



OCH FOUNDATION
for healthy communities
FONDATION LCO
pour des communautés saines



ANNUAL REPORT

www.ochfoundation.ca

2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our Mission, Our Values, Our Stakeholders, Our Partners	3
A Message from Our Executive Director	4
Celebrating 10 Years	5
Our Programs & Initiatives	7
Annual Charity Golf Tournament	9
Annual Giving Campaign	10
Our Team, Our Board of Directors	11
Thank You from Our Board of Directors	12
Our Supporters	13
Get Involved	14



OUR MISSION

The Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) Foundation delivers education, employment and community engagement programs that break down barriers, build resilience and alleviate the effects of poverty and inequities faced by the individuals living in Ottawa Community Housing; Ottawa's largest social housing provider.

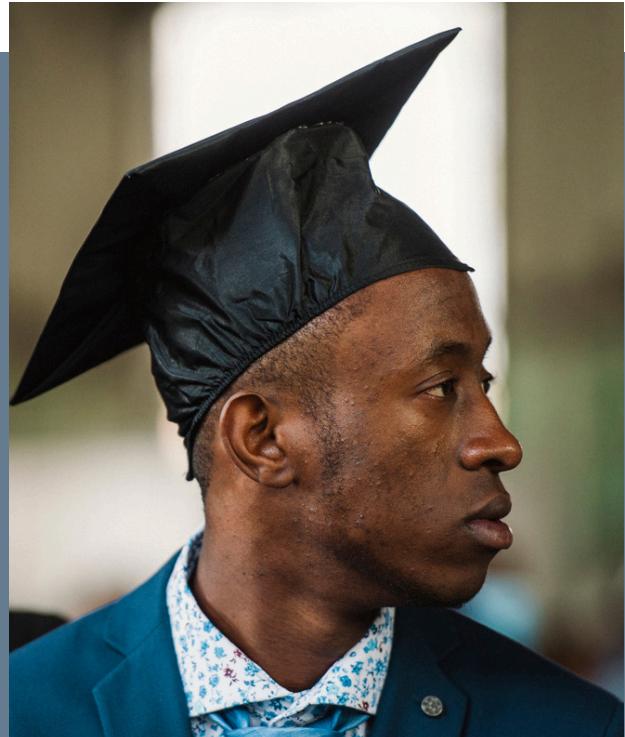


OUR VISION

OCH Foundation is a catalyst for empowering, inspiring and equipping tenants of OCH with access to programs that enhance their quality of life and well-being.

OUR STAKEHOLDERS

People living in OCH represent diverse backgrounds, including single-parent families, individuals living with disabilities, seniors on fixed incomes and newcomers to Canada. With an average monthly income of \$1,600, tenants of OCH are some of the most vulnerable people in our city, placing them at a health and well-being disadvantage.



OUR PARTNERS

OCH Foundation is a partner for effecting immediate change and building a healthy, inclusive and vibrant community. We bring together key stakeholders and community and tenant leaders to better understand the complexity of vulnerable populations living in OCH. This allows us to efficiently respond to tenant needs and provide or facilitate connections to programs and services that improve individual, family and community well-being.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What an experience to celebrate our tenth anniversary over an entire year! There were treats at our spring Hop on Bikes giveaway, the OCH all-staff barbecue, and our sold out golf tournament. The Ottawa sign was lit up in our colours during the kick off week of our Annual Giving Campaign. A special feature on Experts on Call hosted by CFRA and an interview by Rogers TV promoted our programs. We welcomed many new third party fundraising groups, new program sponsors and donors to our ambassador's network.



There were many points of reflection. The world we operate in has changed over the past years. Our city has been affected and the needs of tenants living in OCH communities are evolving. While we know that the rapid rise in cost of living has created stressors for most people, it has especially impacted those who are low-income, or are facing barriers due to race, language, immigration status, addictions, mental health, and more.

In 2022, we had the opportunity to go through a Strategic Planning exercise and are pleased to share our [2023-2025 Strategic Plan](#). Over a six-month period and with intensive consultation from our staff, board, partners, and OCH partners, staff and tenants, we were able to prioritize five areas of focus. Much of this work will concentrate on better understanding the new and emerging needs so that we can identify program growth that appropriately responds to these. Alongside this will be an intensive process to develop a sustainable and self-sufficient Resource Development Strategy. This tool will ensure the long-term health and the continued growth of our programs and services.

