



THE  
LEACOCK  
FOUNDATION



2013 DONOR REPORT





**The Leacock Foundation works to inspire and empower youth in need, through literacy and leadership opportunities**

## Mission:

Inspire, empower, and connect youth in need in Toronto and South Africa through educational and leadership initiatives.

## Vision:

Sustain and replicate a unique educational and leadership model that partners local and global communities for the benefit of their children and youth.

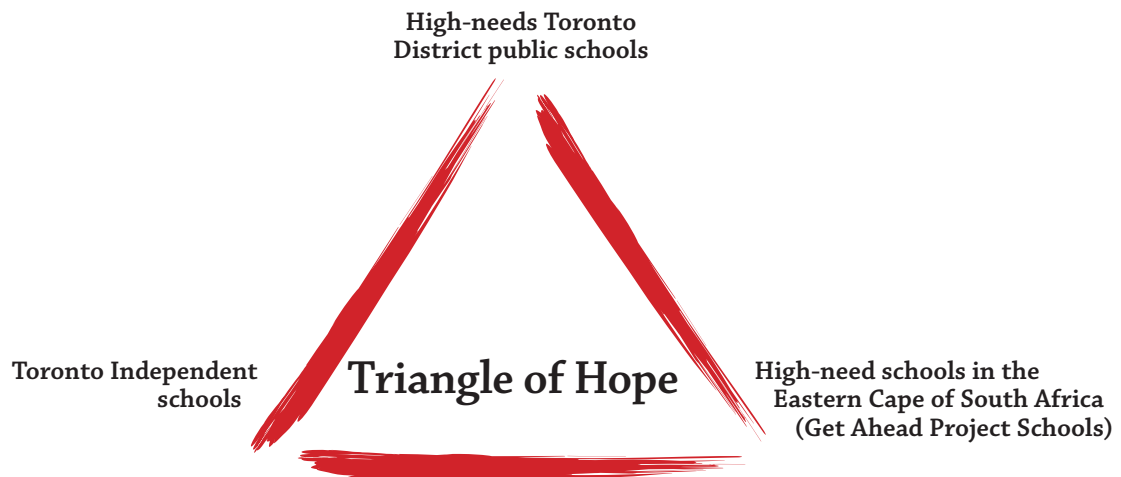
## Who We Are:

**Triangle of Hope:** The Triangle of Hope model provides unique and enriched educational opportunities by connecting 3 distinct school communities in a mutually beneficial partnership that works together on literacy and leadership programs



## Leadership Centre:

The Robert W. Martin Centre for Leadership is aptly named after The Leacock Foundation's Chairman from 2005–2011. In honour of his memory, the centre will provide opportunities for at-risk youth to recognize their strengths, explore their potential, and develop leadership skills through a variety of specialized programs.

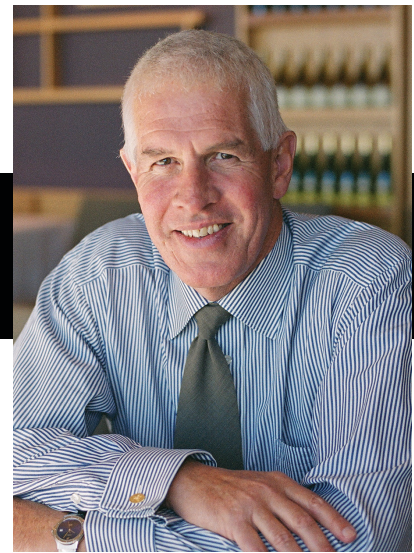




# A Letter from Peter Oliver

## President of the Leacock Foundation

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One of the guiding principles of the Leacock Foundation is that every child, no matter their circumstances, has enormous potential and deserves the opportunity to reach that potential. Unlocking potential, and providing it with the support it needs to flourish is what we try to achieve with our literacy and leadership programs both in Toronto and in South Africa.

Our programs work to inspire and empower youth in need through education and leadership opportunities. Our signature model the Triangle of Hope, connects an independent school in Toronto, a high needs school in the GTA and a high needs school in South Africa. This innovative model provides each point of the triangle with resources, inspiration, leadership and enriched educational opportunities.

