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# Gratitude Report 2020-21



OTTAWA NETWORK FOR EDUCATION  
FUEL KIDS - IGNITE LEARNING

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## The last 15 months have set a precedent for ONFE.

Leading up to March 2020, we had been faithfully serving Ottawa's K-12 students for 35 years. We had a plan to continue this work and grow it to the best of our ability – in partnership with the four school boards, our volunteers, and our corporate and community partners – just as we do every year.

At the onset of the pandemic, we suddenly found ourselves in the middle of emergency food security initiatives, and we could no longer deliver our educational programs in the traditional way. We had to search for solutions while everyone in the world – including our staff, and Ottawa's educators and students – maneuvered to find new ways to live and learn.

Fortunately, the Ottawa community stepped up to the plate. You helped us deliver over 700,000 meals to kids in the first 6 months of the pandemic; you helped us adapt our programs to public health guidelines; you volunteered your time to help children and youth learn; and you even came on board to support a new cookbook project that raised much-needed funds for the School Breakfast Program. Not only could we count on our regular donors and partners, but thousands of you from across the city came to us as new donors.

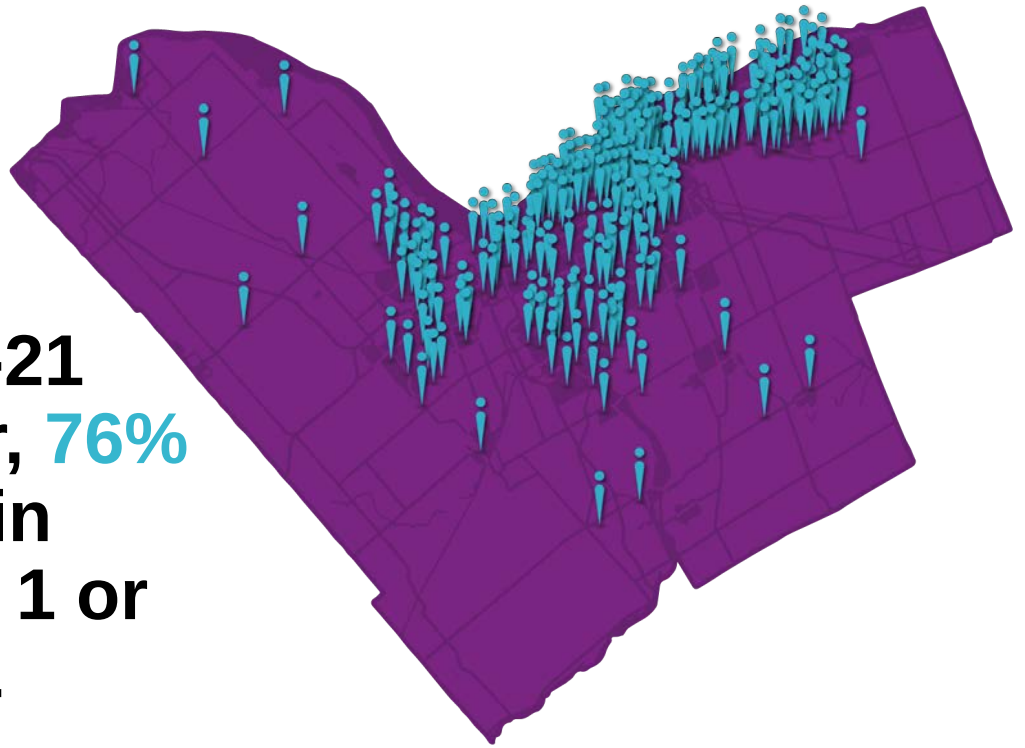
We're publishing this Gratitude Report in your honour. The following stories and testimonials are from donors from different professions and walks of life, united in their desire to help Ottawa kids.

We don't want the gratitude or the practice of reflection to stop here. As a marker of these last 15 months, we'll be publishing a Gratitude Report every June in place of our traditional December Annual Report.

To all of you who have come alongside Ottawa's children and youth in a difficult time – donors, educators, staff, volunteers, and parents – thank you. It is an honour to work with you.

**Heather Norris**  
CEO  
Ottawa Network for Education





In the 2020-21 school year, **76%** of schools in Ottawa had 1 or more ONFE programs,

reaching up to **26,000** children and youth in the city of Ottawa, in **259** schools.

84% of OCDSB schools,  
85% of OCSB schools,  
41% of CECCE schools, and  
82% of CEPEO schools have 1 or more ONFE programs.



