

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



OCH FOUNDATION
FONDATION LCO



TOGETHER,
WE THRIVE





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CHALLENGE ACCEPTED



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PURPOSE IN ACTION

MISSION

We connect tenants living in OCH with programs and services that foster education, employment, community engagement and overall well-being.

VISION

We envision thriving OCH communities where everyone has equitable access to opportunity and well-being.

CORE VALUES

Our people are EPIC –
Empathetic, Passionate, Innovative and Collaborative.

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with pride, gratitude, and deep appreciation for what we have accomplished together. In 2025, the OCH Foundation reached over 9,500 tenants through programs and initiatives designed to remove barriers, empower, strengthen well-being, and create pathways to opportunity. Behind that number are real people, real stories, and meaningful moments of connection and support.

This was truly a record-breaking year for our Foundation. Our programs reached new heights. Our Inspired-by-Learning Bursary awarded 36 bursaries, the highest number in its history, helping tenants pursue post-secondary education. Through Pack-a-Sack, we distributed 2,111 backpacks, ensuring children and youth across OCH communities had the school supplies they needed to start the year with confidence and dignity.

We also saw extraordinary generosity from our supporters. Both our Annual Giving Campaign and Golf Tournament raised more than ever before, a powerful reflection of the trust our community places in our work and the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are energized and ready. We are preparing to launch Build Your Path, our newest program focused on helping tenants pursue careers in the skilled trades. Our team is growing, our partnerships are deepening, and we are sharpening our focus to meet rising tenant needs.

The challenges facing our communities are real, but so is our determination to meet this moment with empathy, innovation, and care.

As we look back on an incredible year, we do so with immense gratitude. Thank you for standing by us and for believing in the power of community.

Together, we are building stronger futures, one person, one family, and one community at a time.

With deepest gratitude,

Traci Spour-Lafrance



MESSAGE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



9,500+

tenants reached through Foundation programs and community initiatives.

OUR IMPACT

recLINK

In 2025, recLINK continued to open doors to recreation for residents through accessible, community-based programs. This year, recLINK expanded beyond traditional programming, engaging children and youth in creative projects like a youth-led mural at Debra Dynes. The program also piloted a women's yoga group, creating a supportive space for healing, connection, and mobility.

718

Children & Youth

248

Adults & Seniors

Youth Futures

For many youth, Youth Futures is the first place where someone asks about their goals and helps them work toward them. Through mentorship, hands-on learning, and wraparound support, Youth Futures helps young people build the skills and confidence they need to succeed beyond high school. Since its inception, Youth Futures has supported over 1,500 equity-deserving young people across Ottawa.

144

Youth Graduated



"As a single parent, I've always thought of recLINK as the other parent. They always sign my son up for classes and make sure everything is done on time. I can't explain how helpful this is for me and my son. It allows us to experience things we couldn't afford on our own. Because of this program, he's able to do all the activities he loves."

- Maria

Tomorrow Ready

Tomorrow Ready is grounded in a simple principle: communities know best what they need. By bridging the gap between support provided by food banks and other community organizations, Tomorrow Ready ensures families have access to essentials that might otherwise be missed. We are deeply grateful to Khalsa Aid for their continued support for this program.

18

Locations

10000+

Supported with essential
food and hygiene supplies

Inspired-by-Learning

In 2025, Inspired-by-Learning reached a new milestone, awarding 36 bursaries. These bursaries help students cover education and living expenses as they reach for the stars. As Rahma, a bursary recipient shared, "This bursary is deeply meaningful to me not only because it will help me continue my studies, but because it reminds me that my community truly wants to see me succeed." We are grateful to Desjardins for their continued support.

36 Bursaries



*"These drop-offs mean I don't
have to go hungry."*

- John

*"I can finally cook for my kids
again with items like pasta
sauce and peanut butter."*

- Sara

**-Quotes from tenants who
received support**

Hop on Bikes

In 2025, Hop on Bikes continued to advance its mission of making cycling accessible to people of all ages. Through the distribution of bikes to both children and adults, the program helped remove transportation barriers and supported healthier, more connected communities. For adults, access to a bike meant greater independence, improved access to work and essential services, and the freedom to move through the city with confidence. By putting more people on bikes.

