



2017 Annual Report

Our Purpose

Our vision

Working together to create healthy communities for generations to come.

Employee-led

All our charitable giving is led by our employees. That means employees raise money and decide where it goes.

Our priority areas: health and education

Through the Foundation, we want to support causes that are important to our employees, which is why we asked them what they would like to support through charitable giving via a survey. We learned that many of them want to support charities that focus on providing services in health and education to vulnerable and marginalized children and youth. Thus, our priority areas are health and education.

The OMERS Foundation launched in Canada in September 2016. Since then, the Foundation has grown to be an important expression of OMERS culture. The Foundation embodies our values of integrity, service, teamwork, excellence and stewardship, and it promotes our belief that, together, we are stronger.



We've shown that, as individuals and as an organization, we care about making our community a better place. Together, our contributions help create lasting change and a brighter future for children, youth, families and individuals in our community. Together, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow. Thank you for your support.

Michael Latimer
CEO, OMERS

It has been said that the unique purpose of an organization is to make strength productive. OMERS Foundation has a bounty of opportunities found in the strengths of every OMERS employee. Thank you for your part in our vision to create vibrant communities. I am honoured and humbled by the passion and commitment colleagues around the organization have shown toward this initiative.

Shilpa Tiwari
VP Corporate Social Responsibility,
President, OMERS Foundation

Our Fundraising

OMERS Jersey Day



OMERS Foundation Golf Tournament



OMERS Foundation Week Jolly Trolley

135 PAYROLL DONORS
156 EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERS
100 GRANT APPLICATIONS

OMERS Bingo Day



OMERS Foundation Unselfie Day

OMERS Foundation Week Bake Sale



OMERS Ventures Charity Poker Tournament

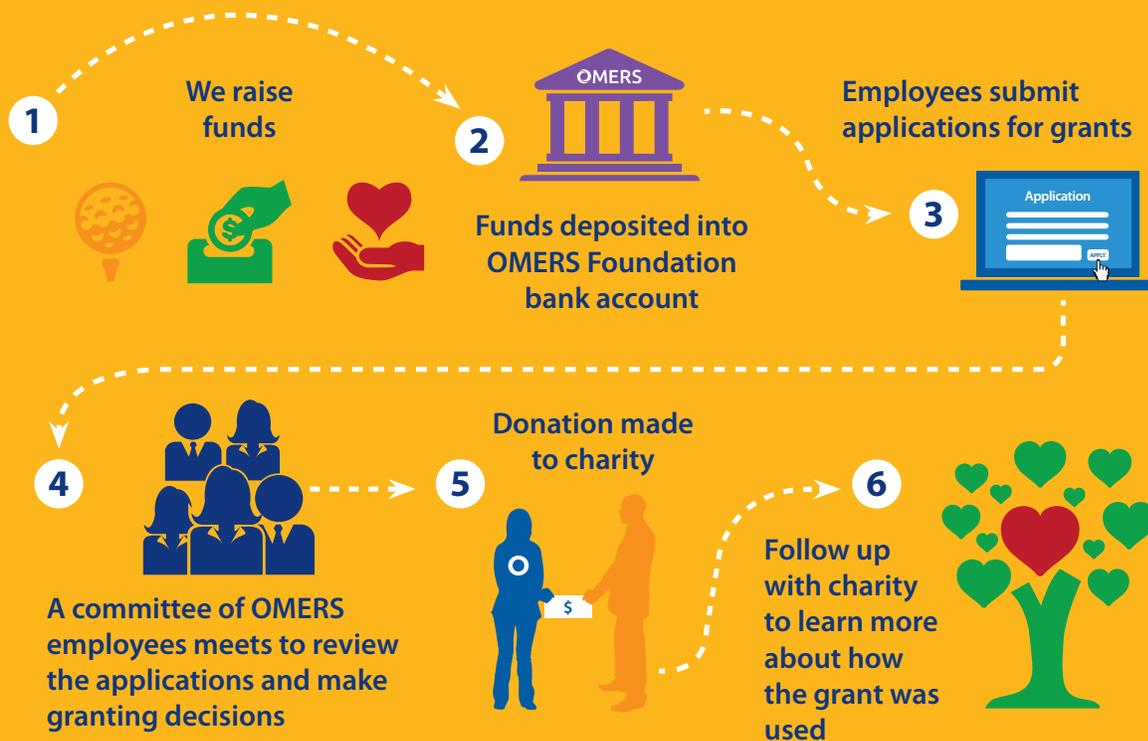


OMERS Foundation Week Halloween Lunch

Our Process

The Granting Process

Employees are asked to submit applications to nominate charities of their choice twice per year. The number of charities receiving grants will depend on the funds available. The Foundation Board of Directors has indicated that a minimum of 90% of all funds collected will be distributed on a yearly basis, with the remainder to cover audit and legal costs, and any minor expenses.



2017 Grant Recipients

CHARITY NAME	AMOUNT
Amici Camping Charity	\$10,000
Between the Bridges	\$5,000
Eva Rothwell Centre	\$20,000
Fort York Food Bank	\$20,000
George Hull Centre for Children and Families	\$15,000
ISAND	\$20,000
Jack Davis Hope Foundation	\$10,000
Just Socks	\$5,000
Matthew House	\$20,000
Safehaven Project for Community Living	\$10,000
Teach for Canada	\$20,000
Unity	\$20,000
Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Canada	\$20,000

Total Granted
\$195,000

13
Local Charities
Supported

For more information on our financial statements, please see www.omers.com/Foundation

Our Impact



George Hull Centre for Children and Families

