



# DONOR REPORT 2014





**Vision:** Inspire youth in Canada and South Africa, to overcome barriers, unlock their potential, and contribute to their communities.

**Mission:** The Leacock Foundation enables and supports youth to develop skills, competencies, and confidence through: educational enrichment, leadership initiatives, connections, and partnerships.

Your Donations at Work	2
Letter from Peter Oliver	3
Letter from Hayley Wickenheiser	4
Why You Matter	5
Overview of Program Successes	6
New in 2014: YUVA	8
Who You Reached: A Lasting Impact	10
Leacock Member Experience	12
Looking Ahead	14
Financial Report	16
Message from the Leacock Staff	17

# Your Donations at Work

## EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

**\$389,412**

Infrastructure, technology & educational opportunities for underserved youth



## TORONTO, CANADA

**\$302,940**

Literacy & leadership after-school & summer programs for underserved youth



### DIRECT IMPACT

#### SOUTH AFRICA

**3** School partners

**1400** Youth enrolled in GAP partner schools

#### CANADA

**6** School partners

**880** Youth enrolled in literacy & leadership programs

**160** Volunteers engaged

**65** People employed

## Letter from Peter Oliver

Dear Leacock Members,

It has been twelve years since The Leacock Foundation established the Triangle of Hope and we began our journey to make a difference in the lives of underserved children at the Get Ahead Project in South Africa and in underserved neighborhoods in Toronto. We have built classrooms & buildings, created and supported literacy programs, and launched a leadership initiative inspired by my friend, Bob Martin. We have touched the lives of thousands of children and their families.

This year our Board of Directors spent time reflecting on this journey and making plans for the future. While we are all very proud of how far we have come, there is still much to do, and as a result of our planning and visioning, I am more enthused than ever about the next phase of our journey together.

In Toronto our growth will be focused on further developing our Leadership Programs aimed at vulnerable youth, and launching our new overnight summer camp program for young people from our Triangle of Hope Communities. We have found an ideal partner in the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority, and over four weeks in July 2015, 120 young people will spend a week at Albion Hills just north of the city. By next year we will double the number of participants and continue to grow in the years to come.

In South Africa our focus has shifted from building classrooms and equipping the school with first world technology resources, to a deeper



consideration of how to make the Get Ahead Schools Project a model of excellence to inspire all schools in the Eastern Cape, and ultimately the entire country. This will require us to invest in the training and development of the teaching staff to ensure that students at Get Ahead are provided the best possible instruction in the critical job generating areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

When anyone asks me what the Leacock Foundation does, the best answer I can give is that we help young people in Toronto and South Africa unlock their potential. Through our Literacy and Leadership programs, which now span grade 1 to graduation, we are helping young people create a brighter future for themselves. A brighter future for them is a win for all of us—and we could not do it without your continued support. Thank you for staying on this journey with us, our best days are just around the corner.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Peter Oliver'.





## Letter from Hayley Wickenheiser

In July 2014, Canadian hockey legend, Order of Canada appointee, and five-time Olympic medalist Hayley Wickenheiser, visited the Get Ahead Project, the Leacock Foundation's partner school in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Hayley was accompanied by Gaston Barban, the Canadian High Commissioner in South Africa, and by her teenage son, Noah.

While at Get Ahead, Hayley met with teachers, school administration and Heads, receiving tours of classrooms and computer labs. Most memorably, Hayley spent time with learners, hearing about their academic experience, seeing their schoolwork, and sharing her Olympic gold medals.



“There is so much important work being done by the Leacock Foundation in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. I was so proud to see such meaningful Canadian involvement at the Get Ahead Project, and was thrilled to see the Canadian flag flying high in front of the school. The Leacock-funded classrooms at Get Ahead are impressive, complete with computers, textbooks, and learning materials. This type of classroom is above the norm from most other public schools in South Africa. I took my son Noah (15 years old) with me and he was very impressed, as he has seen ‘five to no star’ schools himself all across Africa, and remarked how well done these schools are. I was proud to be Canadian on that day. I am so inspired by the experienced educators at Get Ahead and the generosity of Canadians who are making an impact for young people in the Eastern Cape. There is real and marked change going on and I am proud to support the Leacock Foundation any way that I can.”



