



DONORS' ADVANTAGE

A semi-annual newsletter produced by the
Community Foundation of Ottawa for its donors

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Featured Donors – Ellie and Clarke Topp

Ellie (Eleanor) and Clarke Topp have been giving back to their community for more than 50 years—longer than the duration of their marriage and in more ways than most people can fathom.

For Clarke, who grew up in Southern Ontario, philanthropy began at home. For Ellie, a dual American-Canadian citizen from Illinois, it was a calling she answered upon starting a family with Clarke after they met at the University of Wisconsin, eventually settling in Ottawa.

Supporting everything from community health and education to faith institutions and the environment, the couple has been giving to more than 50 charities each year for as long as they can remember.

When asked about what inspired the level of their commitment to giving in Ottawa, Ellie casts a side-long glance at her husband and Clarke gets a gleam in his eye. “It really started when I was Chair of the Outreach Committee at our local church,”

he says, “and I presented a challenge to the congregation to set aside 10% of their annual income to support local charities.”



Ellie and Clarke Topp

“Clarke has always had a true campaigner’s spirit,” says Ellie, “and we both felt it was important to lead by example and practice what we preach.”

It was a shared interest in nutrition and pre-natal health that prompted the couple to establish a fund with the Community Foundation of Ottawa in 2007, however.

As a professional home economist and culinary expert, Ellie had recently been involved in a three-year project to provide pre-natal care to low-income and new immigrant mothers at the Nepean Community Resource Centre and was devastated when the program’s funding was cut.

“Pre-natal and infant nutrition is so vital to providing every child with a good healthy start in life,” says Ellie, “and for many newcomers, our food is just completely unknown to them. They need practical, accessible solutions to allow them to give their children the best start possible.”

Through their donor-advised fund, the couple has supported such initiatives as the Milk and Eggs program at the South-East Ottawa Community Health Centre and the Pregnancy Circles Program at the Overbrook-Forbes Community Resource Centre.

“The Community Foundation offers such a wonderful service for people wanting to support smaller projects in the community they might not otherwise ever hear about,” says Ellie, “and they make the process so easy and accessible. It’s reassuring to know they’re taking care of everything, and we can rest easy with the knowledge that our support is reaching the people who need it.”

“The Community Foundation offers such a wonderful service for people wanting to support smaller projects in the community they might not otherwise ever hear about.”

Ellie Topp
Donor

Recent Grants

FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE GRANTS MADE IN SPRING 2012:

Centre de services Guigues will use a grant from the Community Foundation of Ottawa to provide an opportunity for 50 isolated Francophone seniors to participate in 13 outings per year. These will include theme dinners, entertainment, guest speakers, meals and prizes.

CompuCorps Mentoring is providing training, mentorship and paid work opportunities to 32 Aboriginal and newcomer youth in computer refurbishment. Computers refurbished by the youth will be donated to local charitable organizations.

A grant to **Projet Karyne** will assist with the third phase of building a sustainable Solar Greenhouse Classroom on the grounds of l'École Secondaire Publique Gisèle-Lalonde in order to engage and educate the students, other schools and the broader community on sustainability. This will include such elements as an environment to grow plants year-round in the classroom, a geothermic air cooling system, and a rain water harvesting system.

Sisters Achieving Excellence received a grant to fund the pilot year of the Transcendence Project which will provide a literacy, leadership and employability program for five young women at the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre. During the pilot phase, program materials will be developed and ten weeks of program modules will be delivered, along with one-on-one mentoring.

Grants in Action



Tristan and Katie reading with Jordy, a standard poodle

Reading with a friend is a great way for children to share the joy of storytelling. Take that idea one step further by adding fur, floppy ears and a wagging tail and you have just a few of the winning elements of Ottawa's R.E.A.D.® program. Reading Education Assistance Dogs® are the unique offering of Ottawa Therapy Dogs (OTD), and they are proving to help increase the literacy rates of students in the National Capital Region by leaps and bounds.

Funded by the CFO-managed Ottawa Citizen Literacy Foundation in 2011, the R.E.A.D. program brings teams of handlers and registered, insured therapy dogs to local schools and libraries to work as reading companions for children. improved by reading aloud.

While, of course, dogs don't read, they do make attentive listeners who provide a safe, relaxed,

non-judgmental presence for children whose skills are According to a recent study, third-grade children who participated in a similar program showed a 12% increase in their reading fluency over just a 10-week period.

"The magic of reading to a dog goes beyond just changing a child's perception of books and reading," said Chantel Hutter, a long-time OTD volunteer who first introduced the R.E.A.D. program to the Ottawa area in 2004. "It changes how they see themselves. It opens doors they didn't even know were there."



Tristan and Katie reading with Jordy, a standard poodle

Indeed, teachers and volunteers have not only reported seeing marked improvements in reading and communication skills among participants, but also an increase in their self-esteem, confidence and social skills along the way.