The grant from the OMERS Foundation was used to develop and implement an evidence-based treatment group for adolescents with serious, longstanding problems managing their own difficult emotions, often leading to impulsive, self-destructive behaviours that put them at high risk for serious harm and/or death through suicide attempts. The Teen Talk group teaches concrete skills to handle distressing situations, improve relationships, and create a life worth living.



Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Canada

The grant from the OMERS Foundation was used to support YPI's program—delivery costs for 3,580 students at 19 public schools in Toronto. YPI's inclusive, award-winning experiential philanthropy program empowers youth ages 14-16 to stand up for diverse social issues and local charities, to build a strong sense of purpose and connection to their community, and to develop lasting social, emotional and cognitive skills.



Teach for Canada

OMERS contribution is fully funding the training of 10 Teach for Canada teachers, who will live and teach across 19 northern First Nations for a minimum of two years. Their teaching will improve outcomes for 300+ First Nations students. Teach For Canada's Summer Enrichment Program equips teachers with knowledge of indigenous histories, cultures and perspectives. With the support of well-prepared and committed teachers, students in northern First Nations schools are showing increased attendance, engagement and achievement.



Matthew House

The number of refugees in the world is increasing and, consequently, more are arriving on the doorstep of Canada, seeking a place of safety and refuge. Youth refugees are vulnerable because they have fled war-torn lands or countries, but are also alone, with no family to guide them through the complex journey of resettling in Canada. We recently opened another home for youth last fall and, thanks to the Foundation's support, we were able to set it up with furnishings and a support program that caters specifically to the needs of refugee youth.

Our Impact



Integrated Services for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders (ISAND)

ISAND serves families who live with autism and/or other neurodevelopmental disorders. We are incredibly grateful to have received a grant from the OMERS Foundation, which will allow 16 families to participate in a 12-week program that provides professional coaching and support to help young people to build and maintain social relationships at home, at school and in the community.



Safehaven Project for Community Living

OMERS Foundation funding enabled us to upgrade our Snoezelen therapy rooms for our clients, people with disabilities, at our locations. A Snoezelen Room, consists of placing the person in a soothing and stimulating environment, designed to deliver stimuli to various senses, using lighting, colour, sounds, music, etc. The combination of different materials on a wall may be explored using tactile senses, and the floor may be adjusted to stimulate the sense of equilibrium.



Amici Camping Charity

Thanks to the OMERS Foundation, 10 children from families in financial need attended summer camp. At camp, young people are offered exposure to the Canadian wilderness through activities like canoe trips, hikes in provincial parks, mountain biking, and rock climbing. These experiences are significant, as 80% of families in our program live in the city, with incomes below the recommended living wage. The OMERS Foundation helped mitigate the nature deficit in these young people, while also empowering them to discover their full potential.



