



Peel Learning Foundation

IMPACT REPORT 2023

Together,
we can create
hopeful tomorrows



Creating a More Hopeful Tomorrow

Each year, the Peel Learning Foundation offers students in need support for essentials like food, clothing, transportation and other necessities.

We're a registered charitable organization (#7587 82882 RR0001) that raises money for students in need within the Peel District School Board. In 2023, the Peel Learning Foundation assisted:

2,662



students through the Student Emergency Needs Program, with grants for **food, clothing, hygiene products, medical supplies, eyeglasses, transportation and more.**

384



students through the Student Backpack Program, with supplies ranging from **pens and paper to calculators and binders** – everything they need for the school year.

128



students with **refurbished Chromebooks** through the Student Backpack Program.

In Peel Region, over 25,000 students face barriers related to poverty that prevent them from fully participating in school. For many families, spiralling costs are also increasing the challenges and tough choices they face.

We can't eliminate every hardship or the reasons why families struggle. But we can alleviate at least some of their financial pressures and stress.

With the generosity of our donors, the Peel Learning Foundation can help students in need to arrive at school in a better position to learn and succeed.



CONSIDER SOME OF THE STUDENTS WHO WE HELPED IN 2023:

Three siblings just arrived at Peel schools from war-torn Ukraine. Their parents are facing many financial pressures amid the challenges of getting settled, and are struggling to provide basic necessities like food and clothing.

One mother has little food at home, and barely enough to send lunches to school. She uses food banks and other community services, but it's not enough to make ends meet. She says it's hard to reach out and ask for help, but she knows that she needs it.

L. is worried that the family will be evicted due to rent not being paid for months. With support for student lunches, the single mother was able to put at least some money towards rent. She was brought to tears by the grant.

P. is homeless, kicked out of her father's house and then her aunt's. She's living in a friend's basement, and needs basic groceries and toiletries.

Many of the people who we support never thought they'd be in such a position of need. But they are. No matter the obstacles in their way, every student deserves a chance to achieve their best. That's why the Peel Learning Foundation is here.

In Peel Region, Over 25,000 Students Face Barriers Related to Poverty

“I’m working. I’m struggling. PLF helped a lot.”

When S. cooks, she often skimps on her own meals to make sure her son has enough to eat. He’s a grade 8 student and is growing fast. He already wears XL clothes and size 12 shoes. S. is used to going without, and making every dollar stretch as far as it can.

That’s why she was grateful to receive support from the Peel Learning Foundation. A grant arrived when she was grappling with the high cost of groceries and basic living expenses. The funds allowed her to send her son to school with a good lunch every day so he could focus on learning.



“I was so appreciative. It helped a lot.”

S. works for Canada Post, but only part time. Even though her apartment is subsidized, rent takes the bulk of her pay. “I’m working, but my head is still below water. I’m struggling.”

Before her current job, she had been on financial assistance through Ontario Works, the result of a disability. It took her two years to find even part-time work. She counts every penny, and only shops for groceries at stores that will price match.

“If you can save 50 cents here or 30 cents there it may not seem like much to someone who can afford it, but it adds up. For us it’s a big deal.”

The Peel Learning Foundation is grateful to S. for volunteering to tell her story and show how PLF is having a positive impact. (We didn’t use her real name to protect her son’s identity.) She shares that when students and their families are in need, it’s important to know there’s a helping hand. And even though she needs assistance, she strives to help others too. “I try to give back as much as I can. When I cook enough and can afford it, I’ve shared it with people in the street. There are people out there who are less fortunate than you.”



Demands are Rising – and So Is Our Response

Since the Peel Learning Foundation started in 2019, the world we live in has changed a lot. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, an uncertain economy and inflation have created new challenges for some and made it even harder for others to meet basic needs.

Requests to the Student Emergency Needs Program have gone up every year and increased by 50% in 2023.