373

Bikes

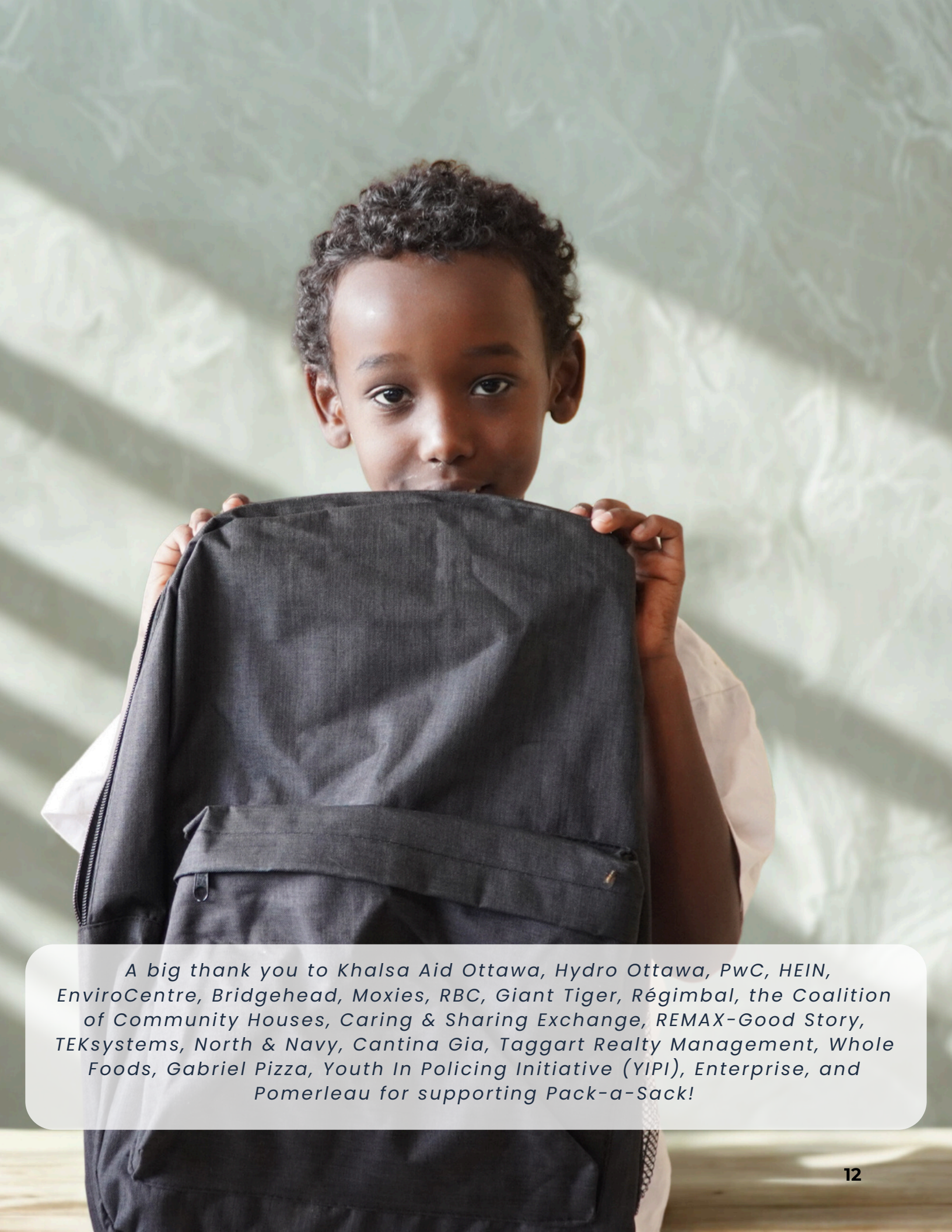
209

Children & Youth

164

Adults





A big thank you to Khalsa Aid Ottawa, Hydro Ottawa, PwC, HEIN, EnviroCentre, Bridgehead, Moxies, RBC, Giant Tiger, Régimbal, the Coalition of Community Houses, Caring & Sharing Exchange, REMAX-Good Story, TEKsystems, North & Navy, Cantina Gia, Taggart Realty Management, Whole Foods, Gabriel Pizza, Youth In Policing Initiative (YIPI), Enterprise, and Pomerleau for supporting Pack-a-Sack!

Pack-a-Sack

For families living in OCH communities, back-to-school costs can be a heavy burden. With school supplies easily exceeding \$100 per child, back-to-school expenses can quickly add up, placing families under further financial strain. Pack-a-Sack program provides children and youth with backpacks filled with essential school supplies, helping them start the year prepared and confident.

This milestone was made possible by the second annual **24-hour Pack-a-Thon**, where volunteers came together to assemble and distribute backpacks directly to communities. Thanks to this collaboration, young people started the school year with not just supplies, but the tools to thrive.



24

Hours

2111

Backpacks

100

Volunteers



EV Carshare

In 2025, we launched an Electric Vehicle (EV) Carshare Program, expanding access to affordable and sustainable transportation for tenants living in OCH's Mikinàk community. Supported by a \$250,000 donation from the RBC Foundation and delivered in partnership with OCH, Communauto and EnviroCentre, the EV Carshare program gives residents access to EVs, without the costs and responsibilities of car ownership.



“
The launch of this program is an exciting milestone for our community. More than just a convenience, this program showcases what's possible when innovation and community come together, and it's only the beginning.

—TRACI SPOUR-LAFRANCE

”

Summer Food Drive

Over the summer, families living in OCH communities received vital support through a city-wide effort to address child hunger. The Ottawa Summer Food Drive, coordinated by Khalsa Aid and led by students from 16 Ottawa-Carleton District School Board schools, collected more than 90,000 pounds of food. More than 30,000 pounds of this food was directed to the OCH Foundation.

