

That's a Wrap On Another Amazing Year!

Time flies when you are having fun, and we have had another incredible year thanks to everyone who supported us or participated in the many promotions, contests and fundraising activities. We thank all who opened up their hearts and their wallets to help us in our efforts to support students and families in need throughout the year.

Through the generosity of our caring and compassionate donors and [corporate sponsors](#), we were able to disperse: \$105,534.84 from March 1st to June 15th. The last round of grocery cards valued at \$50 each from the AFL's Student Home Nutrition Program has gone to all 900+ students enrolled virtually at St. Anne Catholic Academy. Coming up in the summer, the AFL will be providing over \$150,000 in food cards to TCDSB students participating in Focus on Youth camps, Elementary School Summer Learning Program including students with Multiple Exceptionalities. Your help makes this possible.

It is a year of transition for the Foundation as we bid farewell to a number of dedicated AFL Board members. First and foremost, our heartfelt thanks goes out to Nancy Murdocca, who has retired from her position as Chair, after serving on the Board of Directors for 20 years, joining the Foundation after her retirement from TCDSB as a social worker. She has led the Foundation with incredible commitment to the students we serve, respect for her fellow Board members and incredible leadership that helped us navigate through some challenging times.

We also say farewell to our Honorary Treasurer Mary Eileen Donovan, Carmela Giardini and Liz Gabbott who have each served the Foundation for over 30 years as well as Odette Fernandes who has represented the Social Work team with incredible commitment and compassion. These leaders have collectively provided the Foundation with tremendous insight and support throughout their many years of service to the organization.



We wish all our departing members continued success, good health and enjoyment in the years ahead.



The Foundation extends a warm welcome to newly elected Student Trustee Ashionyedue Joygold Goodluck from Father Henry Carr Catholic Secondary School. She will join returning Student Trustee David Beshai on our Board of Directors, and we look forward to their insights and ideas as we continue to respond to the needs of students across the TCDSB.

As our thoughts turn to holiday plans for the summer, we invite you to take a look back at some of the highlights from the past few months.

We wish all of you, the Angels Among Us, a safe, happy and restful summer with friends and family, and thank you for helping our student soar!

Believe in Angels Week

Mark your calendars for **Believe in Angels Week November 27th to December 1st.**

We often say that not all angels have wings, but we can all do our part to make the world a better place for everyone, so this week will be an opportunity for all of us to be angels for others. We want to celebrate your acts of kindness and community service, and hope that you will share all that your school communities are doing to help others. We also hope that each school will consider holding, or planning, a local fundraising initiative specifically to support the work of AFL as well. With your continued support we can help our students achieve their dreams regardless of their financial circumstances. Watch for further information and resources coming your way early in September.

Spring 2023 Highlights

Record Number of Applicants for AFL Awards and Bursaries

The Angel Foundation for Learning is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 student bursaries and school awards. With so many diverse and inspiring applications, it was a challenge for the various review panels to come up with their recommendations.

“The incredible stories shared by this year’s applicants speak 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,” says AFL Executive Director John Yan. “What these candidates have already accomplished in such a short time tells us that the future is in good hands as they continue on the path of giving back to their communities.”

This year’s winner of the AFL Student Bursary for Indigenous Youth is Christopher Canning from St Joan of Arc Catholic Academy. This bursary, valued at \$5,000 is 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 from Mary Ward, Tristan Robles from Neil McNeil, Kayla Siriban from Francis Libermann and Paulina Sieczka from Michael Power-St Joseph. These bursaries were presented at the Toronto Catholic District School Board year-end Mass on June 22nd.

“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,” says Mr Yan. “Given the continued growing needs, we are committed to expanding the number of bursaries that will be offered in the future.”

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 – Charlize Marshall, Mary Ward

Tandia Bursary – Tharushi Nathasha Perera, Mary Ward
AFL Music Bursary – Nicole Johnson, St Joseph Morrow Park
AFL Visual Arts Bursary – Jimin Seo, St Joseph College
Spirit of Inclusion Award – Joshua Tiglao, St Victor

Our congratulations to all the successful candidates, and our thanks and best wishes to all the amazing young people who submitted applications.



