



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Education Foundation of Ottawa's Toonie Tuesday Fundraiser
Raises more than \$47,000**

Monday, April 15th, 2019 – The 2019, Education Foundation of Ottawa's (EFO) "Toonie Tuesday" one day fundraiser was held in Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) schools and took place on February 26th, 2019. Each student was asked to bring \$2 to help support students in need. All funds raised from this annual, one day event goes directly to the ***Students in Crisis Emergency Fund***. This fund is available to help students with emergent basic needs including food, clothing, medication, backpacks, and supplies. The reality is that thousands of students come to school hungry and cold every single day.

Along with OCDSB staff, Trustees, and local businesses, 115 schools (including students, staff, parents and parent's councils) participated this year. The over \$47,000 raised to support students living in poverty ranged in donations from \$2 to \$2200!

Students, staff and parents got involved in many different ways at their schools. They hosted "change challenge" days, soup days, movie nights, bake sales, hot chocolate recess, pyjama days, and pancake breakfasts amongst many other fun activities.

EFO Executive Director, Clarissa Arthur says, "I am humbled by the enthusiasm and support of the many families and individuals committed to supporting the needs of our vulnerable students. Toonie Tuesday is a way to demonstrate civic engagement among our school community and to show our students that they have the opportunity to help each other too! Next year, we plan to raise even more money and hope to find more creative ways to get students involved in the fundraising process. Thank you to the school councils, families, and dedicated OCDSB staff who put in the extra work to make this special day a success."

For one school, Richmond Public School, they raised an average of over \$5.00 per student by organizing several special events to support Toonie Tuesday; way to go Richmond Public School! School Principal, Nancy Dlouhy says, "I am so proud of our little school; Richmond Public School has only 250 students! Our families have benefitted from the support of the Education Foundation over the past several years, and we value being able to give back to such an important cause!"

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About Education Foundation of Ottawa

The Education Foundation of Ottawa (EFO) is an independent, registered charity established in 2005 which raises and grants funds to support the needs of students within the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB). We are a poverty charity that helps to bridge the gap for challenged families – our mission and vision is: *To remove economic barriers to successful learning by creating a level playing field for all students regardless of personal or socio-economic circumstances.*

The EFO helps by providing emergency food, clothing, and medication to students that live at or below the poverty line in a respectful and dignified manner. We ensure that children have snacks throughout the day and that they have the tools needed in class to learn and prosper. Additionally, the EFO works with donors to enhance the educational experience of young learners by supporting participation in athletics, the arts, and other extra-curricular activities. We want to provide equitable opportunities for students that they may not otherwise receive.