Jackman from St Patrick, Thierry Sotomayor-Lepage from Brebeuf and Matthew McLaughlin from Senator O'Connor. The bursaries are funded jointly through the TCDSB Indigenous Education Department and the AFL.



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: Sharon Onebunne from Mary Ward, Ralph Bou Abboud from Bishop Allen, Mariya Mushasta from St Anne, and Stephnie Perera Gunawardane from St Patrick.

New this year, the belairdirect Bursary for Newcomer Students valued at \$5,000, goes to Kyrylo Pylypiuk from James Cardinal McGuigan.



The recipients of the Proudly Pinoy Bursary for students pursuing careers in education were recognized at the Proudly Pinoy Education Conference held May 27th. Congratulations to Darryl Lesaspi from Senator O'Connor and Alyssa Anne Kiersten Mercado from Marshall McLuhan.

Other Award and Bursary winners included:

- Exceptional Student Bursary – Isabella Carneiro
- AFL Skilled Trades Bursary – Jaden Stephens from Father Henry Carr
- AFL Bursary for Studies in Mental Health – Zeina Alhassan, St Joseph Morrow Park
- AFL Music Bursary – Yanna-Angela Baltazar, St Patrick
- AFL Visual Arts Bursary – Jennifer Dan, James Cardinal McGuigan
- Spirit of Inclusion Award – Tirion Gavin Llano, St Joachim
- AFL Literacy Award for Exceptional Students – Michelle Bottos, St Paschal Baylon
- AFL Library Award in Honour of Kathy Harding – Chiara Rizzo, Immaculate Conception

Donations to our Award and Bursary Fund are always welcome, and can be arranged online through CanadaHelps or directly to AFL by cheque or etransfer to [angel.foundation@tcdsb.org](mailto:angel.foundation@tcdsb.org) and can be earmarked for a specific bursary or award if the donor wishes to identify their area of interest.

## Thank You for Supporting AFL Fundraising Events

We love to see our corporate partners, sponsors and supporters at our events. It is a great opportunity for us to connect in person or virtually and raise funds to support urgent student needs. These include our 50-50 online raffles, and online auctions, the sale of student designed Christmas cards and the annual May the 4th Be With You Civvies Day which many schools support locally.

It also includes our in person events such as our first ever Family Bowling Event (October 19, 2024), our “Snow Ball” Gala (November 29, 2024), the celebration of IBVM Loretto Sisters Day (January 23, 2025) our second annual Spring Fling pub night (May 9, 2025) and our Charity Golf Tournament (held July 3, 2025). Check out some of the photos below





## Angels Among Us

In addition to the many events and fundraising initiatives hosted by the Foundation, AFL is always grateful to members of the TCDSB community and our corporate partners for their generosity. This includes our event sponsors, as well as corporate donors/sponsors who support us throughout the year, and our school communities and individual donors who give what they can when they can.

MLSE supports AFL through discounted tickets to Argos, TFC, Raptors905 and Marlies home games, with each ticket generating a charitable donation to the Foundation. In addition, the annual Marlies school day game brings together thousands of students for an exciting AHL game that raised close to \$24,000 last year.



The Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (CSLIT) sold hoodies and donated the proceeds of more than \$860 to the Foundation.

AFL was pleased to be invited to the Proudly Pinoy event held at Brebeuf College in June, helping to raise money for the annual student bursary for Filipino/a students.



Jonathan Grossi from St Rose of Lima coordinated a March break tennis event to help raise funds for AFL.

Trustee Frank D'Amico once again coordinated the annual hockey play off pool, with all proceeds being donated to the AFL to the tune of more than \$2,000.

And the amazing students at The Holy Trinity, under the leadership of Tim Martin and Francesco Severino held their annual Caines Arcade and raised more than \$2,200 from that creative and fun school event.



Last but not least, AFL benefited from the generosity of the Hodgson Family Foundation, FK Morrow Foundation, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto (CCAT)/ShareLife, Basilian Fathers of University of St Michael's College, Murdocca Family, Connie Leon, belairdirect, TD Securities Underwriting Hope and CIBC who each supported various funds and bursaries through grants and donations.

## More About AFL

### The Angel Foundation: A Renewed Mission, Vision and Values for the Road Ahead

The Angel Foundation for Learning formed a sub-committee to lead the process of developing a new mission, vision and strategic directions. This team of AFL staff and board members held several meetings to continue the process, which is hoped to be completed in 2026. The anticipated result will be a clear vision for the Foundation, heightened awareness among school communities, corporate partners and individual donors about the work of the AFL, and more clearly defined and articulated goals and strategies for the future.

**AFL Mission:** To ensure that all TCDSB students are treated with dignity and respect and have access to the supports they need to experience success.

**AFL Vision:** The Angel Foundation envisions a community where we work in collaboration to break down barriers and create equitable opportunities for all TCDSB students and their families.