The children we support start off life with fewer resources and many more obstacles on their path to success. Often their families struggle with constant economic pressure and the challenges of adapting to a new culture. In Toronto, programs like our LEAP into Literacy Summer Camps, or LEAD Through Trails provide children with the focused attention and skill building they need to stay engaged in school and on the path to success. You only have to attend one of our programs and witness the response of the children, to realize the profound difference we are making.

In South Africa the Get Ahead Schools are an oasis for the children. Life in the Eastern Cape

of South Africa is a million miles away from anything we experience here in Canada. Having a caring, supportive and stimulating school community is a life line for many of the children. Thanks to our generous donors, our students at Get Ahead have benefited from the addition of first world technology in their classrooms, including the creation of fully equipped computer labs with stable internet connectivity. As we look to the future we will be seeking ways in which we can leverage the use of technology to support even more access to more enriching educational opportunities including post secondary studies.

A South African proverb states; *knowledge is like a lion; it cannot be gently embraced*. While the Leacock Foundation is a small entity, we have worked hard to ensure that the impact of our programs is felt deeply in the communities we serve. I am enormously proud of the work we are doing both here in Toronto and in South Africa and I hope that you will enjoy reading about our programs in action. We are making a difference.





## A Letter from Dan McAlister

Leacock Board Member

At B+H, we value giving back to the communities we live and work in around the world. Over the years, our partnership with the Leacock Foundation has made a difference, both locally and internationally. One morning during March Break this year, we were proud to host one of the Foundation's youth programs and share with them some of the possibilities that await them post-high school should they choose to pursue a career in design and architecture. It was a wonderful opportunity for our staff to directly give something more valuable than money— inspiration.

This June, we are delighted to have the Leacock Foundation as the beneficiary of our charity golf tournament for a second year, and are excited about the programs in Toronto and in South Africa that will receive a boost of support as a result. Events



such as our golf day are a chance for us to not only demonstrate our belief in the importance of the work of the Foundation, but to also actively educate and engage our clients in supporting this work.





# Outdoor Education— LEAD through TRAILS Program

■ A partnership with Trails Youth Initiatives, Lead through TRAILS provides youth with opportunities to discover their individual strengths and empowers them to lead through action by participating in outdoor experiential learning activities. TRAILS programs foster a curriculum that enhances healthy active living, teamwork, effective communication, critical thinking, self-esteem, and leadership. Triangle of Hope partner schools that participate are grade 5 and 6 classes from Woburn Jr. P.S. and the First Nations School. Each class visits the TRAILS site for a minimum of 3 times during the school year.

Om Dalal, former Woburn Jr. Public School student (now in grade 7), participated in the TRAILS program

several times with his grade 5 and 6 classes. Because of his enthusiasm and success in the program, Om was asked to participate in the TRAILS sleep-away camp at Limberlost in 2013, where he stood out as an exemplary leader. At Limberlost, Om's favourite activities were hiking in groups and team-building with his peers.

Om continues to be a leader in his new school — this year he was asked to participate in an after-school leadership program and is looking to volunteer and stay involved with The Leacock Foundation. When he grows up, he wants to be an engineer and hopes to manage his department, so he can continue leading and help other people fulfill their efforts!





**Om Dalal**  
Former  
TRAILS  
participant,  
Woburn Jr.  
Public School

“It’s [TRAILS] really different from learning in the classroom because we got to see everything in nature and understand where things come from. I got to know my friends better and learned a lot — it was so different from a textbook!”

-Om Dalal

“I learned a good leader should always know what people expect of them — it’s a really important role, everyone depends on you.”

-Om Dalal

Jordan Gangbar participated in the TRAILS program in 2012 as a grade 12 Greenwood College student volunteer with Woburn P.S. Jordan is now studying Outdoor Education at Lakehead University. Jordan found his time at TRAILS as a volunteer valuable, as he developed leadership skills and realized his potential to make an impact on the lives of others

“My work at TRAILS really showed me the benefits outdoor education can have on kids. Instead of telling students answers to their questions, we had them figure things out themselves with hands-on activities. Through inquiry, problem-solving, and critical thinking, the students really learned how to learn. All in all, TRAILS teaches people the world is a lot more complex and beautiful than what they originally thought.”