## Why You Matter

Your contributions to the Leacock Foundation ensure that we are able to provide young people in Toronto and South Africa access to enriching, cost-free leadership and educational opportunities.

**Toronto's** shocking child poverty statistics have highlighted the ongoing need for programs like those provided by the Leacock Foundation. When you consider that 29% of Toronto's youth live below the poverty line, and that access to after-school and summer programs is directly tied to a family's income, it is clear that there is a real need for fully subsidized programming to support vulnerable youth in our city.

Our youth-focused after-school and summer programs are helping compensate for the inequities that plague our city's neighbourhoods, and they play a significant role in narrowing the gaps in achievement between more and less advantaged students.

Thanks to your continued support, Leacock works in partnership with 4 of Toronto's most underserved communities; Jane & Finch, Scarborough, St. James Town and the Urban Aboriginal Community, providing quality programs that make a difference.

**In South Africa:** The Leacock Foundation's partner school, the Get Ahead Project, is located in the Eastern Cape, which is South Africa's poorest province. In the midst of poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to resources, the Get Ahead schools create an oasis for students and offer a top quality education.

Over 70 per cent of people experience poverty in the Eastern Cape, with incredible economic disparities between rural and urban communities, and high rates of unemployment. Throughout South Africa the overall poor quality schooling and under-qualified maths and science teachers have limited the capacity of young South Africans, especially those living in rural communities in the country's poorer provinces.

Because of your contributions, students and teachers alike at the Get Ahead Project have access to technology, up-to-date academic resources, marketable skills, competencies for university, and leadership capabilities for job creation, all of which when combined and embraced by a growing number of young people, will lift the Eastern Cape out of poverty.



“Leap Camp has always been a wonderful space to extend the learning abilities of the students it enrolls, as it focuses on both their academic and experiential literacy.”

– Abukar, Leap Camp teacher





## Overview of Program Successes

### TORONTO:

#### Literacy:

- LEAP Into Literacy Summer Camp
- Saturday Literacy Club
- Reading Buddies
- JUMP Math Tutoring
- March Break Booster Camp

#### Leadership:

- YUVA (Youth United in Visionary Action)
- TRAILS Outdoor Leadership
- St. James Town Youth Council March Break Camp

### SOUTH AFRICA:

#### Literacy:

- Extended Day program in the computer lab (Get Ahead College)
- Master Maths Software Programs
- Access to e-readers and tablets for all high school students
- 87% Matric pass rate, 41% Bachelor pass rate (higher than the National Pass Rate)

#### Leadership:

- Outdoor leadership field trips
- Debate Club national championships
- Bus Stop Theatre
- Tech Integration training for teachers
- Winter School

“It really helps us on our teamwork skills and cooperation. We are really able to apply all those things back at school.”

– Deborah, YUVA participant



# New in 2014: YUVA (Youth United in Visionary Action)

YUVA is a program developed by World Vision Canada and the Yonge Street Mission, and facilitated by the Leacock Foundation. It stands for Youth United in Visionary Action and is a leadership and civic engagement/social justice program for young people in grades 7 and 8. Youth involved in YUVA meet as a group twice per week for two hours at a time, from October through to April.

Introducing YUVA as a program option for grade 7 and 8 youth was a significant landmark for the Leacock Foundation, as it expanded the continuum of care we now provide, keeping youth engaged in our programs from grade 2 right through to high school.

The first half of the program involves the youth participants working with their leader and teammates to develop leadership, teamwork, and communications skills through interactive games and reflective activities. During the second half of YUVA, the youth discuss issues they believe

are prominent in their community. They get into smaller groups and put their leadership and communications skills into practice by designing a Community Action Plan to help resolve the issue. Once their Action Plans are complete, the youth travel to Ottawa with their leader and volunteers and present their plans in either Parliament or at the Assembly of First Nations.

The Leacock Foundation's pilot YUVA group happened in partnership with the First Nations School of Toronto. 11 youth worked extremely hard throughout the school year, and presented their Community Action Plan to end bullying in their school community at the Assembly of First Nations in Ottawa, at City Hall in Toronto, and at the Leacock Foundation's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Debate.

