



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



# ABOUT THE ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE TRUST FUND

Everyday within our schools, we know that there are children who struggle to learn because they are hungry; or because their feet hurt in shoes that are too small; or because they are worried they will not be able to afford some school or class activity.

For some children these challenges are ongoing. For others, they arise suddenly because of extraordinary circumstances such as illness; a death in their family; a house fire; an accident.

We have a strong tradition within our Catholic schools and within our community to respond to those in need. There are times when the needs go beyond what we as individuals, organizations such as food banks, coat drives, etc., are able to do.

The St. André Bessette Trust Fund was established in 2011 to help bridge the gap and to reach out to those students' families in need. We support the special needs of children, youth and families for learning, food security, housing, health and wellness.

Funded entirely by gifts and charitable donations from individuals and businesses, the St. André Bessette Trust Fund is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors consisting of regional community members, Trustees and staff of the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board. One hundred percent of all monies donated to the trust fund are disbursed directly to support children and families in need.

We welcome you as partners to embrace the needs of students in our calling by God to a life of service.

## WE WELCOME YOUR DONATIONS

With Grateful Thoughts - Whenever you give, you give from the heart just as the Lord has told us to do... You give without asking for any return. But the Lord above sees it and blesses you too. Thank You! Thank you for your support - it was very helpful.

**Please donate to the  
St. André Bessette Trust Fund at:**



“Access to the St. André Bessette Trust Fund has allowed us to provide some much needed support to many families within our Board. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to supply families with what they specifically need to aid them in their time of need. These families are very appreciative for the very expedient response and follow through on the requests that have been made on their behalf. It is always with great care and respect that we offer this support, and it is with great feeling that we are able to offer something concrete and meaningful to make these families feel part of our Huron-Perth Catholic family.”

758 applications from schools within the Huron-Perth Catholic DSB have been provided assistance in excess of \$308, 000 to support students and families within our school communities.

*Amazing!*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2024-2025

Chair: Tina Doherty,  
Trustee

Vice-chair: Caroline Thuss,  
Learning Coordinator

Faye Hickey,  
OECTA Elementary

Lori Lynn Stapleton,  
Elementary Principal

Mary Helen Van Loon,  
Trustee

Mike Miller  
Community Member

Tara Cakebread,  
Elementary Principal

Tyler Devereaux,  
Secondary Teacher

Rob Leyser  
Community Member

Mark Sheardown  
Community Member

Angela Hodgson,  
Executive Manager of Human Relations

## BOARD EMPLOYEES

Karen Tigani,  
Director of Education

Mary-Ellen Ducharme,  
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer

Valerie Basler,  
Executive Assistant

**THE ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE  
TRUST FUND**  
c/o Huron-Perth Catholic  
District School Board

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Dublin, ON N0K 1E0  
519-345-2440 /  
1-800-265-8508  
sabtrustfund  
@huronperthcatholic.ca  
Website:  
St. André Bessette Trust Fund

## Dear Huron-Perth Catholic Community,

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I present the Annual Report of the St. André Bessette Trust Fund, 2023-24 school year—our fourteenth year of service to the students and families within the Huron-Perth Catholic community. This report is a celebration of the incredible generosity and support we receive from our community.



We are deeply thankful for every person, group, and organization that has contributed to the success of the Trust Fund. Your commitment enables us to walk alongside students and families during some of their most challenging times. The support we receive through donations, fundraising efforts, and volunteer hours is what makes this vital work possible. It is your generosity that truly makes a difference.

Through events such as the May Gala 2023, the district Christmas Campaign, the Spirit Wear fundraiser, and donations by individuals, schools, and organizations, we were able to raise the funds needed to meet the ongoing needs of our students.

In the 2023-24 school year, we were able to provide over \$27,000 in assistance to students and families. These funds addressed a wide range of essential needs, including food, clothing, medical and health supports, transportation, utilities, and the opportunity for students to participate in field trips and other activities that contribute to their well-being. The impact of this support is immeasurable, as it removes barriers and opens doors, helping students to focus on their education and grow in their potential.

We cannot express enough how vital the Saint Andre Bessette Trust Fund is in the lives of our students, and we are profoundly grateful for your role in making it all possible. Your continued support is what allows us to provide this essential service year after year and we are deeply grateful for your continued partnership in this important work.

As we work together and plan for future events, we take inspiration from Saint Mother Teresa, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

With sincere appreciation,  
Tina Doherty  
Chair, St. André Bessette Trust Fund

## St. André Bessette Trust Fund

Financial Report  
For Fiscal Years Ending August 31, 2023 and August 31, 2024

### Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
<b>Revenue - General</b>		
Donations, Personal	\$ 600.00	\$ 900.00
Donations, Payroll	2,965.00	2,259.00
Donations, Schools	1,985.40	3,300.05
Donations, Canada Helps	4,594.46	3,470.36
Donations, Other	16,032.96	15,325.00
Board Events & Mass Offerings	755.75	2,192.71
Gala		34,772.28
Interest	\$ 6,379.62	4,272.07
<b>Total General Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 33,313.19</b>	<b>\$ 66,491.47</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 33,313.19</b>	<b>\$ 66,491.47</b>
<b>Expenditures - General</b>		
Application Payments	\$ 27,263.51	\$ 26,174.45
Gala		6,250.51
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 27,263.51</b>	<b>\$ 32,424.96</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 6,049.68</b>	<b>\$ 34,066.51</b>

### Statement of Fund Balance

<b>Opening Balance</b>	\$ 115,923.63	\$ 81,857.12
Add: Net Revenue for the Period	6,049.68	34,066.51
<b>Closing Balance (Bank Balance)</b>	<b>\$ 121,973.31</b>	<b>\$ 115,923.63</b>



### THE LIFE OF ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE

St. Brother André Bessette is Canada's first native-born male saint. St. André was canonized on October 17, 2010 and is the founder of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, Quebec.

St. André Bessette dedicated his life to welcoming all persons, especially the sick, lonely and poor to find a home in the healing power of Jesus Christ.

St. André has a special connection to the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board wherein he often visited the hamlet of St. Joseph, Ontario.

There is a statue placed in honour of St. André Bessette at the St. Joseph Memorial Park in St. Joseph, Ontario.