Volunteers from Lionhearts worked with our team to deliver food directly to nine OCH communities, prioritizing neighbourhoods where need was greatest. The donations provided the equivalent of 12,000 meals, helping families bridge the gap when schools are closed and access to daily meals is reduced. This initiative was made possible through the collaboration of community partners including Khalsa Aid, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, Italfoods Ottawa, Lionhearts, and the Ottawa Food Bank.

30,000

Pounds

12,000

Meals





Golf Tournament

Our 12th Annual Charity Golf Tournament was one for the record books. Held at Greyhawk Golf Club, the tournament brought together golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters in a remarkable show of community spirit.

This generosity fuels programs that connect children and youth to recreation and mentorship, support families with food and essential needs, and open pathways to education and employment. While the day brought people together on the course, its impact reaches far beyond it, helping ensure that living in OCH is the start of a brighter future.

The OCH Foundation extends heartfelt thanks to all our golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and partners whose enthusiasm and generosity made this achievement possible. Together, you continue to drive meaningful change and expand opportunity for tenants living in OCH.

228

Golfers



\$135,516

Amount Raised



Annual Giving Campaign

Our 2025 Annual Giving Campaign, Together, We Thrive, raised a record-breaking \$81,684, surpassing our \$65,000 goal. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, these funds will sustain and grow our programs in the year ahead, strengthening opportunity, connection, and well-being across OCH communities. We extend our sincere thanks to every donor who made this success possible. Together, we are helping communities thrive.

As part of our commitment to food security, the OCH Foundation supported holiday meals in nine OCH communities, bringing warmth, connection, and festive cheer to over **900 tenants**. These gatherings helped ensure families and seniors could celebrate the season with dignity and a shared sense of community.



\$81,684

Amount Raised



Our Partners

EnviroCentre

EnviroCentre provided funding for Pack-a-Sack and Hop on Bikes, volunteered to pack backpacks at our Pack-a-Thon, partnered with us to deliver the EV Carshare Program and amplified impact through a matching campaign during our Annual Giving Campaign. Their continued engagement, including participation in our Golf Tournament, reflects a deep commitment to community and sustainability.

RBC

The RBC Foundation donated \$250,000 to the EV Carshare Project and also provided critical support for Youth Futures. Through sustained funding and hands-on volunteering at events like Hop on Bikes, their continued support reflects a strong belief in community well-being and the potential of youth.

envirocentre



RBC
Royal Bank



HEIN

HEIN generously sponsored Pack-a-Sack and our Golf Tournament breakfast, served as a matching donor during the Annual Giving Campaign, and volunteered across multiple initiatives including our 24-hour Pack-a-Thon. Their support also extended to funding and volunteering at a holiday meal for seniors, helping create moments of care and connection.

re-Cycles

re-Cycles Ottawa is the dedicated partner behind Hop on Bikes, making the program possible through bike collection, refurbishment, safety checks, and on-site support at every distribution event- rain or shine. As a volunteer-run organization, they bring passion and care to everything they do.

PwC

PwC provided funding for Pack-a-Sack, volunteered to pack backpacks at Pack-a-Thon and volunteered at two Hop on Bikes events. Their hands-on volunteering helped bring these programs to life while building meaningful connections with the community.



re-Cycles





Board of Directors



Melissa Reeves
Chair



Wayne French
Past-Chair



Nick Ethier
Vice Chair



Stéphane Giguère
Ex-Officio



Sam Bhalesar
Director Fund Development



Heather Dawson
Director



Jim Watson
Director



Tara Lapointe
Director



Barbara Spanton
Director



Han Wang
Finance Support



Adham Al-Rachidi
OCH Liaison



Emily Moyo
Treasurer



Rohan Bansie
Director

The OCH Foundation extends sincere thanks to Emily and Rohan for their dedicated service on the Board. Their leadership and commitment have made a lasting impact, and we are grateful for their contributions as they conclude their board service in 2025.



Our Team



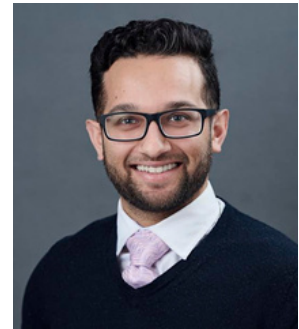
Traci Spour-Lafrance
Executive Director



Lindsey Ziebell
Manager, Programs & Operations



Annie Premachuk
Manager, Partnerships & Innovation



Taha Tariq
Senior Program Coordinator



Jennifer Poll
Administrative Assistant



Pranav Kohli
Communications and Resource Development Coordinator



Saeed Babalola
Program Coordinator



Bradley Minni
Program Support Worker



Get in Touch

As we look ahead to 2027, we are focused on deepening impact where tenants have told us it matters most: strengthening food supports, expanding pathways to employment, and building more responsive, sustainable programs. With your support, we can turn these priorities into action and create lasting change across our communities.



Ways to Contribute:

- 1 Make a donation by visiting our website: ochfoundation.ca
- 2 Set up a recurring donation to provide ongoing support.
- 3 Explore corporate partnership opportunities.
- 4 Encourage your network to support our work.

DONATE TODAY!



www.ochfoundation.ca



info@ochfoundation.ca