

Ottawa Network for Education

GRATITUDE REPORT 2021-2022



onfe-rope.ca

Fuel kids. Ignite learning.

Resilience and agility

It's been another great year for ONFE.

The past two and a half years came with challenges and changes that rocked the status quo and pushed us to maneuver and adjust. We pivoted our programs, modified our processes and found new ways to forge ahead. We were resilient and agile, with another exceptional year.

I credit this achievement not only to the expertise and adaptability of our staff, but also to the unwavering trust, support and generosity we continue to receive from the Ottawa community. Our donors, volunteers, sponsors, partners and supporters are vital to our work. Without you, we cannot accomplish all that we do. Your support is remarkable and inspiring. Thank you!



The children and youth we serve are architects of the future—not just for our community but for our city, country and world. This makes the work we do crucial. We understand that students are the real heroes. We design and deliver programs that exceed expectations by meeting students where they are both physically and in their learning journey. We create intentional social environments that give students the opportunity to succeed today and prepare for tomorrow. Our modernized programs are responsive to needs as they unfold.

As things gradually return to normal, we are determined to remain nimble in our approach and steadfast in our mission to inspire and support every child's learning journey in reaching their full potential. We will continue to fuel and inspire Ottawa's children and youth, equipping them daily with the nutrition, wellness and financial education they need to thrive—as we have done for the past 37 years.

This year, we undertook visioning work to create long-term strategic goals that will guide ONFE in the years to come. The results of this work have been summarized in [our long-term strategic document](#), which we encourage you to read.

On behalf of ONFE, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our success. To our donors, volunteers, sponsors, partners, educators and parents, thank you for all the work you do to help ONFE fuel kids and ignite learning every school day.

To our incredible [staff](#) who have excelled at maintaining our programs through considerable change, and to our [Board of Directors](#) who continue to guide the organization to success, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Heather Norris
President & CEO
Ottawa Network for Education

School Breakfast Program



We provided nutritious meals and snacks to **14,500 students in **193** Ottawa schools.**

[Explore the program](#)

"The entire ONFE School Breakfast Program Team is grateful for the continued selfless efforts made by school staff to operate breakfast programs and make a difference. For our team, this quote from a principal sums it up:

'We have one student who lives in a group home and has been through a lot. After a difficult time trying to adjust to the school, his vice-principal discovered he was not eating breakfast. She introduced him to the breakfast club, which motivated him to come to school each morning and make connections with teachers and peers. This student did not pass any courses in the first semester, but now he is back on track and will pass all of his courses - this is due to not only the nutrition provided by the program but the relationships he has developed.' "



The School Breakfast Program team

Classroom Gardens

We taught **2,797 students in **85** Ottawa schools the value of gardening and healthy eating.**

[Explore the program](#)



Simon McMillan
Program Manager

"I was so happy to return to the Classroom Gardens program this year. It was a big relaunch after the towers had been dormant for close to two years. Teachers and students were eager to get going again. My staff and I had to order a lot of materials. I moved towers to new schools, answered many questions and, with the help of my colleagues at ONFE, delivered worms to over 20 schools. Best of all, however, we saw vegetables growing in over 100 classrooms, either in towers or on windowsills! Our classes did many fun and healthy harvest activities such as salad days and Swiss chard smoothies. I look forward to an even better next year!"

JA Ottawa



We equipped 10,225 students in 104 Ottawa schools with financial literacy, entrepreneurial, and career readiness skills.

[Explore the program](#)

"JA volunteers taught students personal money management skills they can apply to their lives. Our JA World of Choices volunteer career panelists exposed students, both elementary and high school, to career options that they had never heard of or considered pursuing. Thanks to the financial support of RBC and The Counselling Foundation of Canada, volunteers shared their personal experiences and career/education journeys. JA Ottawa helped deliver a province-wide, bilingual, virtual JA *Building a Stronger Future* career event focused on skilled trades and technology. JA helped ignite 350+ student entrepreneurs, from 24 high schools, to start up 28 businesses. This wouldn't have been possible without our 47 business mentors and teachers and support from the Ottawa Community Foundation. We piloted JA Entrepreneurial Hoops at Hillcrest HS to engage basketball-passionate students, at risk of not graduating, in creating basketball-themed businesses."