This year saw a plethora of support and new donors and we have so much gratitude for each of you who have become, or continue to be, ambassadors for our program delivery. We are responding to the current climate in the best way that we can, through offering more educational bursaries each year, increasing the number of bikes that we distribute, registering more children and youth into sports and recreation at no cost to their families. We commit to serving tenants living in OCH communities and delivering programs and services that build resilience and improve health, mental health and well-being.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Bégin".

Angela Bégin
Executive Director

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

In **2012**, the OCH Foundation was born with a vision of supporting tenants of Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) with their social and well-being, while providing opportunities for tenants to thrive. The organization adopted the name “OCH Foundation for Healthy Communities” and CRA Charitable Status committed OCH Foundation to serving OCH tenants through the core areas of focus: Engagement, Education and Employment.

In **2014**, the Ron Larkin Scholarship was distributing 10 bursaries of \$1,000 annually and the program was transferred over to the OCH Foundation. That same year, the Pack-a-Sack campaign was founded with the goal of providing back-to-school supplies for OCH tenants. The following year, in **2015**, OCH Foundation took on a leadership role with Youth Futures, replacing the previous commitment from OCH. Subsequently, reLINK was in a transformative stage. The original program, Social Rec Connect, was created in 2009 by five community agencies (United Way Ottawa, Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa, Christie Lake Kids, YMCA and City of Ottawa). The program transferred to OCH Foundation **in 2015**, rebranded as reLINK and began operations under OCH Foundation. **In 2020**, Hop on Bikes grew out of requests for play ideas for children and youth to keep busy and physically active during the Covid-19 pandemic. The result was an identified need for bikes, helmets and locks for children and youth living in OCH communities.

As we celebrate our 10 year anniversary, we are incredibly proud of all the work we have done and the success of our programs and initiatives. However, we know the work is far from done and we look forward to working closely with our community and partners to continue to expand and create new supports to enrich the lives and experiences of OCH Community members for years to come.



OUR PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

INSPIRED BY LEARNING BURSARY

Helping tenants of OCH pursue their post-secondary education and training and achieve their dreams is a core component of the OCH Foundation's mandate. The Inspired by Learning Bursary provides financial assistance to tenants of OCH who are undertaking post-secondary studies and who demonstrate financial need. The bursaries are awarded annually and can be applied towards tuition fees, books, transportation, childcare, equipment, living expenses and/or other costs directly associated with the academic or training program.

This year, we were able to increase the number of bursaries we awarded from **15 to 20, \$1,000 bursaries** to members in our OCH Community.

A special thanks to CIBC Foundation for their financial support.



PACK-A-SACK

The OCH Foundation Pack-a-Sack program is run with the support of the Caring and Sharing Exchange and distributed through the Coalition of Community Houses. Each year, the program equips hundreds of children and youth with important back-to-school supplies. A typical back-to-school kit includes a quality backpack, pens, pencils, markers, crayons, scissors, geometry sets and other items that are grade dependent.



This year:

- The OCH Foundation has purchased **\$30,000** worth of back-to-school supplies with support from Khalsa Aid Ottawa.
- The Foundation distributed over **700** backpacks filled with age-appropriate school supplies to families in our OCH Communities.

A special thank you to Khalsa Aid Ottawa who made a generous donation and provided volunteers to pack the backpacks. We would also like to highlight Kiwanis Ottawa, the Ottawa Police Service, the University of Ottawa Youth Education, Bridgehead and Moxies for their support towards this initiative.

OUR PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

recLINK

ReLINK breaks down barriers and connects young people to the arts, camps and sport programs they are passionate about. When children and youth participate in sports and recreation, they build important relationships with peers and program leaders; they learn new skills which can lead to greater confidence to try new things.

This year:

- Registrations | **134 Youth**
- Ottawa Titans Baseball Game | **11 Youth**
- Snow Sleds Giveaway | **25 Sleds**
- Michaëlle Jean Foundation Sea-Can Mural | **12 Youth**

This year marked our second year in our recLINK return to play strategy. We worked closely with community partners to support young people and their families living within OCH to live healthier and more physically active lives.

We want to give a special thank you to Jumpstart and D-Squared for their financial support throughout the year to ensure that recLINK has its most successful year yet and reaches even more families across the OCH communities.