We're getting a greater number of requests from families who are living paycheck to paycheck, and for more students who are living in shelters.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Students supported through the Student Emergency Needs Program	333	1,121	1,363	1,761	2,662
Students supported through the Student Backpack Program	304	358	617	408	384



To apply for support from the Peel Learning Foundation, please contact any staff member at your local PDSB school. All requests are submitted confidentially through the school's principal or vice-principal.



Peel Learning Foundation

Hopeful Tomorrows Campaign

In 2023, we embarked on the Hopeful Tomorrows Campaign, to add to our capacity to help. Together, we've raised over \$240,000 so far, thanks to our caring community. With more, we can do more.

HOPEFUL TOMORROWS CAMPAIGN DONORS

Donor Level: \$10,000+

Community Foundation of Mississauga:
Pendle Fund
J.P. Bickell Foundation
Mississauga Food Bank Support Association
Sherilyn Ketchen Vijay/Anand Foundation

Donor Level: \$5,000+

Marion Ethel Kamm and Frederick John Kamm Charitable Foundation
Rotary Club of Brampton Heart Lake
Sifton Family Foundation
SSQ Foundation
Stait Family Fund

Donor Level: \$2,000+

Huttonville Lions Club
Jackman Foundation
Mattamy Homes
The Toronto-Dominion Bank

Donor Level: \$1,000+

Chris & Kim (Bassett) Beer
Cashmere Avenue Public School
The Corporation of the Town of Caledon
The Georgina Foundation
Ideas for Independent Living Inc.

Peel Principals' & Vice Principals' Association
Photovisions
TD Private Giving Foundation
Mr. Qing Wu
Anonymous (4)

There's still time to give – make a secure donation online at: peelllearningfoundation.org

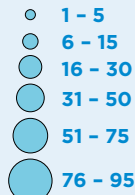
Here is where your gift helped create hope in Brampton, Caledon, and Mississauga

2,662

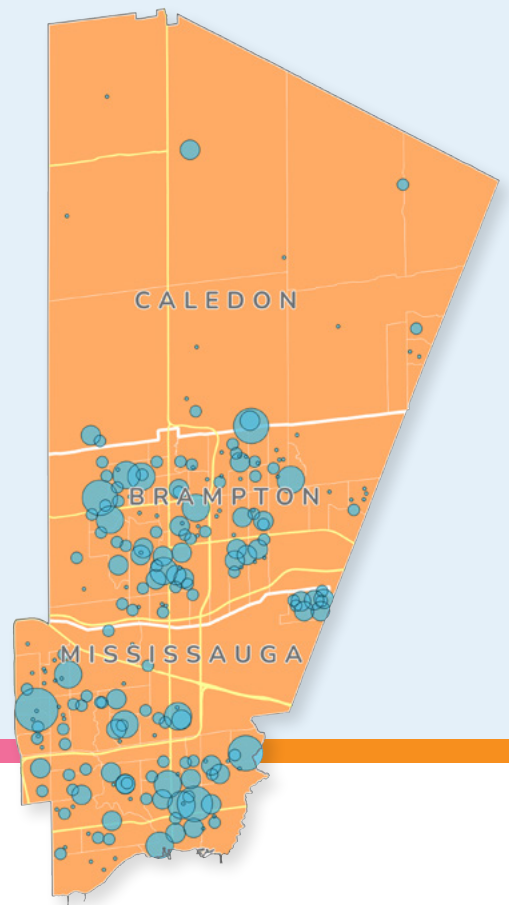
students in need were supported through the Student Emergency Needs Program in 2023.

This was made possible by generous donors to the Peel Learning Foundation.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS HELPED*



*Your gift also supported 26 students who attended Peel virtual schools and were not assigned a physical location on this map.



How to Help

It's clear that the Peel Learning Foundation is making a difference. It's also clear that ongoing challenges continue to leave students and their families on the edge.

Every gift matters. It gives students food, warm clothes, school supplies and other essentials.

It also gives them hope - hope that others care and hope that they can succeed.

Thank you to our community for your continued support!



To make a gift or learn more, please visit:
peelllearningfoundation.org



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