Due to its success and impact, Leacock expanded YUVA programs to include our other partner communities in Scarborough and St. James Town for the 2014–2015 school year.







## Who You Reached: A Lasting Impact

**TORONTO: Saesan's Story:** For five years now I have been volunteering and working with the Leacock Foundation's Saturday Morning Programs and summer Leap Into Literacy Camps. These five years have been amazing to say the least, and I have learned so much from working with the students and teachers who continuously give up their Saturday mornings to make new friends and learn.

Working with young people has greatly impacted my life, as they have shown me the joy in seeing others succeed. Through my time with the Leacock Foundation, I have seen students grow as individuals, as learners, as teachers, and as leaders, and just knowing that I somehow, some way, helped these students become better individuals, makes me happy.

Throughout the Saturday Morning Programs, you see the students become really engaged, as they form relationships with their peers, volunteers, and teachers. That is another important thing

I learned from working with young people and volunteers—the importance of forming relationships.

By spending so much of my time with these students and wonderful teachers, I learned what I want to do with the rest of my life. I want to be a teacher, a teacher who will have an impact on every student's life that walks into my classroom. I would not have realized this without the opportunities I had through my roles at Leacock's Saturday Morning Program and Summer Literacy Camp. It's because of these valuable experiences that I will dedicate my life to working with children and youth.





**SOUTH AFRICA: GAP Alumnus Anelisiwe's Story:**

I believe that I am an outgoing person, I love being with people and meeting new people. I am very talkative—I am usually that person in the group that doesn't stop talking. But most importantly I am a hard worker, I love learning new things and improving my knowledge on various things. Furthermore I am a girl that is obsessed with success and works hard to achieve a better future.

I am currently enrolled at the University of Western Cape, where I am pursuing my LLB (Law) degree. I am in my second year now and I am loving it. Although it can be difficult at times to balance work and social life, I try my best to ensure I can achieve satisfactory results.

I have so many plans for my future. Firstly I would like to obtain my degree within the given period which is four years, then go to law school for a year. After that, for two years I will do my articles at a law firm and then practise as an attorney thereafter. Obviously I want a family, but only

when I am financially stable. I will then further my studies by doing my masters and PhD. By God's grace I shall achieve my goals.

Recently, I have been invited by the Dean of the law faculty to join a program for top students in the law faculty. That has been the greatest achievement thus far for me.

Being a Get Ahead student impacted my education, because it taught me skills that I still utilize now. Our teachers, in particular Mr Qata, always encouraged us to motivate ourselves in order to become better people. Thank you to the Leacock Foundation for helping to create such a special place where I was able to learn and grow.



## Leacock Member Experience

Becoming a member of the Leacock Foundation involves more than just giving back to youth in your community. It is an opportunity to join our family of prominent members in the Greater Toronto area and be part of a meaningful philanthropic movement.

Leacock and Young Professionals of Leacock members are invited to several exclusive annual events hosted by the Leacock Foundation. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors and members, and want to ensure we keep you updated, engaged, and connected through unique and exclusive event opportunities.

### **The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Leacock Debate**

The Leacock Debate, a Leacock tradition since 1998, provides an evening of wit and humour as notable speakers banter back and forth in dispute over one single resolution. This year's Debate at Arcadian Court featured debaters Calvin Trillin, Robyn Doolittle, Linden MacIntyre, and Michael Winter, moderated by the Honourable Bob Rae. The resolution disputed was "be it resolved that the truth is stranger than fiction". It was a wonderful evening for all involved, with all funds raised, supporting Leacock's literacy and leadership initiatives in Toronto and South Africa.