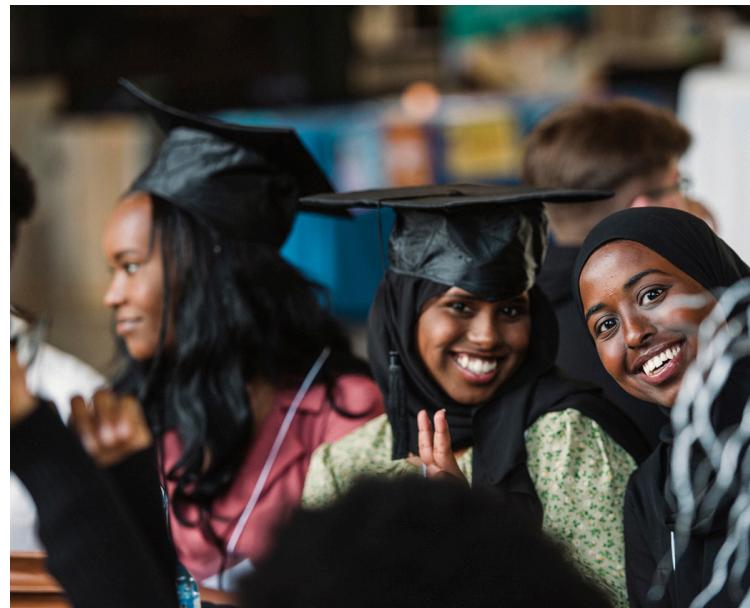
YOUTH FUTURES

Youth Futures supports high school students aged 16-21 as they build important skills in preparation for post-secondary education and employment. The six-month, bilingual program offers leadership training, mentorship, employment experience, and post-secondary orientation at no cost to participants. OCH Foundation is a partner in the delivery of the Youth Futures Program which is led by the City of Ottawa and supported by BGC Ottawa.

This year:

- Youth Futures received **293 applications** and conducted **168 interviews**.
- We cheered on **125 participants** as they graduated from the program, which brings the total number of **graduates** to **1,324** over the past **14 years**.

The OCH Foundation would like to highlight the generous contributions from the RBC Foundation and the Rideau Hall Foundation in supporting youth employment and skills development while investing in OCH youth.



OUR PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

HOP ON BIKES

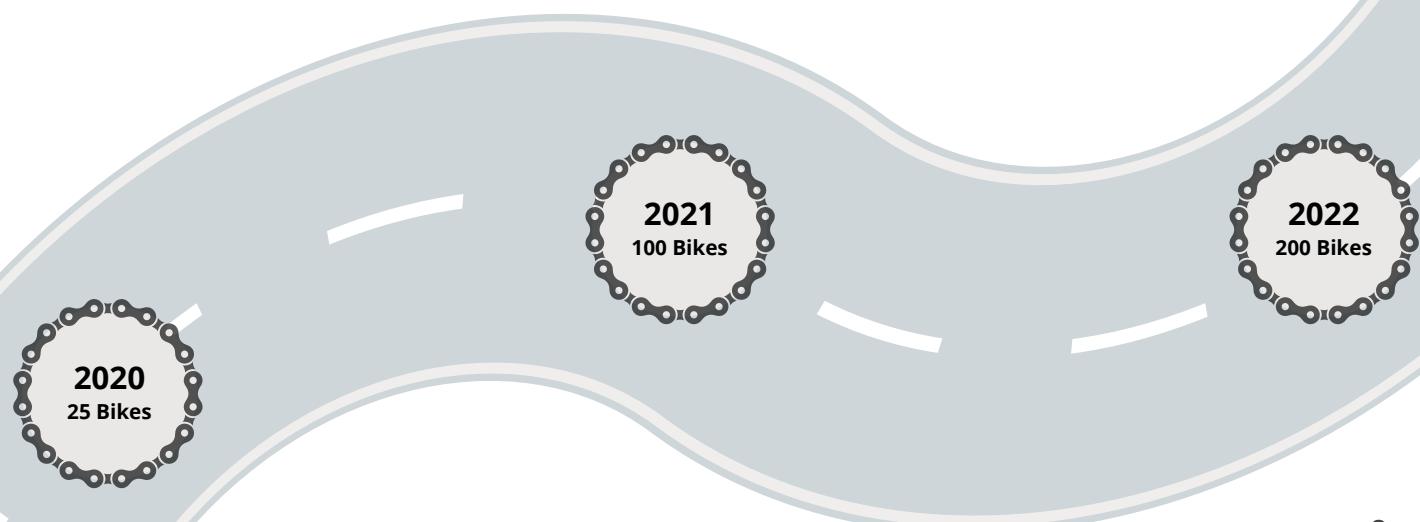
A bike is often considered a childhood rite of passage, so we wanted to ensure young people living in OCH have their very own bike story to share. Hop on Bikes has provided hundreds of bicycles to young tenants in OCH communities.



