



THAMES VALLEY  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION



# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2024 - 2025

THAMES VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

# Thank You for your support

As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply grateful for the strength, compassion, and generosity of the community that surrounds and supports our work. Together, we have made a meaningful difference in the lives of students and their families—helping to remove barriers, create opportunities, and ensure that every student has the chance to thrive.

This year's accomplishments are a testament to what is possible when a community comes together with a shared commitment to care. Through your support, we were able to respond to urgent needs, invest in student success, and provide hope and stability during challenging times. Behind every number in this report is a real student, a family, and a story of impact made possible by your belief in education and equity.

We extend our sincere thanks to our volunteers, donors, partners, educators, and all stakeholders who generously gave their time, resources, expertise, and trust. Your continued support fuels our mission and inspires us to do more, reach further, and lead with purpose.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building on this momentum—working together to strengthen our schools, uplift our students, and create lasting change. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey and for standing with us in support of students and families across our community.

With gratitude,



David Foster, TVEF Board President



## The Impact

Your generosity made it possible for us to reach our fundraising goals!

**\$1,051,877**

total raised

**\$1,178,498**

total granted and awarded

## Your Gifts in Action

**1,319**

students supported through  
an Award or Scholarship

**1,750**

students supported through  
the Caring Fund

**4,500**

backpacks distributed for the  
Best First Day program

# OUR MISSION

Established in 2001, the Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF) is a registered charitable organization affiliated with the Thames Valley District School Board. TVEF exists to build partnerships with the community that enhance opportunities in our schools and enrich public education. Funding comes from our local businesses, grants, community organizations and individuals who wish to support students and families.

## Board of Directors

Thank you to our 2024-25 Board of Directors for their guidance and leadership this year.

**David Foster**, *TVEF President, Community Representative*

**Carol Fortnum**, *TVEF Vice-President, Community Representative*

**Alex Ryan**, *Treasurer, Community Representative*

**James Stewart**, *TVEF Past-President, Community Representative*

**Bill Tucker**, *Director of Education, TVDSB*

**Cathy Lynd**, *Superintendent, Business Services, TVDSB*

**Sheri Polhill**, *TVDSB Trustee*

**Marianne Larsen**, *TVDSB Trustee*

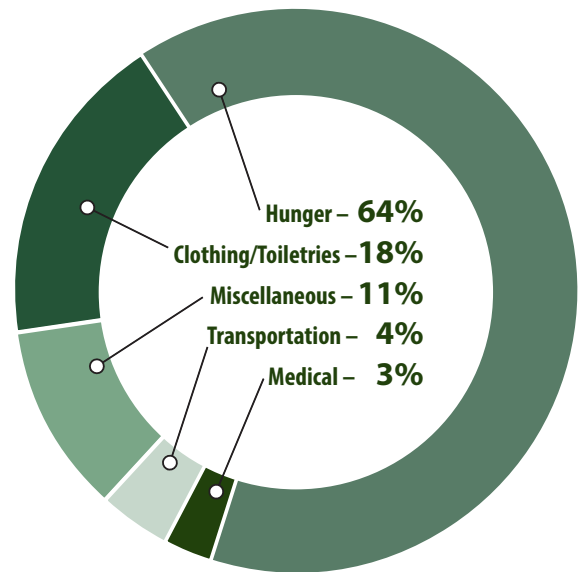


# THE CARING FUND

*"Thank you for all you do for the community!"*

One of the programs TVEF has established is the Caring Fund, which is a lifeline for students facing urgent financial needs or issues related to poverty. This program plays a crucial role in supporting marginalized families within the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB), which covers four districts: London, Middlesex County, Elgin County, and Oxford County, encompassing a total of 83,000 elementary and secondary students.

By providing support for essentials such as food, clothing, and emergency expenses, the Caring Fund helps alleviate the stress and distraction that financial instability can cause. To sustain this important program, we rely heavily on community support. Contributions to the Caring Fund ensure that we can continue to respond swiftly and effectively to the needs of our most vulnerable students, helping them to thrive academically and personally despite the challenges they face.



