



AIR CANADA

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Air Canada Foundation Continues to Provide Support to Hundreds of Canadian Families in Need Across Canada

- *First ever Travel Auction raised over \$135,000 for children and youth*
- *Annual Matching Campaign raised over 1 million Aeroplan points for the Hospital Transportation Program*
- *More than 300 Air Canada employees give back to the community through multiple volunteer initiatives*

Attn video editors: View a video showcasing how donations truly make a difference in the lives of sick children needing to travel for medical care away from home: <https://vimeo.com/492537995>

MONTREAL, December 21, 2020 – In a year that has been challenging unlike any other, the Air Canada Foundation successfully continued its proud tradition of helping Canadian families in need from coast to coast. For December alone, over \$135,000 (net) was raised through an inaugural public online auction, along with over 1 million Aeroplan points through its annual Matching Campaign.

The auction funds raised will be redistributed to Canadian registered charities which focus on the health and well-being of children and youth, while the Aeroplan points donated by Aeroplan and its members will go toward the Hospital Transportation Program to help connect sick children to the medical care they need away from home.

“Despite the seemingly endless challenges of 2020, many individuals opened their physical and digital wallets to donate money and points to help make a positive difference in the lives of children and youth. From the bottom of our hearts, we sincerely thank you for this generosity. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we also acknowledge all our partners, Air Canada employees and retirees, other donors and supporters in bringing these initiatives to life,” said Priscille Leblanc, Chair of the Air Canada Foundation.

Meet our 2020 Hero, Arianne Monger

Each year, through its Hospital Transportation Program, the Air Canada Foundation donates Aeroplan points to 15 pediatric hospitals across Canada to help children reach the medical care they need away from home.

A few years ago, Arianne was referred to the [Montreal Children's Hospital](#), located 11-12 hours by car from her home in *Sept-Îles*, Quebec. Since then, Arianne has been using the Air Canada Foundation Hospital Transportation Program to access the care she needs. Her trips to the Montreal Children's Hospital are made possible because of the generous donations made by Aeroplan and its members.

Learn more about the Hospital Transportation Program here
<https://www.aircanada.com/en/about/community/foundation/http.html>.

Air Canada employees volunteer coast to coast

More than 300 employees came together to help out in their local communities across the country.

- In Montreal, over 150 employees and their family members became Santa for a day, brightening the spirits of more than 200 children in need through Quebec-based charity, [Opération Père Noël](#).
- Employees in Toronto rallied to raise donations for [Second Harvest's Turkey Drive](#) to help nourish those who have been hit hard by the pandemic.
- Vancouver-based employees in collaboration with [Covenant House Vancouver](#), assembled Christmas backpacks full of brand-new gifts for youth experiencing homelessness.
- In New Brunswick, employees volunteered with the YMCA of Greater Saint John to sell Christmas trees, enabling the Y to raise funds for part of the *Strong Communities* fund, *SJ Newcomer Center Scholarship* fund and *Emergency Support* fund.

“Our employees have opened their hearts, going above and beyond to help others. I am grateful for their outstanding dedication and resilience, core values that reflect our strong culture. We believe that our employees are our greatest asset, and their full participation in the communities we serve allows our airline to truly thrive,” said Arielle Meloul-Wechsler, Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources and Communications Officer at Air Canada.

2020 Highlights

In addition to its December achievements, key initiatives undertaken throughout 2020 included:

- Air Canada and the Air Canada Foundation initiated a food rescue effort across Canada, offering more than 570,000 kilograms of food from April to December, representing more than 1.2 million meals. These efforts supported more than 70 frontline social service organizations across eight provinces and over 1.3 million kg of greenhouse gases were averted from the avoidance of new food production, processing or retailing.
- Air Canada donated and diverted from landfill more than 80 banners to a Toronto-based community initiative producing 1,000 face coverings for [Michael Garron Hospital](#).
- In October, Air Canada Cargo and the Foundation brought Drone Delivery Canada (DDC), the Pontiac Group, GlobalMedic and generous donors together to [implement DDC's drone delivery solution for the Beausoleil First Nation Community in Ontario](#).
- Air Canada employees supported the [Canadian Red Cross's](#) efforts in the fight against COVID-19, either by recruiting 400+ medical support staff for the *Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux* of West Montreal Island, or by becoming Emergency Care Workers in Long Term Care homes.

To donate or for additional information about the Foundation's programs, partners and events, visit aircanada.com/foundation.

About the Air Canada Foundation

The Air Canada Foundation, a not-for-profit organization focused on the health and well-being of children and youth, was launched in 2012. It offers both financial and in-kind support to Canadian registered charities. Core programs include the Hospital Transportation Program, which redistributes Aeroplan points to 15 pediatric hospitals across Canada, enabling sick children to access the medical care they need away from home. The Air Canada Foundation, in collaboration with the airline, also engages directly in fundraising activities, such as the Every Bit Counts program, which encourages Air Canada and Air Canada Rouge customers to donate loose change of all denominations on board flights or through collection containers available in Air Canada Maple Leaf Lounges. The Foundation also offers continued support to major health-related causes that benefit Canadians and is an active participant in international humanitarian relief activity as the need arises. For more information about the Air Canada Foundation, please visit www.aircanada.com/foundation or read its [2019 Impact Report](#).

About Air Canada

Air Canada is Canada's largest domestic and international airline. Canada's flag carrier is among the 20 largest airlines in the world and in 2019 served over 51 million customers. Air Canada is a founding member of Star Alliance, the world's most comprehensive air transportation network. Air Canada is the only international network carrier in North America to receive a Four-Star ranking according to independent U.K. research firm Skytrax, which also named Air Canada the 2019 Best Airline in North America. For more information, please visit: aircanada.com/media, follow Air Canada on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and join Air Canada on [Facebook](#).

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