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## IMPACT

# School Breakfast Program

**10,549** meals served in school every day

**15,160** Learn-At-Home Kits delivered, equaling

**303,200** meals delivered

When schools re-opened in September, we shifted our in-school programming to follow public health guidelines, feeding kids while keeping them safe. To reach students learning at home, we created School Breakfast Learn-At-Home Kits, which are still being delivered through the end of this school year. In addition to the shelf-stable kits, we have been sending eggs and yogurt products to agencies to give out with breakfast kits.

Thanks to your support, we now have 2 different school breakfast programs so that we can adapt to help students as school situations change.

# Classroom Gardens

**4,018** students and 217 teachers learning to grow their own gardens this spring

At ONFE, we believe that nutrition doesn't stop at a healthy breakfast. Students are empowered by an understanding of where food comes from, and through engagement with fresh food from seed to plate.



# JA Ottawa

**9,713** students took part in a career exploration or financial literacy program

**116** students with 28 mentors created 11 new online businesses

JA Ottawa recruits and trains volunteers from Ottawa's business community and post-secondary institutions to lead interactive learning activities for students in grades 5 to 12. JA Ottawa teaches financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurship and is a member of JA Canada.

Thanks to your support, JA Ottawa is developing the talent pipeline of leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators.

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## IMPACT

### project step

Since 2007, over **12,000** students have accessed school-based counselling

Over **75,000** students have received education sessions

And over **11,000** parents have received support

ONFE coordinates the *step for* Youth in Schools and Community Coalition. This community collaborative of 22 committed partners works to ensure high school students and their families in all 4 school boards have access to direct support, treatment, education, and prevention (step) for youth problematic substance and technology use.

Through this school-based program, addiction counsellors are assigned to every high school in Ottawa by the service providers, Rideauwood Addictions and Family Services and Centre Le CAP. Funding for this unique program is allocated from The Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), Ottawa Public Health, United Way East Ontario, and the 4 school boards. Through the pandemic, service providers continued this much needed support and have been able to meet the needs of the students either virtually or in-person.



### Volunteers in Education & OttawaReads

**34,176** hours donated to virtual tutoring

ONFE's Volunteers in Education and OttawaReads programs have continued to recruit and screen volunteers and are now supporting students and educators virtually.

This winter, we began supporting students with virtual after school tutoring. In this pilot program with 6 OCDSB schools, students had access to trained and screened volunteers, who provided extra support at no cost to students and their families. Many of these students are from homes that do not have the financial ability to pay for tutoring services. This program will now become a annual offering to all 152 OCDSB schools.

### Coding with ONFE

**76** students from 5 schools took part in this pilot project

Designed by ONFE, this self-guided coding program includes an industry speaker, videos, student instruction time, and student design and creation of mobile apps. Industry speakers share with Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) students how coding is used in their company, how it affects their daily work, and how their career is influenced by coding.

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## Deb Finn



“As a child, I never went to school hungry and I did well. Some of my classmates were not as fortunate. As I grew older, I realized just how lucky I had been, and I want children growing up in my community to have the same experience that I had: the ability to grow strong and healthy, with a good start to each day and the potential to grow, learn, and achieve. This is why I contribute to the School Breakfast Program — to help make that happen.”

## Cathy Wilcox



“As a retired teacher, I can attest to the immense difference that the caring breakfast and snack people made, delivering healthy food to children who often had nothing, or perhaps a packaged unhealthy choice that a parent was able to manage to provide.”

## Scott Boswell



“Junior Achievement (JA) Ottawa is an outstanding contributor to schools and education in the Ottawa Region, and is an organization that I financially support on a regular (monthly) basis. JA provides a variety of programs that teach entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and work readiness skills, which develops confidence and encourages students to discover and develop their academic capabilities and career pathways. These are invaluable lessons. My daughter was fortunate to have participated in the JA Company Program in her final year at Garneau HS, where she was part of a team to develop a sustainable cotton tote company, named Totéco. She learned a great deal from the experience, and the company went on to win awards at a national level, due to their hard work. The skills and confidence that she gained through her experience with JA carried her forward into a very successful post-secondary business program, from which she just graduated with Honours. I want to see all students have that same opportunity, and to benefit from all the great work that JA provides to the community, under the leadership of Albert Wong. I encourage you to find opportunities to work with JA, and more so, I encourage you to make a financial contribution to JA. Every contribution will change a child’s life for the better!”



