

The Elizabeth Kelly Foundation

Supporting literacy and learning across the community

The Elizabeth Kelly Foundation is named after a devoted and beloved librarian of the original library in Almonte. Established in 1985, today the Foundation supports literacy and education throughout Lanark County through its strategy of matching funds for Lanark County libraries, non-profit organizations and individual groups for creative and innovative programs and initiatives that promote literacy and learning. Since 1985, Foundation contributions to Mississippi Mills libraries exceed \$360,000.

Comfort with learning and literacy skills encourages educational achievement and inspires life-long learning. Lanark County continues to grow and so too does the need for residents to have access to mechanisms for learning. Since 2020, the Foundation has disbursed almost \$155,000 in support of literacy and learning programs and initiatives in the County and an additional \$16,500 to the Lanark food bank and Home Hospice.

Supporting Libraries in Lanark County

Our library network remains a key vehicle for literacy and learning of a much larger and vibrant literate community across Lanark. Our libraries play a critical role for reading, learning and community engagement. The Foundation is a strong supporter of the programs and offerings of Lanark County libraries. Funds are directed to programs dedicated to help youth and to encourage learning in new and innovative ways.

Our Mission - To inspire lifelong learning, provide equitable access to information, advance knowledge and strengthen our community.

Mississippi Mills Public Library (2024)

Summer 2024 - STEM robotics programs

From its pilot launch in 2020, the libraries-based STEM county-wide program is a great success story. It is a story of how a determined and talented team of librarians in Mississippi Mills used their experience to engage libraries in a county-wide STEM program to benefit youth across Lanark.

1

LEARNING FOR ALL

The Foundation supports literacy and learning for all ages.

2

WORKING TOGETHER

The Foundation works with literacy and learning

3

MATCHING FUNDS

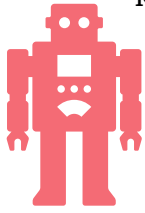
The Foundation provides matching funds for literacy and learning.

4

MATCHING FUNDS

The Foundation is always looking for opportunities to partner fund.

In 2023, 400 youth had access to robotics equipment and highly qualified STEM instructors. The sessions took place at all five libraries in Lanark County and popularity of the program continues. It is a cooperative project across the library systems - robotic supplies, knowledge and experiences across the libraries are shared.



The efforts and skills of library representatives drive the success of the program. The summer of 2024 will see the Foundation match a \$10,000 Lanark County grant bringing a total of \$20,000 in support of the county-wide STEM program. This will ensure more youth can participate and the program continues to grow and benefit youth in Lanark. For more information on the program - <https://www.missmillslibrary.com/2023/06/14/lanark-wide-libraries-collaborate-on-stem-training-for-youth/> .



“Play is the highest form of research”

Albert Einstein

Congratulations and Hurrah!

Congratulations to Christine Row CEO of the Mississippi Mills Public Library System and her team. In January 2024, it was announced the Mississippi Public Library won Ontario’s 2023 Angus Mowat Award of Excellence for its achievements with the Lanark STEM Program. This award recognizes excellence in delivery of public library services to the community. The Foundation is very proud of Christine and her team and very proud to continue to be a supporter of STEM programs in the Lanark libraries. For more information on the award - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-public-library-service-awards>.

Children’s Summer Literacy Program

The Foundation supports summer literacy programs



Comfort with reading is so important for young people. Being able to read and comprehend adds not only knowledge, it builds confidence. The summer of 2024 will see the Foundation continue its support for summer literacy programs in the library systems of Mississippi Mills and Lanark Highlands. For more information - www.missmillslibrary.com and www.lanarklibrary.ca.



“A library outranks any other thing a community can do to benefit its people”

Andrew Carnegie

Supporting High Schools in Lanark County

High School Bursary for students going on to college and university

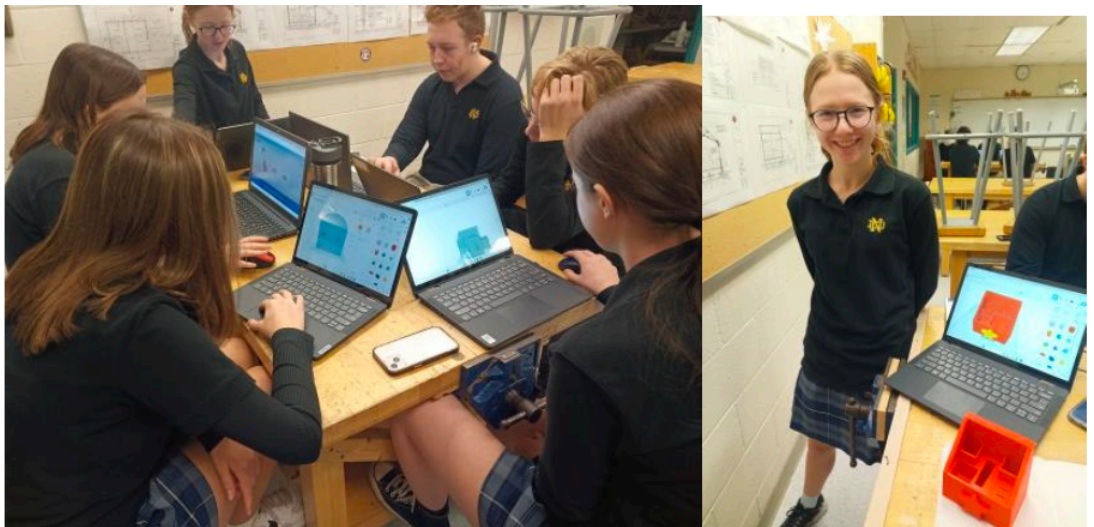
In 2024 the Foundation is piloting a scheme to provide partial bursaries to students graduating from Lanark County high schools. Many promising young people in our county, from rural and urban households alike, struggle to overcome social and financial barriers to achieve their potential, especially first generation post-secondary students. The Foundation recognizes the need to elevate our youth, support their lifelong learning and build a strong and educated community county-wide. The Foundation will provide grants representing 50% of tuition costs to up to three young people going on to post-secondary studies at a college and to up to three young people pursuing studies at the university level. This new funding initiative will help support students overcome financial and other significant challenges that may otherwise prevent them from pursuing further education and training.