*This year the Caring Fund supported **1,071** requests, totalling **\$293,240**. Thanks to your generosity, every request for support was fulfilled.*

## Caring Fund Giving



**\$70,213**

Employee Giving

**\$74,905**

Staff 50/50 Lottery

**\$66,506**

Toonie Tuesday

**\$186,166**

Other donations and community support

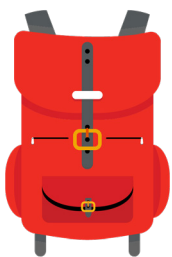
# BEST FIRST DAY

*"Thank you for providing the backpacks!"*

Best First Day is TVEF's annual Backpack Campaign, where we provide backpacks and school supplies to students in need so all learners can have their Best First Day back at school. Anticipating the first day of school is exciting for many families, but for parents struggling to provide rent and food, the idea of shopping for a new backpack and filling it with school supplies can be a huge stress.

For students, having the right tools, from pencils to scientific calculators, is also about dignity and belonging. Best First Day's goal is to collect 4,000 backpacks filled with school supplies for students in the Thames Valley District School Board every school year. This past year we have collected 4,500 backpacks filled with all the tools that students need. A huge thank you goes out to our team of 300 volunteers.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed their time, energy, and resources to make this year's Best First Day a success. This initiative is a significant undertaking, and we are continually inspired by how our community comes together to support its students.



**We have raised**  
**\$29,115**  
**for Best First Day!**



# AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

*"It is because of you and the support you've given, that I have been able to learn so much and be able to go places with my education. I thank you so much for that."*

– A Scholarship Recipient

**1319**  
awards distributed

**\$863,486**  
awarded

*"Thank you for investing in my future!"*

The Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF) is proud to manage over 620 awards and scholarships, dedicated to supporting the students within the Thames Valley District School Board. These awards celebrate academic excellence, champion student achievement, and inspire the dreams of students as they pursue their educational and workplace goals.

This year, we launched our online scholarship application system which streamlined the process for students to apply for these opportunities. TVEF is committed to enhancing our programs and processes to better serve students and support them with a user-friendly experience. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the implementation of this new system.

Each award represents a unique story of perseverance, personal growth, and community involvement. These recognitions highlight the resilience of students who overcame life's challenges and the support they give back to their communities. TVEF is privileged to play a role in these students' journeys, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the donors whose generosity makes these awards possible.

# LEARNING ENHANCEMENT FUND

**36**  
grants requested

**24**  
grants approved

**\$135,023**  
total funding requested

**\$60,463**  
total funding granted

The Learning Enhancement Fund is a unique funding program from the Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF) that supports enhanced learning opportunities for students at Thames Valley. Projects should be designed to enhance student learning in one or more of the following funding priorities: relationships, equity and diversity, and achievement and well-being.

Sir G.E. Cartier Public School was a 2024-2025 recipient for their STEM Focus Family Literacy and Math Event:

*"Families joined their children in exploring a wide range of engaging activities tied to the math and language curriculum, and it was truly heartwarming to see the excitement on the children's faces as they proudly shared their learning experiences. One of the most memorable aspects of the day was seeing our students take on the role of teachers, guiding their family members using these innovative tools. The event was a tremendous success, and we are deeply grateful for the foundation's support in making it all possible."*

–A Teacher

# FINANCE REPORT

Each year, we rely on the generosity of donors to meet our fundraising goals. We are funded through private donors, community grants, fundraising event revenues and corporate donations.