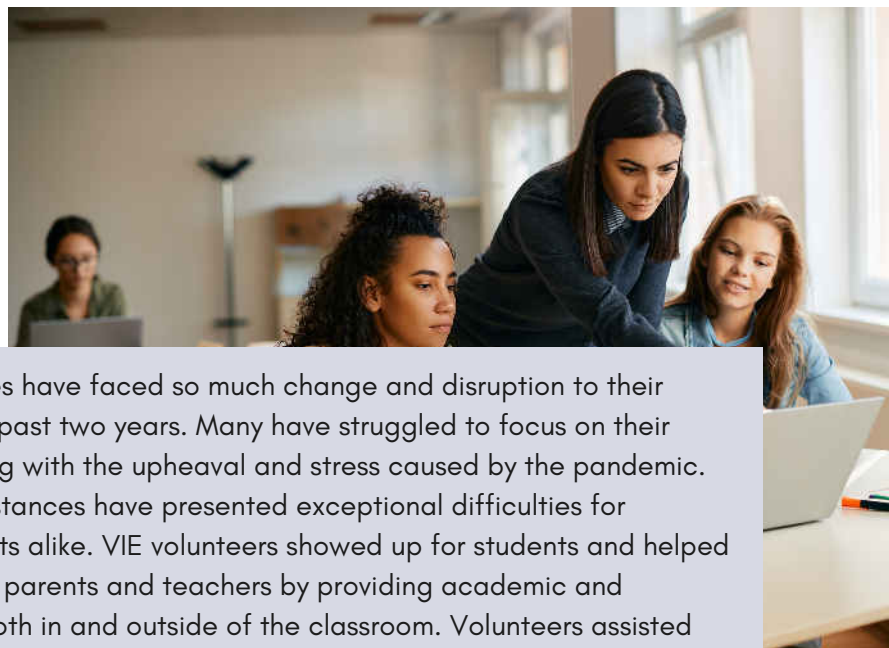


Albert Wong
Program Director

Volunteers in Education

We provided learning support to 2,089 students in 42 Ottawa schools.

[Explore the program](#)



Adriana Johnston
Program Manager

"Students of all ages have faced so much change and disruption to their education over the past two years. Many have struggled to focus on their studies while dealing with the upheaval and stress caused by the pandemic. These same circumstances have presented exceptional difficulties for teachers and parents alike. VIE volunteers showed up for students and helped ease the burden on parents and teachers by providing academic and logistical support both in and outside of the classroom. Volunteers assisted with lessons and tutored students individually online and eventually in person again. Parents, teachers and volunteers reported in program surveys that the interactions with volunteers had positive effects on students' self-esteem."

Project STEP



We provided counselling support for problematic substance and technology use to students in 61 Ottawa schools.

[Explore the program](#)

"The pandemic has been hard on children and youth. We have heard over and over that young people have been disconnected from their mentors, teachers, role models and friends at a time when relationships are critical for their wellbeing and sense of self. The result has been noticeable declining mental health, increased substance use and more time online, as communicated by our service providers. We have remained committed to supporting our youth and ensuring our young people and their families continued to have access to support, treatment, education and prevention of problematic substance and technology use throughout this year."



Jill Bennett
Program Manager

Thanks to you, we supported:

29,915

students in

259

schools, reaching

76

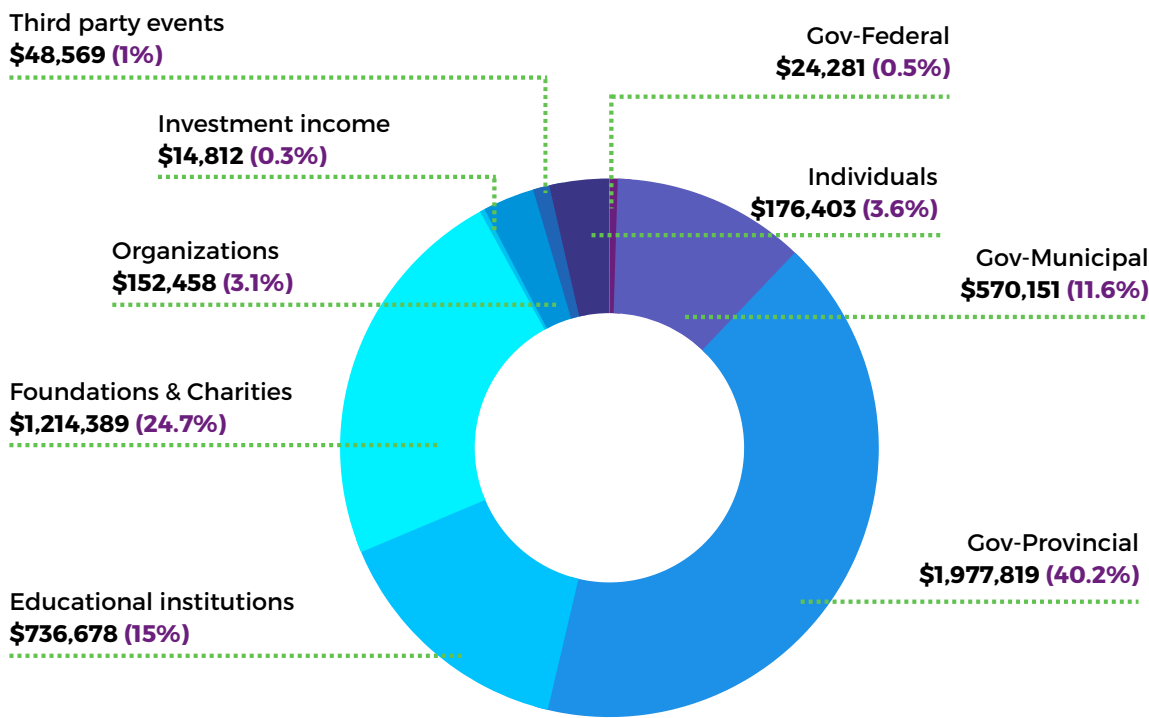
percent of schools in
Ottawa's four public
school boards.