This year:

- We doubled the number of bikes we refurbished to provide **200** bikes, helmets, and bike locks to children and youth across the OCH communities.
- We participated in **5** Bike Rodeos in collaboration with the City of Ottawa's Mobile Cycle Education Team to encourage safe handling and traffic skills for young cyclists in OCH communities.

We would like to thank our partners re-Cycles Ottawa and the Ottawa Community Housing Corporation for helping us achieve our goals and make this program possible. We would also like to give a special shout-out to Hydro One for working with us to highlight the Hop on Bikes program and its impact on the community, through the following [short video](#). Thank you Hydro One for your financial support during our 2022 Hop on Bikes season.





ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year marked the ninth Annual Charity Golf Tournament held in support of the OCH Foundation. For the third time, registration was completely sold out, as 144 golfers took to the Loch March Golf and Country Club course in Kanata.

We were thrilled to come together this year and raise a record amount of **\$96,204**.

A special thank you to the players, sponsors, donors, staff, and OCH volunteers who helped make this event a great success. We look forward to welcoming everybody again in September 2023.

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

In 2022, the Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) Foundation reached a new milestone and celebrated 10 years.

Our Annual Giving Campaign raised a new record of **\$48,533** which will be reinvested into programs for the tenant community.

A huge thank you to our campaign matching sponsors, Respect Rx, The Information Professionals, Arrow Services, Decathlon, and several anonymous donors.



OUR TEAM



Briar Gornall, Communication Coordinator

Traci Spour-Lafrance, Senior Manager, Programs & Operations

Lindsey Ziebell, Senior Program Coordinator

Angela Bégin, Executive Director

Jennifer Poll, Administrative Assistant

Emmanuel Antonin, Program Support

Taha Tariq, Program Coordinator

Sharon Jollimore, Director of Innovation (April 2022)

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Vice Chair



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Director



Sharon Coward
Director



Heather Dawson
Director



David Mason
Director



Tara Lapointe
Director



Barbara Spanton
Director

We would also like to acknowledge Josh Torres for his commitment to the OCH Foundation as previous OCH Liaison.

THANK YOU FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of the OCH Foundation Board, we would like to extend our gratitude to donors and community partners for their generous contributions to making this truly a record-breaking year for the Foundation. The team continued to build on the momentum from previous years to provide relevant and accessible programming to the OCH communities with the goal of removing barriers and reducing the effects of poverty and inequalities often felt by our most vulnerable populations.

As we continue into the next three years with a new strategic plan, we are excited to continue to develop and grow our partnerships within the community to offer effective and immediate support to OCH tenants through quality programs and services. Our goal continues to be to build resilience and enhance the overall quality of life and well-being of our tenants.

We appreciate each and every one of you who support us in making this happen.

Wayne French
M. Reeves



OUR SUPPORTERS

OCH FOUNDATION ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

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Restoration
Respect Rx Pharmacy
Sense Engineering
TPH
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Presenting Sponsor - D-Squared Construction Limited

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

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Anonymous Donors

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Chuckles for Charity
Costco

Desjardins
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Roof Maintenance Solutions

Stephane Giguère
Wayne French

Arrow

Decathlon

The Information Professionals

Respect Rx

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Desjardins

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Funds
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Jumpstart

Khalsa Aid Ottawa
Kids up Front
Kiwanis Ottawa
Michael Thomas Fund
Michaëlle Jean Foundation
Moxies
Nelligan Law
Ottawa Community Foundation
Ottawa Community Housing

Ottawa Sports Page
RBC Foundation
Rideau Hall Foundation
Rotary Club of West Ottawa
Stantec
Strathcona Tigers
University of Ottawa Youth
Education

SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT: HYDRO ONE

Thank you Hydro One for your support during our 2022 Hop on Bikes Season. With their team, the OCH Foundation had the opportunity to showcase how a bike is donated to re-Cycles Ottawa, refurbished and then allocated to a child in need. We appreciate Hydro One's support in sharing our story and helping ensure youth in OCH Communities get to create their own bike story.



GET INVOLVED



info@ochfoundation.ca



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