Tom Leon Student Bursary Winners



Christopher Canning

Special Offer From Toronto Argos

Get discounted tickets to remaining Argos home games this season. **Save up to 25%** on the regular ticket price, and know that \$5 from every purchase will be donated to AFL. Cheer on the defending CFL champs this summer, save money and give back to students in need

Date	Time	Opponent
SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH	7:00 PM	VS. HAMILTON
MONDAY, JULY 03RD	7:00 PM	VS. BC
SUNDAY, AUGUST 13TH	7:00 PM	VS. OTTAWA
FRIDAY, AUGUST 25TH	7:30 PM	VS. CALGARY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 09TH	1:00 PM	VS. MONTREAL
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD	7:00 PM	VS. HAMILTON
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 06TH	7:00 PM	VS. EDMONTON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH	7:00 PM	VS. OTTAWA

For Additional Information or to book a group of 10 or more, Please Contact:
VANESSA.TELLEZ@MLSE.COM or 416-815-2297

Celebrating Our Student Nutrition Heroes

It takes a village to raise a child, and in our schools, it also takes the tireless efforts of dedicated volunteers to ensure that all students receive nutritious meals and snacks through our Student Nutrition Programs. Our immense gratitude goes out to all of our school administrators, SNP coordinators and other volunteers for their commitment to student health and well-being.

For the second year, we held a random draw from among the many schools who submitted photos and stories about their incredible SNP volunteers during Nutrition Month in March, and we visited the winning schools during Volunteer Month in April to present these individuals with a certificate of appreciation and a gift as a token of our thanks.

Congratulations to this year's winners: (left to right) Maria Baskaran (St Edmund Campion), Susie Di Petta and Lisa Pagliaroli (St Conrad), Kaylene Lambayong (Marshall McLuhan) and Marie Wright-Mendonca (St Nicholas of Bari).



Student Nutrition Programs are always in need of volunteers.

[Visit our website](#) to learn more about how you can get involved in the fight against hunger.

Loretto Sisters Mark a Milestone: 175 Years of Service

On April 30th a special celebration was held at St Paul's Basilica in honour of the Loretto Sisters' 175th anniversary in Canada. AFL was proud to be part of that gathering and to provide some refreshments to those in attendance as we paid tribute to the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary for an incredible legacy of leadership in Catholic education.



The Loretto Sisters were instrumental in founding many TCDSB schools, and their members remain active in some TCDSB school communities today, including two schools that bear the name of the order, and one that is named after its founder.



Under the leadership of Sr Evanne Hunter, the Sisters also collaborated with AFL to create the Loretto Fund for Newcomers, which supports students newly arrived from Ukraine and elsewhere in search of a new home free from conflict, persecution and extreme poverty.



We are truly grateful for their leadership and involvement, and we thank them for continuing to be Angels Among Us and helping students soar.



A-Team Believe Initiative Brings Student Passion Projects to Life

The Angel Foundation for Learning and TCDSB Focus on Youth worked in partnership to bring the A-Team Believe initiative to life. Under the leadership of Mike Consul and former Canadian Olympian Sarah Wells, the project was open to all secondary students who are eager to build their leadership, entrepreneurship, confidence, and resilience skills.

Seven schools registered to participate in this program which invited them to form a local A-Team and decide on an issue or initiative that they were passionate about, and to brainstorm a project/plan to address that need in their school community.

Three virtual sessions led by Sarah Wells were held in late April and early May focusing on developing some important leadership skills, including setting goals, developing timelines and redefining success. On May 15th, the seven teams were invited to an in person pitch day to present their project or initiative.

Congratulations to all the A-Teams for coming up with amazing Passion Projects in response to the challenges they have experienced during the pandemic:

- Chaminade—Brotherhood 2.0 (improving access to grade 9 orientation and retreat)
- Madonna—Madonna Monthly (monthly events focusing on areas of student interest)
- Notre Dame—Student Lounge (creating a safe and comfortable space for students to study)
- St Basil the Great—Tech Night (helping students develop important real world skills focusing on technology)
- St Joan of Arc—We Belong (focusing on inclusion, acceptance and diversity—a multicultural event)
- St John Paul II—Entrepreneurship Project (to provide students with opportunities to learn from entrepreneur mentors and provide opportunities for student entrepreneurs to participate in an in person market as well as online marketplace)
- St Mother Teresa—Seeds of Friendship and Change (to expand the range of extracurricular events/clubs available to students and rebuild a sense of community)

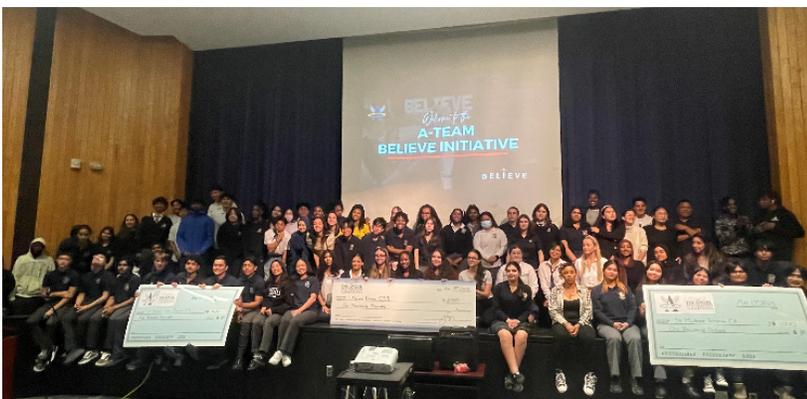
All seven teams received \$500 to ensure that they would have some seed money to support their projects, and three of the projects were singled out by a panel to receive additional funding of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500.