**Jordan Gangbar**  
Former TRAILS volunteer





# Literacy and Teamwork

According to the United Nations Secretary General's 5 year global initiative on education, 'Global Education First', 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty if all students in low income countries finished school with basic reading skills. Because literacy is one of the core components of education, the Leacock Foundation facilitates programming and opportunities routed in learning through literacy in an effort to help provide academic success and an achievable route out of poverty for many.

In Toronto over the last year, the Foundation worked with Triangle of Hope partner schools to facilitate Saturday morning programs, summer and March

Break camps, and after-school programming to provide extra help for improving literacy skills of junior public school students. Triangle of Hope independent schools provide high school volunteers to help facilitate the various camps and programs, receiving valuable leadership experience.

In South Africa, e-readers have been very successfully implemented to better facilitate literacy and learning through technology. These e-readers have particularly been embraced by the Get Ahead College's Nal'ibali Book Club, which over the 2013 year, has grown from 9 students to 25. Initiated and coordinated by Leacock volunteer Maureen Cassidy, the Book Club has truly nurtured a student-led culture of literacy through reading.



**The Nal'ibali Book Club** In the Xhosa language, *Nal'ibali* means 'it starts with a story' and this term is used as a national campaign slogan by the Nal'ibali Foundation across South Africa to promote a culture of reading. Maureen founded the Nali'ibali Book Club at Get Ahead College in May 2013 and chose *The Housemaid's Daughter* by Barbara Mutch, a South African writer who grew up in the Eastern Cape, as the book club's first selection. In August, the Nal'ibali Book Club travelled to the historic town of Cradock in the Eastern Cape to attend the Karoo Writer's Festival and meet the author Barbara Mutch. The experience was life-altering for the learners, many of whom now aspire to be writers!

Beyond improving literacy and promoting reading, Maureen has noticed how the Book Club also facilitates teamwork and leadership. "There's a joy on their faces I've never seen before—it's contagious — other students see how passionate they are about reading and want to share in the experience too."



"The culture of reading is deeply entrenched in the school – we don't have a library but we don't need one because now we have Kobo e-readers which alleviate the prohibitive cost of books in South Africa. New books can be loaded immediately and cost-effectively."

– Maureen Cassidy



**“The Youth Council is a great group for young people to meet and collaborate on initiatives for the neighbourhood. Members of the community are involved in the initiatives as well, creating an inclusive, connected, and inspiring movement.”**

*– Charmaine Pasadilla*

# Community Involvement & Leadership

The Leacock Foundation recognizes community involvement and leadership development are important aspects of a well-rounded youth learning experience. This is why in 2013, the Foundation continued to support and expand programming in Toronto and South Africa that encourages youth to take the lead and get involved.

The St. James Town Youth Council is a group of young leaders living in St. James Town, Toronto who have come together to connect and empower other youth in their community. Hailing from diverse backgrounds and cultures, the Council members apply values of diversity, inclusion, and an ‘asset-based’ community development approach as they work to build a stronger, sustainable, and hopeful neighbourhood. The Council develops a variety of activities in an effort

to address community challenges (including poverty and access to post-secondary education) while also facilitating youth leadership.

In partnership with The Leacock Foundation, the St. James Town Youth Council held a March Break ‘Camp Reality’ where St. James Town youth are given the opportunity to visit various educational and professional institutions, to explore post-secondary and career options. This provides the youth a valuable experience of ‘post-high school’ reality and facilitates an interactive opportunity to understand career options for applying their interests and strengths. Over March Break, the youth visited Waterloo, McMaster, and Laurier Universities, and explored career options at Bell Media, Broadplay, BMW, U of T, and Mount Sinai hospital.



Every year, Triangle of Hope partner Branksome Hall, takes a group of grade 11 students to Queenstown, South Africa to visit and volunteer at the Get Ahead schools. This year, a great group of young leaders went and came back with fantastic experiences and new perspectives. One story in particular stood out as an example of the importance of global friendship and youth leadership.