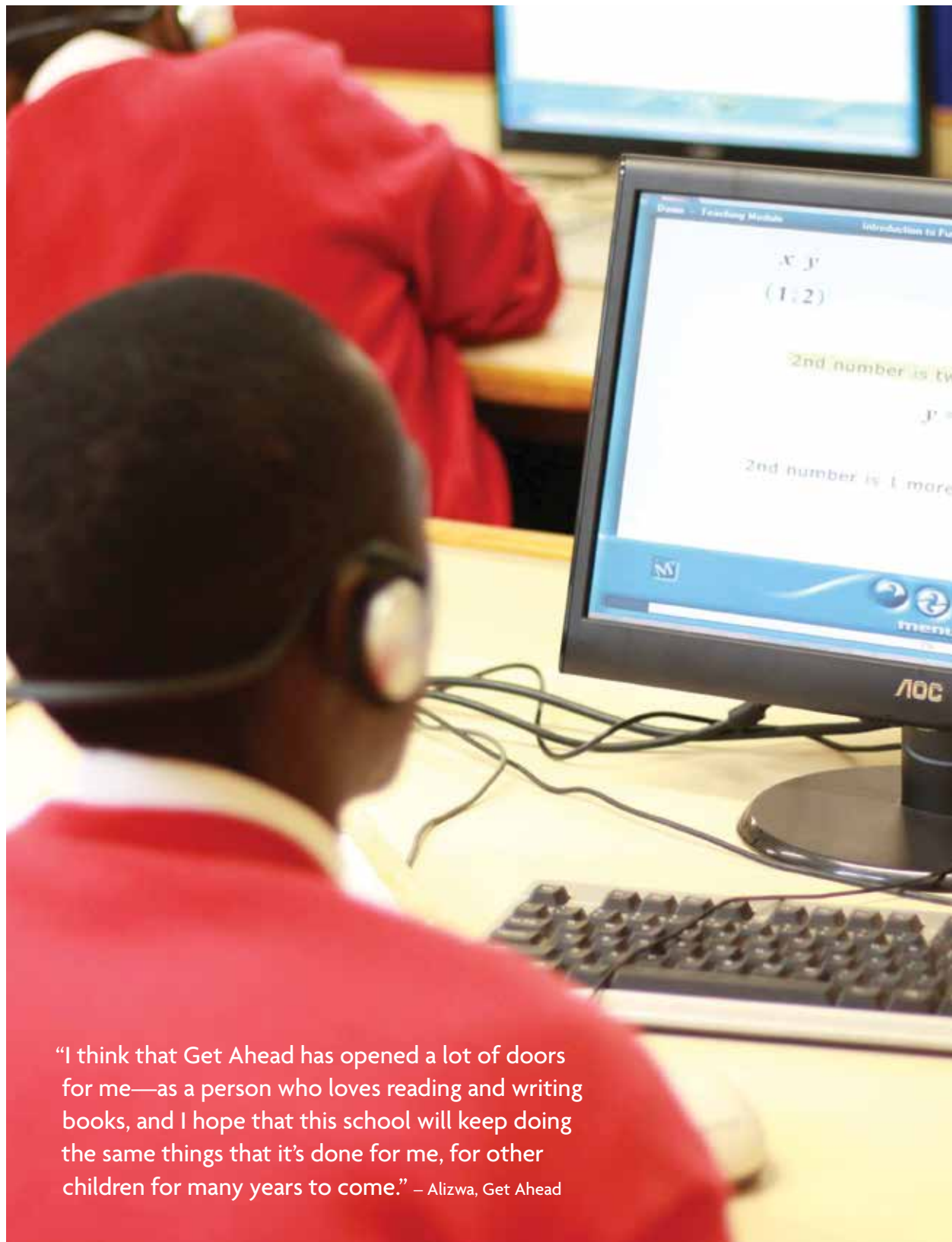
### **The Young Professionals of Leacock Axe Throwing Fundraiser**

The Young Professionals of Leacock (YPL) are a club of prominent young professionals aged 20 to 45 with a philanthropic mindset. This year's annual YPL event was at the Backyard Axe Throwing League in Toronto. YPL members and their friends, colleagues, and families attended the evening, which was complete with axe throwing lessons, an axe throwing tournament, and of course, food, drinks, and networking opportunities.