The creativity and diversity of the projects that were presented made it very difficult for the panel to come up with the top three projects, and the decision was made based on the needs that were presented, the quality of the presentation themselves and the sustainability of the initiatives.

The winning projects were:

- Notre Dame—1st place
- St Mother Teresa—2nd place
- St Basil the Great—3rd place

Our hope is that all seven schools who have initiated A-Teams will proceed with the projects they presented, and stay in touch with the Angel Foundation for Learning so that we can see their progress, and provide any support that we can to ensure their success. We also hope that these A-Teams will continue next year as an opportunity for students to further develop their leadership skills, explore opportunities to address any concerns that their fellow students have, and look for ways to give back to their community through acts of philanthropy and kindness. Learn more: <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/join-the-a-team/>



Having Fun, Doing Good and Raising Money



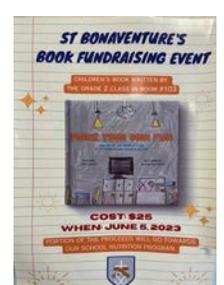
St John Paul II was the first school to join the A-Team movement. Wearing their new A-Team shirts sponsored by [Johnson Insurance](#), this group made lunches and delivered them to the homeless in downtown Toronto this spring.



The amazing volunteers at St Raphael Catholic School initiated a grilled cheese lunch fundraiser in May to support the school's Student Nutrition Program. The SNP Angels--Lisa, Priscilla, Genites, Josie, Maria, Emnie and Mary--did a fabulous job preparing 170 + sandwiches in advance, filling fruit cups, and distributing the tasty and healthy treats to classrooms. Families who were able, were invited to donate \$7 per student for this special lunch, which helped the school raise \$1240 for the Snack Program.



Thank you so much to the Toronto Elementary Catholic Teachers for their generous donation to the #afl Loretto Fund for Newcomers. The \$4,500 donation was given to the three TCDSB Ukrainian schools - St. Demetrius, Josyf Cardinal Slipyj and St. Josaphat - \$1500 each. AFL thanks TECT for their continued support and for being #angelsamongus as we work to create a brighter future for the students of Toronto.



Thank you to The Holy Trinity (left) for their amazing innovative fundraising Caine's Arcade to benefit AFL. Their students, staff and families brought in more than \$1,800 with this unique and creative activity that provides an amazing learning opportunity for students while also engaging them in some good old fashioned fun. Our thanks also to St Bonaventure's grade 2 class (right) who created their own hard cover story book. Proceeds from the sale of the books will help to support the school's Student Nutrition Program.

Recent Promotions

- Thanks to all who participated in our annual **May the 4th Be With You** Fundraiser. To date, a total of more than \$13,000 was donated to AFL from the civvies day by TCDSB school communities as well as individual donors.
- The **Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team** held a raffle and silent auction during their year-end general assembly. Thanks to the amazing student leaders for helping to raise almost \$350 to support AFL.
- New this year, both the **Toronto Marlies and Raptors905** provided special promo codes, which provided discounted tickets for several home games during the 2023 season, with a percentage of the sales being donated to AFL. Thank you to these sports clubs for helping to raise close to \$500 to support the Foundation.
- Through these activities, as well as initiatives such as flash auctions, local school fundraisers, ticket sales for raffles and our Charity Golf Day we raised more than \$156,000. We thank all who made donations, purchased tickets or participated in the online and flash auctions for helping us to respond to the growing needs of students across the TCDSB. Our spring raffle set new records, with one lucky winner taking home a prize of just over \$30,000. We also acknowledge the many corporate donors/sponsors who donated items for the **year-end online auction** which brought in a record breaking total of \$5,265.

It's Finally Back!

Come Celebrate Winter and the Christmas Season at the 2023 Angel Foundation for Learning Snow Ball Gala:
An Evening to Feed Dreams

We know you've missed it.