**AFL's Core Values:** Inspire, Nurture, Collaborate, Champion Equity, Innovate, Advocate, Act with Integrity.

AFL was well represented at the Catholic Charities; Pilgrims of Hope Pre-Conference by Chair Don Walker, Vice-Chair Marguerite Thomson and Executive Director John Wujek. It was an opportunity to liaise with representatives from across the Archdiocese of Toronto and other Catholic charities to discuss common issues and challenges and to brainstorm ideas for future collaboration to benefit those we serve. (right)



We were also delighted to be in attendance at the annual Cardinal's Dinner in support of Catholic Charities. (left)

AFL is always pleased to participate in regional meetings of staff and various youth leadership events to talk about the work that we do, and how individual donors and supporters can, and do, make a meaningful difference in the lives of students. (below)







## **AFL Board of Directors 2024-2025**

### **Executive Committee**

John Wujek Executive Director--Angel Foundation for Learning Staff

Don Walker-- Chair

Marguerite Thomson--Vice-Chair

Catherine Turner-Gould--Honorary Treasurer

Irene Passos-Gold--Secretary

Shawna Campbell--Toronto Catholic Supervisory Officers Association

Rory McGuckin--Community Member

### **Other AFL Board Members**

Karen Crooks--Association of Professional Student Services Personnel

Vanessa Serra Iarocci--Community Member

Ana Radic--Community Member

Sharron Flynn Bennett--Canadian Union of Public Employees 1328

Raffi Guluyan--Managers and Professionals Association

Nicola Netta--Toronto Catholic Principals and Vice-Principals Association

Rita Leone--Toronto Catholic Secondary Schools Principals Association

Jose Flores--Toronto Catholic Secondary Schools Principals Association

Matthew Bonk--Toronto Secondary Unit, Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association

Patricia Minnan-Wong --Toronto Elementary Catholic Teachers, Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association

Kevin Morrison--Toronto Catholic District School Board Trustee

Ida Li Preti--Toronto Catholic District School Board Trustee

Gabriela Berlon--Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

### **Student Members**

JoyGold Goodluck--Toronto Catholic District School Board Student Trustee

Ruben Da Silveira--Toronto Catholic District School Board

Ralph Bou Abboud--Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team

Sofia Aya--Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team

## **AFL Staff 2024-2025**

John Wujek, Executive Director

Iris Martinez, Manager of Operations and Programs

Emmy Szekeres Milne, Manager of Communications, Fundraising and Events

Angela Olmstead, Student Nutrition Program Coordinator

Ivonne Kartarahardja, Business and Corporate Services Officer

Shayna McNall, Communications and Outreach Officer

Cecilia Frank, Student Nutrition Program Officer

Tashian Licorish, Student Nutrition Program Officer

Sherry Pearson, Student Nutrition Program Officer

Luisa Polidoro, Student Nutrition Program Officer

## How Support is Distributed

AFL remains committed to minimizing administrative costs so that the money raised through donations and fundraisers can be utilized to directly assist students and their families during challenging economic times.

## Snapshot of Dispersements to Help Students

Guardian Angel Funds (Supports for Students and Families):	\$178,650.68
School Allocations (to ensure no student is left behind)	\$18,025.00
Awards, Bursaries and Youth Programming (including ATeam and vouchers to offset the cost of college & university application fees)	\$162,000.30
Summer Programs (to ensure that students receive healthy snacks)	\$136,980.50
Vouchers for school uniforms	\$ 12,500.00

See page 16 for more financial information.

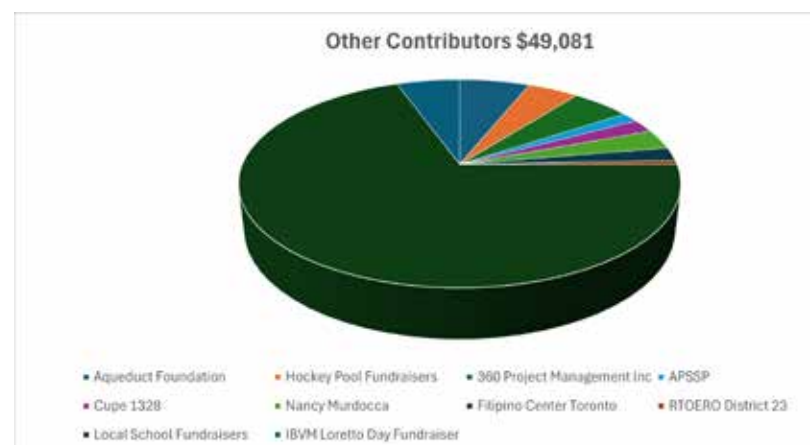
## Major Donors in 2024-2025

Donor Name	Amount
TD	\$15,000.00
Loretto Sisters	\$10,000.00
FK Morrow Foundation	\$10,000.00
Belairdirect	\$60,000.00
The Basilian Fathers	\$25,000.00
CIBC	\$25,000.00



## Other Significant Donations

Donor Name	Amount
Aqueduct Foundation	\$3,000.00
Hockey Pool Fundraisers	\$2,200.00
360 Project Management Inc	\$2,500.00
APSSP	\$750.00
Cupe 1328	\$1,000.00
Nancy Murdocca	\$1,500.00
Filipino Center Toronto	\$1,000.00
RTOERO District 23	\$300.00
Local School Fundraisers	\$34,131.84
IBVM Loretto Day Fundraiser	\$2,700.00





## THE ANGEL FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended August 31, 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>Revenues</b>		
Grants (Note 4)	8,590,450	7,053,829
Donations	692,825	1,121,013
Fundraising events	336,616	338,771
Interest (Note 5)	162,103	153,612
	<u>9,781,994</u>	<u>8,667,225</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Donations	8,906,583	7,801,893
Salaries and benefits	531,419	500,189
Office	164,698	83,971
Fundraising events	106,286	112,038
Professional fees	3,000	15,000
	<u>9,711,986</u>	<u>8,513,091</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses before other income	70,008	154,134
Other income		
Unrealized gain on short-term investments (Note 5)	45,575	42,222
<b>Excess of revenues over expenses</b>	<b>115,583</b>	<b>196,356</b>