Notre Dame Catholic High School

Design Technology

The Foundation provided funds for Notre Dame Catholic High School (Carleton Place) to purchase and install two 3D printers. Design Technology Class students were involved in setting up, trouble shooting and testing the printers. Students from all classes have access to the printers through the new 3D Printing



Club. These new technology printers give new technology learning and access to all students across the range of student interests and variety of technology backgrounds, from beginners to experts.

Music Program

The hills (of Lanark County) come alive with the sound of music from high school student bands. Music programs help students develop their perpetual, cognitive and motor skills. In high school, these skills can be applied to learning across subjects from writing to reading to English to mathematics and science.



COVID and its ripple effect on the high school's music program was devastating. Student music mentors graduated out and extracurricular programs like music had to be rebuilt. The Foundation's donation gave a financial boost to help reenergize the music program. Foundation funds helped cover costs of repairing and replacing musical equipment, provide support to engage students and build on music software to encourage students to create and explore these new technologies.

A *Be in the Band Program* sent a band of the high school to participate in Ottawa's 2023 Bluesfest. There are plans to send a band to the 2024 Bluesfest - we wish them the best of luck.



"...there is little doubt that regular exposure to music, and especially active participation in music, may stimulate development of many different areas of the brain."

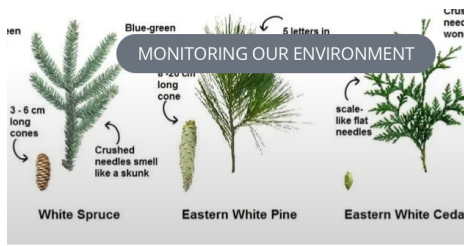
Oliver Sacks

Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists Bursary

The Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists/Elizabeth Kelly Foundation Award

The Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists (MVFN) recognize the interconnection between people and the environment and the importance of encouraging youth to pursue education and learning in environmental studies. After all, it is up to all of us to help people and the environment be healthy and happy together. To encourage youth, the MVFN provides an annual bursary of \$1,000 to qualified graduating high school students





residing in Lanark and West Carleton for first year post secondary pursuits in the field of natural environment. The Foundation is now a partner and will provide an annual bursary of \$1,000 to extend the award to assist in the second year of the student's studies. More information can be found at www.mvfn.ca.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world"

Mahatma Gandhi

Local Needs

Life can be difficult as cost of living increases and food bills continue to rise. A healthy diet is important for children to learn and succeed in school. The Foundation supports the Lanark Food Bank.



About the Foundation

Governance

The Foundation is managed by its five member voluntary Board, elected for two year terms by its members.

Funding

Funding comes to the Foundation in the form of donations, endowments, membership fees and investment interest.

The mandate of the Foundation is to provide supplementary financial support to registered charities such as libraries and schools, and to non-profits, community groups and persons for programmes and initiatives that contribute to life-long learning by advancing literacy, creativity and education. The Foundation typically provides grants on a matching funding basis.

Organizations and community groups within Lanark County, whose values and vision align with the Foundation, are encouraged to apply for support for their creative programs and initiatives.

If you have an innovative idea for promoting literacy and learning, send in your Letter of Interest - here's where you can find the form:

<https://www.ekellyfoundation.ca/httpswwwweeblycomeditormainphp-305163-113236.html>

*If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap
 If you want happiness for a day, go fishing
 If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune
 If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody
 Chinese proverb*

Welcome to our new members!

Gretta Bradley is a retired International Baccalaureate Diploma program teacher. She is active in the community, volunteering with the Blakeney Project, a food bank garden and as the Field Outings Coordinator with the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists. As an avid outdoor enthusiast, her interests include bird watching, stargazing, curling, cross country skiing, cycling, kayaking, jogging and sailing.

Caroline Kealey retired from her 28 year career as both a teacher and Principal working with children from kindergarten to grade 12. As an educator, Caroline worked to coordinate opportunities to connect students with the communities around them including their school community, Almonte and broader global communities. She spent many years coaching Club basketball and working with parents in the dance community. Today she enjoys the golf course - on the greens and on the Executive.

BECOME A MEMBER

If you have interests in literacy and learning and want to learn more about how the Foundation supports literacy and learning in Lanark - join us!

Receive updates on funding activities of the Foundation.

We welcome ideas on opportunities for Foundation matching funding for literacy and learning across Lanark. If you have any thoughts or ideas for a learning community project send them to us.

The Foundation is always seeking new members to help us expand our reach and impact.

Get involved with supporting literacy and learning in your community! Join us!

Learn more about the Foundation @ www.ekellyfoundation.ca/.



“Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help.”

William Arthur Ward