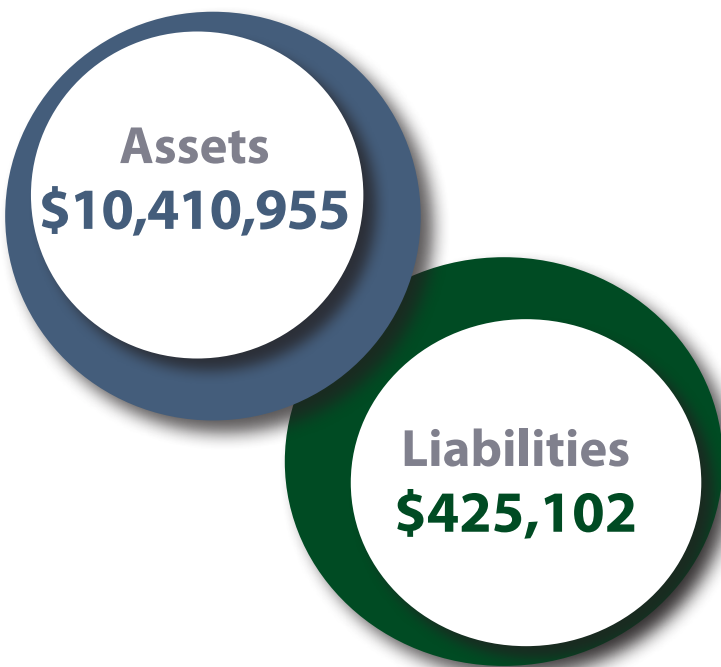
## Meet Our Finance Committee

Thank you to our 2024-2025 Finance Committee for their time and expertise.

**Alex Ryan, Chair**

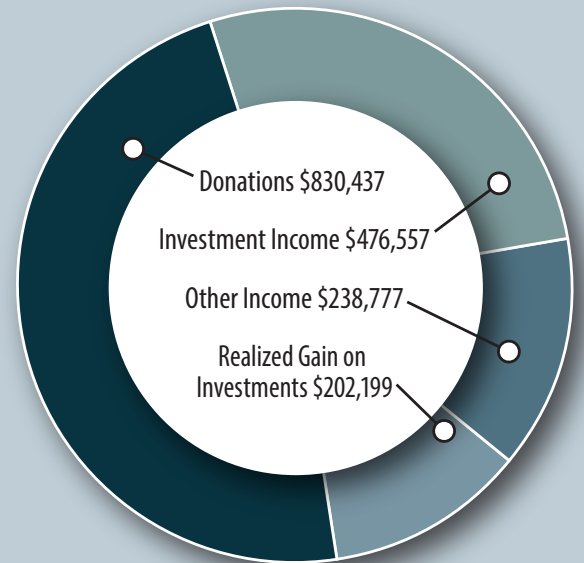
**Natalie Trimble**

**Brian Jones**

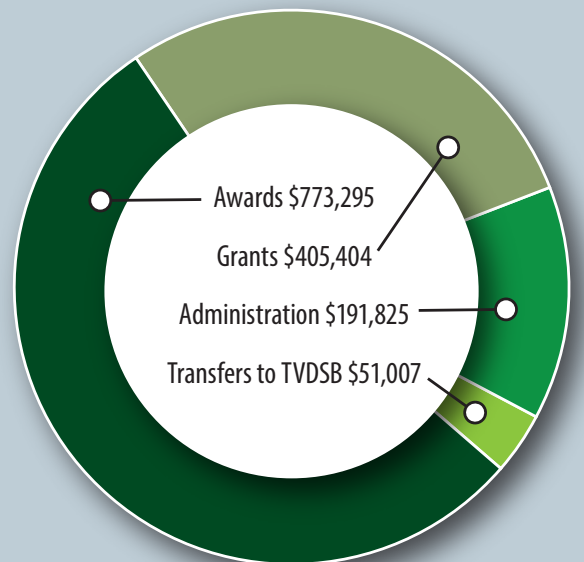


## Financial Statement as of August 31, 2025

**Revenue: \$1,051,877**



**Expenses: \$1,178,498**



Results are from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025, and audited by Deloitte LLP. You can review the 2024-2025 Financial Audited statements at [www.tvdsb.ca/tvef](http://www.tvdsb.ca/tvef).

# Thank You, **to our community**

*You made a difference!*

*With your help, we showed students and families that we care.*

## Meet Our Team



**Cecile Klerks**  
Executive Director



**Lindsay Walker**  
Caring Fund and Awards Facilitator

## Connect with us anytime!



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