### **The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Leacock Golf Tournament, Dinner, and Auction**

Another traditional Leacock event, 2014's annual golf tournament was held at Granite Golf Club, followed by a dinner and auction at Auberge du Pommier. Leacock members and supporters enjoyed a beautiful day of golf followed by a wonderful dinner and competitive auction. The event raised a significant amount of money in support of Leacock's leadership initiatives for underserved youth.





“I think that Get Ahead has opened a lot of doors for me—as a person who loves reading and writing books, and I hope that this school will keep doing the same things that it’s done for me, for other children for many years to come.” – Alizwa, Get Ahead



# Looking Ahead

Our program results and feedback show that with continued growth and expansion, we will have a direct impact not only on the lives of youth, but on the overall well-being and productivity of our partner communities in Toronto and the Eastern Cape of South Africa. We strongly believe that an investment in unlocking the potential of a young person is an investment in the future of our communities and businesses.

## Expanding the Continuum of Care in Toronto through Outdoor Leadership Opportunities

With the significant success and impact of our leadership programs like YUVA and outdoor leadership programs like Lead through Trails, the Leacock Foundation will be expanding its leadership initiatives in 2015 to include overnight summer camp programming and after-school young entrepreneur clubs. In partnership with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the Leacock Foundation will be launching its first month of week-long overnight summer camp programs in July 2015. With these programs, Leacock's continuum of care will continue to grow, with youth from grades

2 to high school engaged in meaningful literacy and leadership programming after school, on weekends, and during the summer.

## Enhancing Education in South Africa: Relevant, Employable and Marketable Skills

Thanks to your generosity and continued support, all 3 Get Ahead Project school campuses are now up and running with functioning computer labs, WiFi, eduboard, e-readers, classroom supplies, and secure outdoor learning spaces. As we move into 2015, Leacock will continue supporting educational and leadership curriculum at the GAP schools. We will do this by supporting GAP as it integrates STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) into its existing curriculum, and coordinates teacher professional development and infrastructure upgrades as required according to this new curriculum. With a globalized economy and significant emphasis on technology, we are thrilled to support GAP's integration of STEM into learning, as it means GAP graduates will be even more employable and successful in the near future.





## Financial Report

REVENUE	2014
Memberships and Donations	627,025
Fund raising activities, special events and other	327,906
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>954,931</b>
Direct fund raising, special event and marketing expenses	(190,724)
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$764,207</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Program support funding: South Africa Programs	389,412
Program support funding: Toronto Programs	302,940
Marketing and indirect fundraising expenses	31,878
General administration	80,681
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>804,911</b>
<b>Surplus (Shortfall)</b>	<b>(40,704)</b>
Fund balance at beginning of year	814,650
<b>Fund balance at end of year</b>	<b>\$773,946</b>

## Message from the Leacock Staff

Judy, Patricia, Justine and I are so grateful to you, our dedicated supporters, for providing us the opportunity to spend each day working to benefit the lives of young people in Toronto and South Africa. We hope that you have felt informed and connected to what we are up to throughout the year, and we would love to know if there are ways in which we can keep you more up to date on our programs and progress.

This year we have enhanced our social media reach with more regular updates on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. If you are not following along, please join us on Facebook by searching The Leacock Foundation to find our page. To follow us on Instagram go to [www.instagram.com/Leacock\\_Fdn](http://www.instagram.com/Leacock_Fdn) and for Twitter go to [www.twitter.com/Leacock\\_Fdn](http://www.twitter.com/Leacock_Fdn). There is nothing like starting your day seeing the smiling face of one of our GAP students participating in the day's lesson, or a picture of some of our Toronto students enjoying the day outdoors as part of our LEAD Through Trails program. We hope this glimpse into what you are helping to create will inspire you, as much as it does us.

We look forward to continuing our journey with you. There are so many new and exciting things on the horizon in 2015. Thank you for your ongoing commitment. Without you, we could not succeed in our mission to make a difference in the lives of young people.




Sincerely,

Kristine Gaston, Judy Maclellan, Patricia Jerred, and Justine Stacey



<b>Peter Oliver</b>	<i>President</i>
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2323 Yonge St. Suite 301, Toronto, ON M4P 2C9  
416.489.9309 [www.leacockfoundation.org](http://www.leacockfoundation.org)