Fort York Food Bank

With the support of the OMERS Foundation Grant, Fort York Food Bank was able to successfully relocate our operations to a new, more amenable facility for our clients. The assistance allowed for a smooth transition, so we could continue to assist approximately 1,000 people each month with groceries, meals and other supportive services.

Our People

What makes the OMERS Foundation special ...



**Sherif Masood, Toronto
Fundraising Committee Member**

I find it rewarding being part of this OMERS team, raising money to give back to the communities and causes closest to our hearts. The enthusiasm across the OMERS organization for the Foundation has been infectious. It's great to see the happiness of my colleagues when their nominations are selected!



**Serge Semenets, Toronto
Foundation Volunteer**

As a newcomer to Canada, I've been on the receiving end of many charities, and I know the positive, lifelong difference they made in my life, so it was only right to pass the unforgettable feeling along.



**Amy Sze, Toronto
Fundraising Committee Member**

It is an amazing experience to have the opportunity to help build a financial foundation to support vibrant and healthy communities across Canada. I am very proud to be a part of a group with passion, commitment, creativity and a sense of fun!



**Meghan (MJ) Kinney, Edmonton
Granting Committee Member**

I am very proud to be a part of this employee-driven initiative and for the opportunity to make a positive impact on charities that our employees feel passionate about.



**Teresa Lee, Toronto
Charity Nominator**

I'm very grateful to all the OMERS colleagues that support the OMERS Foundation, whether financially or with their precious time, and, in many cases, both. Via the OMERS Foundation, I am privileged to be afforded the ability to support ISAND, a tremendous organization making immeasurable differences for many families in our local communities.



**Lesley Andersen, Toronto
Granting Committee Member**

Working on the OMERS Foundation Committee has been a positive experience. Helping play a role in directing funds to these initiatives is gratifying in many ways: we are supporting worthy causes, we are showing our colleagues that we care about what they believe in, and we are making a tangible difference in our communities. I am proud of the due diligence and robust dialogue that takes place when determining the grant recipients.



**Rasha Ghandour, Toronto
Charity Nominator**

I could not be any more proud to work here, specifically for the significant impact it has made on my charity, the Fort York Food Bank, and on the people in the community. The money was used for long overdue renovations, which gave the place a homey and inviting feeling, and to buy bigger ovens, which made cooking easier, faster and allowed the chefs to focus on quality meals.



**Rafal Mendyk, Toronto
Fundraising Committee Member**

I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to make a contribution to the OMERS Foundation by working on the Fundraising Committee. It is a great way to give back to the communities and causes close to our employees' and members' hearts. It has also been a fantastic experience collaborating with my colleagues from across the OMERS organization, which I think strengthens our culture of One OMERS.

Our Thanks

A lot of work goes into making the OMERS Foundation a success. We couldn't do it without employees across the organization volunteering their time and making generous donations. Some of the people that make it all happen are:

Fundraising Committee Members

Amy Sze
Cinzia Soda
Jayna Mistry
Kim Beatty
Maria Mendoza Camba
Nicole Kelly
Nina Larsen
Rafal Mendyk
Rasha Ghandour
Sandra Ramirez
Sherif Masood
Tenio Evangelista
Teresa Martin
Vanessa Naughton

Granting Committee Members

Alexandra Carruthers
Andrew Prodanyk
Christina Conte
Derek Brochu
Erin Cohanin
Jeffrey Brooke
Jennifer Geng
Jennifer Lovrics
Kath Hammond
Lauren Skinner
Lesley Andersen
Megan Kinney

Shilpa Tiwari, President

Board of Directors

Andrew Prodanyk
Kim Beatty
Roberta Hague



How You Can Get Involved

If you are interested in joining a committee, or volunteering, please email omersgives@omers.com.

If you'd like to give a one-time donation, you can do so easily online through Canada Helps.

Becoming a monthly donor is easy and can be done by clicking the monthly donor option on our Canada Helps page, or by emailing omersgives@omers.com and requesting a payroll deduction form.

Contact Us

Please send feedback about this Report to:
omersgives@omers.com