There are currently nearly 20 volunteer dog/handler teams in the R.E.A.D. program serving schools and libraries across the city.



Tristan and Katie reading with Jordy, a standard poodle

"Thanks to the grant we received from the Ottawa Citizen Literacy Foundation, we're able to recruit and train more teams, as well as develop further support materials for teachers and volunteers," said R.E.A.D. Coordinator Julie Davies.

"We've truly been overwhelmed by the great response to this program by students, parents and educators alike and we're looking forward to providing more local schools with teams of their own this fall."

For more information about the R.E.A.D. program, visit www.ireadwithdogs.ca. All photos courtesy of Brittany Veinot Photography.

Community Foundation of Ottawa Week

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

On Wednesday, November 14th, the Mayor Jim Watson will make an official proclamation to City Council of Community Foundation of Ottawa Week, which will run from **Monday, November 19 to Sunday, November 25, 2012.**

SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Monday, November 19 is the big day when the Community Foundation will celebrate its first 25 years of working with the people of Ottawa to foster a smarter, more caring community. We look forward to seeing you all at this milestone event!

Where: Ottawa Convention Centre
When: 5:15 arrival for a 5:30 p.m. start

A reception will follow the program with light refreshments and a cash bar.

- MC Adrian Harewood will welcome 500+ guests to this public celebration of our community's generosity;
- An inspiring keynote speech will be presented by Governor General David Johnston, the patron of Community Foundations of Canada, about our work together to nurture smart and caring communities across the country;
- The Governor General will present the Caring Canadian Award to seven recipients from the National Capital Region, including two members of the Community Foundation "family."
- A special presentation will be made by Mayor Jim Watson to the Foundation in honour of its first 25 years of improving the quality of life in Ottawa.
- Entertainment by such local and CFO-supported performers as Peter Joynt, Propeller Dance and the Leading Note Foundation's KidSingers will be featured;
- A community video montage will highlight projects supported by CFO, as will screenings of the top entrants in our silver anniversary video showcase;
- A live social media wall will capture and display Twitter, Facebook and other social media updates by attendees, community organizations and CBC hosts.
- This event is free and open to the public.

Special thanks to our event sponsors:



CFO Update

YEAR-END DONATION DEADLINES

DONATION DEADLINES TO QUALIFY FOR A 2012 TAX RECEIPT:

Gifts by Cheque: Please ensure any cheques are mailed (and postmarked) no later than the last Canada Post mail pickup prior to December 31. Please make cheques payable to the Community Foundation of Ottawa, specifying the name of the fund in the memo field.

Gifts by Credit Card (via Internet): Make online gifts before midnight (EST) on December 31.

Gifts of Securities: When making gifts of publicly-listed securities, we recommend having your broker initiate the transfer no later than December 19* in order to ensure that final ownership of the securities is transferred to the Foundation by December 31. Please also complete and send us the Direction to Gift Shares by the same date.

*Please check with your broker regarding holiday hours.

A MESSAGE FROM CBC OTTAWA

On Monday, Nov. 19, CBC News Ottawa anchor Adrian Harewood hosts the gala celebration marking the Silver Anniversary of the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

CBC cameras will be at the Ottawa Convention Centre for the celebration and CBC local news will have TV coverage beginning at 5 PM, while all this week Ottawa Morning looks at some of the organizations that have benefitted from CFO grants.

Over the years, CBC has covered many of those organizations, and they have made some of those stories available online at CBC.ca/ottawa.

Community Foundation of Ottawa

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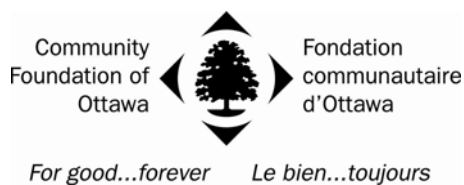
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Staff Member Profile

Dan Brunette joined the Community Foundation of Ottawa in September as Manager of Development and Donor Services. Dan has worked in the field of fundraising and donor relations for the last 12 years with some of Ottawa's most reputable public organizations, most recently as Director of Advancement at the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa.

His background also includes working at the University of Ottawa and the Canadian War Museum, as well as being an Officer with the Canadian Forces Primary Reserve.

An active community volunteer, Dan has been a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) since 2001.



Dan Brunette

Recently named to its Canada Council, Dan is also the incoming Chair of the AFP's Ottawa Chapter. Among others, he's also been a long-time volunteer with the Duke of Edinburgh Award and is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa.

Dan gets his inspiration from his wife and two boys, along with the old Cub Scout motto, "leave things better than you found them."

Dan has already started meeting with some of the Foundation's current donors, as well as other individuals and groups who are interested in making a difference.

"That's what I'm looking forward to the most," says Dan, "the opportunity to work with people who care deeply about supporting worthy causes and being in a position to help them do so."