



100 John West Way
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 6J1
(905) 727-3123
aurora.ca

Application to Receive Funds

The Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic has raised over \$1 million to date and has financially assisted several community organizations to provide much needed services to residents living in the Town of Aurora. Recipient selection is conducted annually by the application review and disbursement committee of the Town of Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic and is based on the information provided in this application.

Funding Criteria and guidelines;

- Individual applicants and community groups must demonstrate financial hardship or a limited means to retain funds in another manner. Individual applications demonstrating financial hardship will be kept confidential.
- Individuals and organizations may not receive funding for more than two consecutive years.
- Funding requests for more than \$5,000 in a calendar year will not be accepted.
- Funding requests for more than 50% of an initiative will not be considered and applicants must demonstrate how the remaining funds will be or have been obtained
- Applications should demonstrate a benefit to the residents of the Town of Aurora that receiving the funding will provide
- Successful applicants will be required to report back in any way they deem appropriate regarding the utilization of funds within six (6) months of receiving funds

Name of Individual or Community Group *

Learning Disabilities Association of York Simcoe

Address

Street Number and Name *

9030 Leslie St

City/ Town *

Richmond Hill

Province *

Ontario

Postal Code *

L4B 1G2

Contact Information

Email Address *

helga.sirola@ldays.org

Phone Number *

(905) 884-7933

On a separate document, please outline your initiative and any supporting documentation you have. The information being provided should align with the funding criteria guidelines found above. Please attach your documentation with this this form.

To Whom It May Concern,

We at the *Learning Disabilities Association of York Simcoe* (LDAYS) would like to request \$5000 from the *2025 Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic*. We are extremely excited to potentially participate in this event and we believe any amount of proceeds would go a long way in helping us better serve the residents of Aurora.

LDAYS is a non-profit organization that advocates and works with students and adults with a primary diagnosis of learning disabilities (LD) and/or ADHD. The funds from this event will go towards our summer camp, which will entail a 2 week fully subsidized camp in Aurora for children of ages 7-12 with LDs and/or ADHD. The camp activities will include outdoor swimming, nature walks, arts and crafts, with an additional focus on building social skills in a safe and encouraging environment. We will be using our established Social Skills program that is curriculum based and covers topics such as communication, relationship building, emotional regulation, self-esteem, self-advocacy, problem solving, and internet safety. Each day will consist of learning sessions interspaced between activities and play that are designed to help develop these skills. We have been running our summer camp in Aurora for over 23 years, and are excited to bring it to Aurora this summer free of charge.

This program will serve the Aurora residents by offering a safe, engaging, and positive space for like-minded individuals to practice their social skills, form connections, and build confidence in themselves and their abilities. Social skills are particularly important life skills for children with LDs and/or ADHD, as they often lack self-confidence or may feel inferior to others. Building these skills can increase their self-esteem, improve their self-awareness, empower them to self-advocate, and contribute to their overall success in school and work. According to the *Learning Disability Association of Ontario*, the incidence rate of LDs is estimated to range as high as 10% or more of the population, though there is more statistical evidence from demographic sources for a range of 4 to 6%. In the YRDSB, 54.2% of all students with an identification have a learning disability (The Regional Municipality of York, 2019). A Canadian study concluded that children with LDs have fewer reciprocal friends, lower quality of friendship, lower social acceptance, lower academic self-concept, and poorer social skills than their normally achieving non-LD peers, with only 11.3% of these individuals ranking their social skills as high (PACFOLD, 2005). Students with LDs can be successful when properly supported and solid coping skills are developed. Creating a space and community of like-minded individuals will help our participants feel included and supported by one another.

We plan to use the received funding to subsidize the camp for students in low to middle-income households. We project the total cost of our camp to be \$12,000, thus we are asking for \$5,000 to help us subsidize 12 students. As a Non-Profit, we are fully sustained by community support and are constantly looking for donations and funding, especially since we do not currently have a sponsor for our Social Skills program. With \$5000 we will be able to subsidize 12 children ages 7-12 who have been diagnosed with an LD and/or ADHD and live in low to middle income households in Aurora. Children born to low-income families are less likely to have access to services that would treat their LD and inform and reduce stigma surrounding their disability. Historically, programs like our summer camp are expensive and can be unaffordable and financially straining on families with children identified with an LD and/or ADHD. Often children with ADHD are expected to pay for additional



Learning Disabilities Association of York Region
9030 Leslie Street, Unit 216
Richmond Hill, ON L4B3L8
Tel: 905-884-7933 Fax: 905-770-9377
E-mail: info@ldays.org Website: www.ldays.org

support at camp programs, which can be costly to the parents and isolating to the camper. Funding will give the opportunity for individuals in low to middle income households in Aurora to participate in a subsidized learning experience and summer camp that will provide lifelong skills and help build a stronger foundation for their future.

Should the LDAYS be selected as one of the recipients for the *2025 Aurora Mayor's Charity Golf Classic* this year, we will gratefully recognize this donation through all of our communication outlets with our clients in the community. We would promote our participation in the event throughout the whole process, leading up to the event, during the event and after the event has taken place. We would do this through articles in our agency newsletters that are emailed to over 300 of our association's members, our website, our organization's social media accounts on Instagram and Facebook (currently followed by approximately 22,000 individuals combined), and our emails to parents whose children have signed up for camp.

We strongly believe that funding of \$5000 for our summer camp would largely benefit the LD and ADHD community in Aurora, especially those in low to middle income households. We thank you for your consideration and we hope that you will choose us to participate in your event this year. The cost for the location and facilitators fees will already be subsidized by Bingo funds we have secured for 2025 the camp.

We thank you for your time and consideration,

Helga Sirola
Executive Director
Learning Disabilities Association of York Simcoe