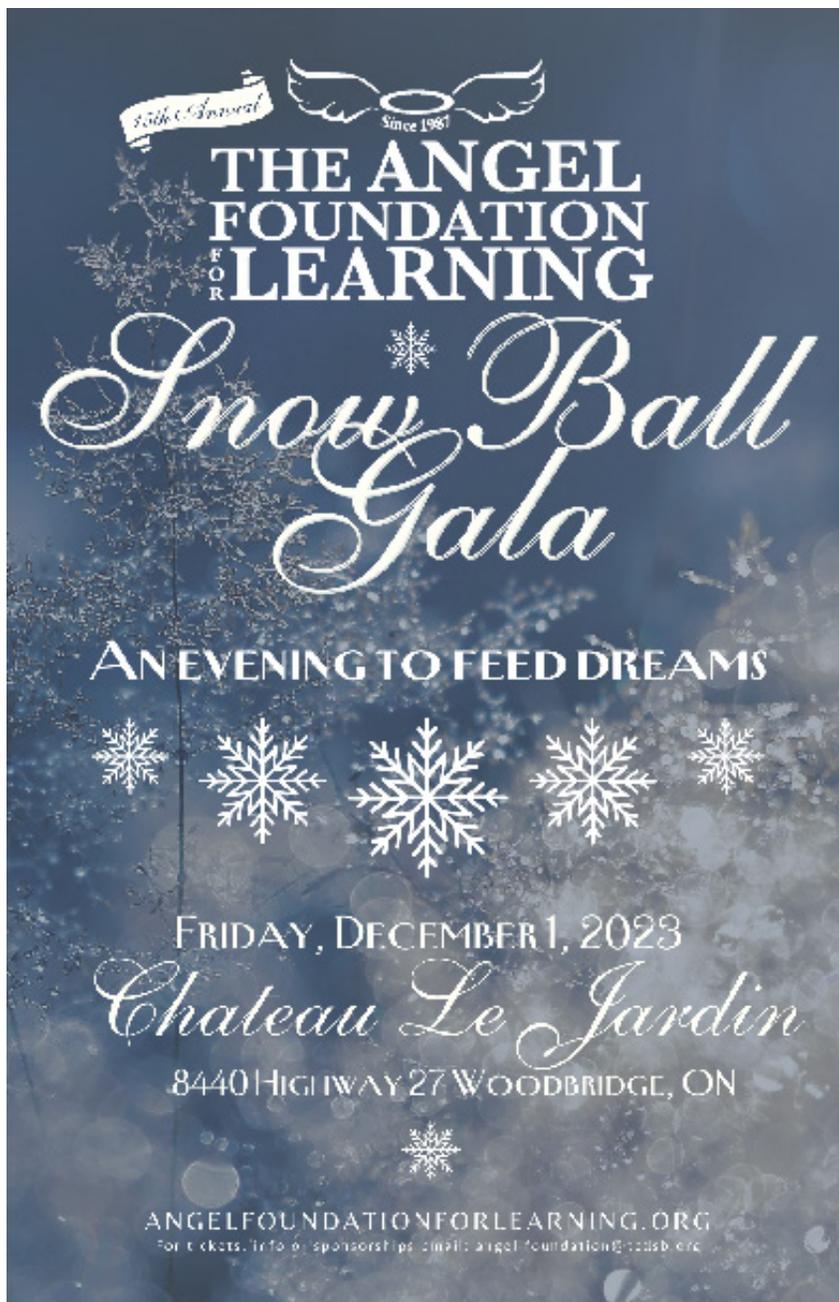
And we have certainly missed all of you.

Let's get together for an evening of great food and entertainment with friends, colleagues and our many corporate supporters, all to benefit TCDSB students. This year at a new venue—Chateau Le Jardin.

Limited tickets available. [Order online](#)

Early Bird pricing \$150 through to Thanksgiving (October 9th) with a chance to win some great prizes.

(\$30 of your ticket price is a charitable donation for which you will receive a tax receipt)



Thank You to All the Angels Among Us

We are grateful to the countless donors and supporters who enable The Angel Foundation to help so many students and families each year. We could not do all that we do without your continued participation and generosity.

We encourage you to visit our [website](#) to see all the corporate sponsors and donors who help us raise funds through donations in kind, through special events and through their sponsorship of our Charity Golf Day and other initiatives throughout the year.

Our heartfelt appreciation also goes out to the **Basilian Fathers** who are providing \$4,000 to the Foundation to support the Student Equity Fund for Post-Secondary Education (also known as The Peggy Project), which subsidizes the cost of application fees to Ontario colleges and universities for students who are experiencing financial hardships.



Congratulations to the Toronto Marlies for winning TCDSB's Friends of Catholic Education Award. Receiving the award were MLSE's Alex Iwanicki and Marc Lira. AFL was proud to nominate them for the award in recognition of all the support that they provide to the Foundation and to TCDSB students.



CUPE Local 4400 made a special donation this spring to help newcomers at St. Joseph's Catholic School.