## Charlotte Medina



"When I was in elementary school I was included in the breakfast program which I still have very fond memories of. At that time the selected students went to the breakfast room and I remember always feeling welcomed, cared for, and well fed. It is still to this day an experience I talk to family and friends about and always have only wonderful things to say about the program I was included in. For this reason, by donating I hope to be able to give many other children feel not only well nourished but also to obtain that same feeling that they are loved and a place they can make new friends."



"Last year, at the onset of the pandemic in April, the Board of Directors of the Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO) chose to make donations to organizations across Ontario that were providing services to those most affected by the pandemic. The unit representing AEFO members who teach at Lycée Claudel chose to donate a portion of the funds to the Ottawa Network for Education's breakfast program in recognition of the importance of the program during this difficult time."

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WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR  
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FOUNDATIONS



## The Counselling Foundation of Canada

"The Counselling Foundation of Canada is a proud supporter of the Ottawa Network for Education and their career readiness programs. We have seen how ONFE's work to create career connections between employers, school boards, and students has been engaging and effective in helping to advance the career education of students."

## Happy Roots Foundation

"Happy Roots was honoured to support ONFE's School Breakfast Program during the Covid-19 pandemic. Food security is an incredibly important component of children's mental health, and ONFE plays a critical role by providing breakfast to children and youth across Ottawa. We were very impressed by how quickly they were able to pivot under very challenging circumstances."



"Happy Roots believes in nurturing infant and early childhood mental health by tackling adversity in the early years of life, and fostering supportive relationships between young kids and their caregivers. We are pleased to be continuing our support of ONFE's incredible roster of activities through our Impact Grant program for 2021."

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# RBC Foundation

## RBC Future Launch

“Prosperity for all Canadians and the ability to compete in the global economy is directly linked to our ability to help young people prepare to succeed in the ever-changing world of work. If young people fail, we all fail. That’s why RBC proudly supports ONFE and the work they do to help all students succeed” - Louise Summers, Regional Vice President, Ottawa Central

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CORPORATE PARTNERS



## Avanade

“Volunteering for ONFE and having the opportunity to introduce eager students to all these important topics such as financial literacy and work readiness is always a fulfilling experience. It has been rewarding to help guide students as they begin to contemplate life after high school.”

## The Properties Group



“We at The Properties Group donate to the Ottawa Network for Education because we believe more people should. If we can help ignite people’s generosity and improve education opportunities with our contributions then we have done our part!”

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THIRD-PARTY PARTNERS

## Bridgehead



“Now, more than ever, it is crucial that we support the physical and mental health of the youth in our community. The pandemic has only amplified the importance of the work that ONFE does to help students succeed, which is why Bridgehead is proud to support ONFE’s efforts.”

## Friends' Bingo

“Friends’ Bingo Hall is proud to be a charitable gaming facility that has distributed over \$10,000,000 to the community. Ottawa Network for Education is one of 42 charities that receives donations through the bingo hall. We are proud to support ONFE in helping students learn, grow, and succeed.”



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THIRD-PARTY PARTNERS

## Kanata United Church

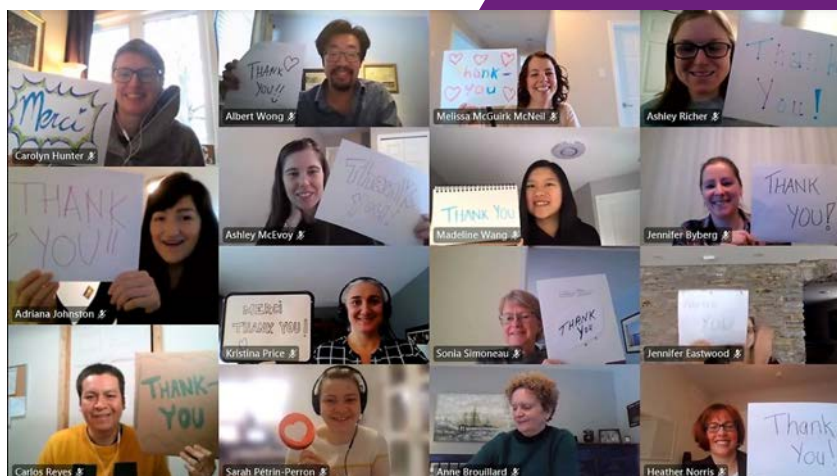


“As part of Kanata United Church’s mission ‘we are called by Jesus as a Christian community of faith to make a better world.’ We are called to help our neighbours and believe children and families are a priority. We understand the importance for children to be well nourished in order to learn and be healthy and are pleased to be able to help with the School Breakfast Program. The pandemic has been very difficult for many families and has made providing for children even more challenging. We hope our contribution will help nourish the hearts and souls of those benefiting from it.”



WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF YOU

**Many individual Ottawans joined us to fuel kids and ignite learning.**  
**We're grateful to all 2,224 of them, including those listed below.**



A. Peters  
Amanda Goth  
Andrea Horton  
Andrea Shabinsky-Borer  
Andrew Taylor  
Ann V. Holmes  
Ann McEachern  
Anne Louise Mahoney  
Arlene Ross  
Ashley Richer  
Barrie Hammond  
Ben Wintle  
Bill Barrett  
Bill Graham  
Brandi Chaffey  
Brenda Hofstatter  
Brian J. Kelly  
Brian Mortimer  
Carrie Reid  
Cathy Lewis  
Cathy Wilcox  
Charlotte Medina  
Christa Cullum & Caitlin daSilva  
Christine Bonta  
Christine LeBlanc  
Christine McRoberts  
Cindy Wolfe  
Claude Brule  
Cook Family  
Cristina Atance  
Darryl Bandoro  
David and Elizabeth Mann  
Dawn & Gord Butler  
Deb Finn

Dena Speevak  
Denise Andre  
Dianne Borg  
Dianne Wing  
Dorothy Speak  
Doug Bates  
Dr. John Brook  
Dr. Lindsay Clement  
Dr. Nita Scherer  
Duhamel Family  
E. White  
Elaine Garfinkel  
Elizabeth P. Redmond, CPA, CA  
Elza Seregelyi  
Eric & Sheila Dubois  
Familie Bernier  
George Rejhon  
Gillian Rowan-Legg  
Gillian Walker  
Gillian Wight  
Gwenne & Clyde Goodlet  
Hally Siddons  
Ian & Gina Gallant  
J. Baker  
Jacqueline Tetroe  
Janice Sonnen  
Jennifer Batley  
Jennifer Holmes Weier  
Jenn Lisowski  
Jessica Linnebach  
Jill Jones  
Jill Sinclair  
Joan Toop  
Joanne Dion

Johnson Family  
Jonathan Petridis  
Karen Wilson  
Kathleen Mitchell  
Kathryn MacLean  
Kathy Comfort (McKinlay)  
Kelly Eyamie  
Kevin Darling  
Kevin Meldrum  
L. Fish  
Laura Vizbara  
Laurie Ingram  
Laurie Watson  
Lise Richer  
Louise Stephens  
Lynn Campbell  
M. Girouard  
Mallory Wilson  
Marcia Edwards, Brampton  
Maria Artuso  
Maria P.  
Matt Armstrong  
Maureen DeMarco-Omura  
Megan Farrell  
Melissa McGuirk McNeil  
Mr. D. MacCormack  
Nancy Nicks  
Natalie R. Neville  
Nathalie McLaurin  
Neil Schwartz  
Nicole Storeshaw  
Pamela Wolff  
Patrick Griffith  
Phyllis & George Kriger  
Priya Bhaloo

Ramona Mototsune  
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Sally Rideout  
Samayan Karim  
Sandra Zagon  
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Stacey Cronin  
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Stephanie Malloff  
Steve Gurman  
Steve Spidell  
Steven Trainor  
Sue Fowler  
Susan MacLatchy  
Susan Scruton  
Susan Van Seggelen  
Suzanne de Abreu  
Sylvie Girard  
Tara Tysick  
Taylor Gondek  
Tom D'Amico  
Uzo Onochie-Roy  
Walter Noble  
Xue (Grace) Xin

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# Education Partners



# Partners in Excellence (\$20,000 and up)



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## Partners in Success (\$5,000 - \$19,999)

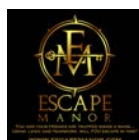
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HappyRoots  
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solace.



VOTRE LIEN AVEC CE QUI COMPTE — CONNECTS YOU TO WHAT MATTERS

## Partners in Growth (\$500 - \$4,999)

Accenture  
Adobe Systems Canada  
Advocis  
Apple Canada Inc.  
Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)  
Avanade  
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Bell Canada  
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Children's Aid Society of Ottawa  
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Dairy Farmers of Ontario  
Duffey Financial Solutions Inc.  
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Excellence in Literacy Foundation  
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Fieldless  
Fisher Park School Council  
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# Thank you

for helping us fuel kids and ignite learning.



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