This past year, Branksome student Victoria Webster travelled to South Africa to participate in the Sister

Circle and help teach a leadership program for grade 6 students at Get Ahead, but what she ended up with was a lasting friendship and new perspectives. Victoria first met her 'sister' Onwaba when she and her Branksome counterparts toured the Get Ahead College campus.

Thanks to technology and the girls' enthusiasm for learning and friendship, Victoria and Onwaba are still in touch on a daily basis a year after their first meeting.



“Travelling to QGAP solidified the importance of volunteer work in my life. When I came back I was inspired – I knew I would always actively volunteer in my community and abroad. This isn’t just a one-time thing.”

– Victoria Webster



**Rene** WhitGAP grade 1 teacher (integrated Kindles for language program)

# Integrating Technology

In the past year, thanks to support from donors, teachers, and staff, the Leacock Foundation has successfully integrated various forms of technology into programming both in Toronto and South Africa. Integrating computers, Internet access, e-readers, and tablets into programs and classrooms has not only opened the doors to new forms of learning, it has brought youth into contact with the broader world and enhanced access to new perspectives and continued education in a cost-effective way.

Rene started teaching Grade 1 at Get Ahead Whittlesea in 2010. By 2013, she had a class of 37 students and few books. With many students whose first language wasn't English, she was finding

it challenging to teach English to so many young students. However, this all began to change when e-readers were made available and she started introducing them into her grade 1 classroom. Rene emphasizes the e-readers have helped not only in improving literacy and language skills by providing increased access to a range of books and English materials for grade ones, they have enhanced her students tech and computer skills as well. She explains, "Once I have given the title of the book, they [students] are able to search and find the story on their own — when they find it, it's amazing how excited they become, not only to read the book, but to know they had the tech and literacy skills to find it in the first place."



Roxy is a teacher at Rose Avenue P.S. in Toronto, who, among other subjects, teaches media literacy and also helps with training teachers for extra-curricular programming. In her classroom, Roxy works with grade one to six students using computers, laptops, iPads, projectors, and smartboards, to facilitate learning of communication and literacy.

With access to technology, Roxy has created a learning community in her classroom. She has found students pick up the steps to using a computer or tablet very quickly and as a result, are better able to process even more information and bring it to life. With new technology, they are motivated to read and learn more, and have become proactive in how they interact with each other and technology.

With the integration of technology in classrooms, students are more empowered to look things up, discover things, and take the lead on their own learning, rather than the teacher just answering questions.

— *RoxyBromley*





**Sandy**  
Accounting teacher  
at Get Ahead

“Teaching to me isn’t a job — it’s a way of life. Instilling the values and skills young people need to live their life successfully is very rewarding. One of the best parts is seeing a child who has struggled with an aspect of accounting suddenly understand a key concept — their eyes light up!”  
– *Sandy Ndendela*

# Teaching & Mentoring

Although the Leacock Foundation’s work is centered around youth learning and leadership, an important pillar of the Foundation’s work and impact relies on the teachers and mentors who coordinate and implement programming on the ground, that ultimately impacts the lives of young people.

## Sandy Ndendela & Dawn McMaster

Leacock funds the operation of Winter School at the Get Ahead College campus for two weeks during the South Africa school break. This program provides extra learning and exam preparation for graduating students.

Two Canadian teachers, one of which was Dawn McMaster, a teacher at Branksome Hall, traveled to Get Ahead to work in partnership with South African teachers and develop teaching tools to enhance existing curriculum. Dawn explains “the Get Ahead teachers articulate what they want to accomplish and what skills they want to help their students practice,

so we work together on things like learning command terms and decoding questions, while they delivered the content.”

During Winter School, Dawn met Sandy, the Accounting teacher at Get Ahead, and worked collaboratively to employ Cooperative Learning as an effective teaching tool, which involved more interaction and participation from her learners. Over the past year, since introducing new strategies to her classroom, Sandy’s grade 12 accounting marks skyrocketed from an average of 64% to 97%. Dawn explains beyond working with Sandy to expand her teaching tools, Dawn also learned a lot. “Sandy was wonderful because she taught us cultural things about South Africa — she provided important perspectives on life as a woman and as a teacher in South Africa.”