Financial statement

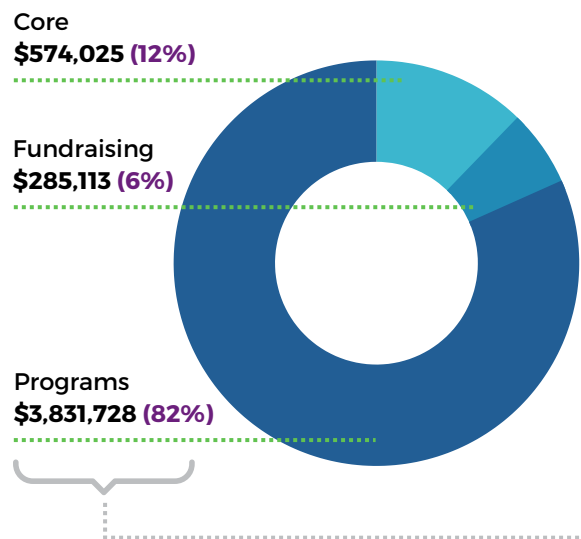
We are committed to the proper management and use of all funds we receive from our generous community. Every contribution is accounted for and put towards furthering our mission to help Ottawa's children and youth succeed.

Revenue by Funding 2021-22

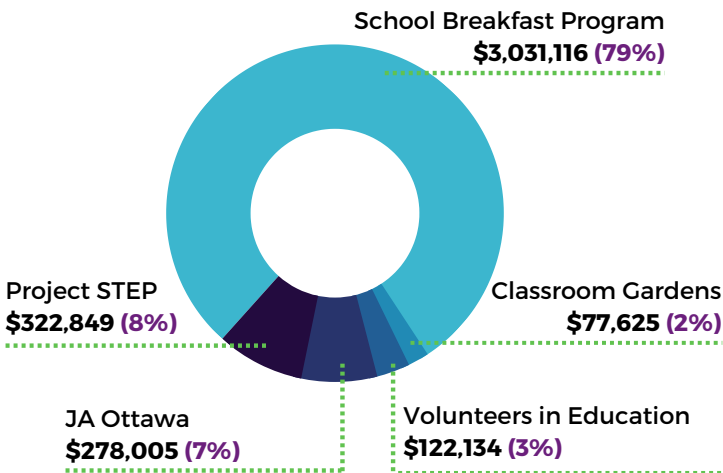


Total Revenue: **\$4,915,558**

Operating Expenses 2021-22



Expenses by Program 2021-22



Total Expenses: **\$4,690,867**

[View our detailed financial statements for the 2021-22 fiscal year.](#)



**Thank you to our
incredible
volunteers.**

You are important to us. Without you, we cannot do what we do. In the increasingly fast-paced world of today, it can be challenging to make time—and still, you do so for Ottawa's children and youth. We want you to know that every second you spend volunteering with us is valued and makes a difference. Your passion alone inspires both the students we serve and us. We cannot shout out each of you individually, but we can confidently tell you that you rock, and that you make our work possible. Thank you for choosing ONFE.

**Your time and
dedication make
all the difference.**





Thank you to our generous donors and partners.

Thank you to our donors and partners who provide us with the vital funds we need to keep our programs accessible to the children and youth we serve. Your kindness and humanity have brightened many young lives in our Ottawa community, which thrives because of individuals and organizations like you. Thanks to your unwavering support, we were able to stand firm in the face of challenges imposed by the pandemic. You keep us agile and steadfast in our mission, and for this, we are grateful. To all the organizations listed below, and to the many more that have supported us over the years, thank you for being there for us.

Education Partners



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écoles publiques
de l'Est de l'Ontario



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RBC Foundation
RBC Fondation

TELUS



United Way
East Ontario

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Johansen Larsen Foundation

J.P. Bickell
Foundation



The Bloodroot
Fund

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Coder Sports Academy
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Employment Ontario
Fairstone (Citi)
Foci Solutions
Flux Lighting Inc.
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Grandmaitre Virgo Evans Lawyers
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JÉRÔME | Art & Photography
Julianna Banana
Kaitlyn Bates Initiative
Kelly Funeral Homes

Kanata United Church
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National Bank
Paterson & Company
St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church
St. John the Apostle Parish
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WestJet



On behalf of the ONFE staff and Board, we would like to say a final thank you for contributing to our organization. Your support is fundamental to the continuity of our programs and to the success of Ottawa's students. We are already looking ahead to the 2022-23 school year and to what new heights we can reach together.

We are grateful to have you by our side.



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Volunteer

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Partner with us

For partnership or sponsorship inquiries,
please reach out to Mitch Miller at

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NETWORK FOR
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