**“I like it when I can help people see that they can learn anything they set their mind to learning. The most rewarding part about teaching is helping empower other people to move forward in their life.” – Dawn McMaster**





**Dawn** Branksome Hall teacher taking part in the Get Ahead program

BE A HERO  
IT'S IN YOUR BLOOD

By donating blood  
YOU could save 3 lives!  
Your blood saves lives.

GET AHEAD COLLEGE  
SCHOOL HALL  
Friday 27th March  
9:30 to 14:00

1 = 3

Your blood donation can  
save as much as 3 lives  
BE A HERO IT'S IN YOUR BLOOD

Your blood saves lives

Please Donate Blood @  
Get-Ahead College  
In the School Hall  
Friday 27th March  
9:30 to 14:00

PERIODIC TABLE  
ELEMENTS

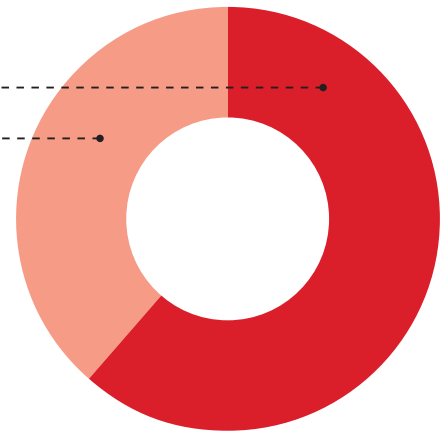
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Save a Phthalogen while  
you can! KFC's  
Long Spoon KFC's  
Long Spoon KFC's

# 2013 Financial Report

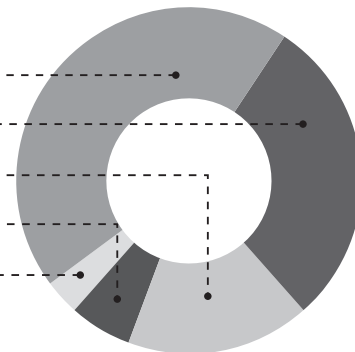
## 2013 REVENUE

Membership & Donations	\$604,291
Events & Other	\$376,272
Total	\$980,563
Direct Event Expenses	-\$200,825
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$779,738</b>



## 2013 GRANTS AND ACTIVITIES

Grants to TOH Africa Programs	\$487,710
Grants to TOH Toronto Programs	\$282,730
Administration	\$98,012
Indirect Fundraising, Marketing & Events	\$52,588
Total	\$921,040
<b>Excess of Revenue over Expenses</b>	<b>-\$141,302</b>







# Leacock Board, Foundation Staff

<b>Peter Oliver</b>	<i>President</i>
<b>Mark Damelin</b>	<i>Chairman</i>
<b>Bob Sommerville</b>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<b>Dan McAlister</b>	<i>Membership Co-Chair</i>
<b>Joe Sheehan</b>	<i>Membership Co-Chair</i>
<b>Karrie Weinstock</b>	<i>Education Chair</i>
<b>Suzanna Dalrymple</b>	<i>Young Professionals of Leacock Chair</i>
<b>Wendy Dobson</b>	<i>Director</i>
<b>Vernon Achber</b>	<i>Director</i>
<b>Joanne Pickard</b>	<i>Director</i>
<b>Tim Price</b>	<i>Director</i>
<b>Louise Temerty</b>	<i>Director</i>

## A MESSAGE FROM THE LEACOCK FOUNDATION STAFF

All of us at the Leacock office feel so privileged to work on behalf of the children our programs serve. There is nothing more satisfying than witnessing how well the kids at Saturday Club or Leap into Literacy Summer Camp are doing, or hearing what a positive impact our technology investment is having on delivering quality education at the Get Ahead Schools in South Africa. We love knowing that new leaders are emerging thanks to our partnerships with Trails and the St. James Town Youth Council, and that the children at Get Ahead have a clean, safe environment in which to learn.

We are so grateful to have a network of dedicated professional educators who facilitate our programs and to have the tremendous financial support of so many donors who believe in our mission. Thank you for your continued support of The Leacock Foundation, together we are making a difference in the lives of youth in need.

Sincerely,

Kristine Gaston, Judy MacLellan and Leanne Bobee





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TheLeacockFoundation

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