**Dads for Daughters in STEM and Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada Partner to Deliver Toronto’s First STEM Toy Drive**

**“Every Kid Deserves a Chance to Participate and Compete!”**

Across Canada there is a movement to help prepare kids for jobs of the future. Where no one is clear about what jobs will exist, **progressive individuals and organizations believe that building curiosity, confidence and foundational skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) will help prepare kids for any career path they choose**.

However, while jobs in STEM related domains are growing 3x faster than other parts of the economy and commanding premium salaries, these jobs employ less than 25% women. In fact, by the time girls are in second grade, they have already begun to believe that math and science are for boys.

There is a gap, but this holiday season you can be part of the solution to close the gap. From **November 29th to December 16th, Dads for Daughters in STEM and Boys and Girls Club of Canada are asking you to please make a donation to support the 5th Annual STEM Toy Drive.** Please visit the [GoFundMe](https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c) page to donate now: <https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c>

**“***Curiosity and confidence starts when kids and often their parents or caregivers, including volunteers at after school centres, interact with them while playing with higher quality STEM activities, books or toys*,” said Darryl Silva, Founder of Dads for Daughters in STEM. “*As these items tend to be priced at a premium and some parents aren’t aware of the importance of STEM, thoughtful donations will help to start build curiosity, confidence and critical skills in STEM.* E*very kid deserves a chance to participate and compete.*”

All donations will go towards volunteers buying new STEM activities, books and toys for kids in need.   We will be buying and dropping off all items on December 19th so please get your donations in ASAP.  This year we’re trying to raise $5,000.00 in celebration of our 5th year!

By supporting the Dads for *Daughters in STEM* and Boys & Girls Club of Canada STEM Toy Drive, you can help to ensure that all Canadian kids – particularly girls and those in lower socio-economic areas - are given equal opportunity to build our future through curiosity and confidence in STEM.

For more information on Dads for Daughters in STEM, please visit: <https://www.d4dstem.com/>. For more information about Boys and Girls Club of Canada, please visit: <https://www.bgccan.com/>.

**Email or Intranet Post #1 (Kick Off)**

**From:** <D4DSTEM Corporate Champion>
**To:** <ALL Employees on Distribution List>

**Subject:** <Insert Company Name> Annual STEM Toy Drive – Every Kid Deserves a Chance to Participate and Compete!

Please Help Kids and Donate Today to our Annual STEM Toy Drive!

As families with kids in lower socio economic areas have been navigating life through COVID-19 and rising prices with record high inflation, this year especially, we need your support to give high quality STEM activities, books and toys to the amazing kids that are part of the Boys & Girls Club of Canada.

By December 16th, please support <Insert Company Name>'s employee driven STEM Toy Drive by donating as little as $20.00.  Please visit the [GoFundMe](https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c) page to donate now: <https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c>

All donations will go towards buying new STEM activities, books and toys for kids in need.   Organizers will be buying and dropping off all items throughout the campaign to limit shipping delays and will be doing a final purchase on December 17th, so please get your donations in ASAP.  Last year D4DSTEM Toy Drive provided high quality STEM gifts to over 150 kids in the GTA.

Instilling early curiosity, confidence and foundational skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) will help prepare kids for any career path.  However, by the time some girls are in 2nd grade, they have already begun to believe that math and science are for boys.  In addition, STEM toys aren’t easily accessible to kids in lower socio-economic areas.  There is a gap.

This holiday season, you can be part of the solution to close the gap.  By supporting the D4DSTEM and Boys & Girls Club of Canada STEM Toy Drive, you can help to ensure that kids in the GTA – particularly girls and those in lower socio-economic areas – are given equal opportunity to build our future.

Please visit the [GoFundMe](https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c) page to donate now: <https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c>. For more information, please visit: https://www.d4dstem.com/.   Thank you for your support!

**Email or Intranet Post #2a (Senior Leader Support)**

**From:** <D4DSTEM Corporate Champion>
**To:** <Senior Leaders in Organizations>

**Subject:** <Insert Company Name> Annual STEM Toy Drive – Every Kid Deserves a Chance to Participate and Compete!

Hey folks,

As we’re approaching the holidays and looking for ways to give back to our communities, I’m hoping that you would be willing to support our Annual STEM Toy Drive.

Last year the D4DSTEM Toy Drive provided high quality STEM gifts to over 150 kids in the GTA.

Due to ongoing COVID-19, Flu and RSV safety measures, we continue to be virtual with GoFundMe for donations to streamline all gift purchases and distribution.

There are a few ways that you can help?
1) please consider donating yourself
2) please consider sharing this with your teams ... something that the team can come together to support this holiday season

3) please share with your family and friends

Please see below draft note that I will be sharing with my team.  If you feel comfortable to share with your teams and other senior leaders, please feel feel to leverage the below and cc me.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.  If you have any questions, please let me know.

**Email or Intranet Post 2B**

**From:** <D4DSTEM Participating Leader Corporate Champion>
**To:** <All Employees on Team or Department>

**Subject:** <Insert Company Name> Annual STEM Toy Drive – Every Kid Deserves a Chance to Participate and Compete!

This holiday season, **please consider making a small donation to give high quality STEM activities, books and toys to the amazing kids that are part of the Boys & Girls Club of Canada.  By December 16th, please support <Insert Company Name>'s employee driven STEM Toy Drive by donating as little as $20.00.  Please visit the [GoFundMe](https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c) page to donate now:**<https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c>**.   For more information, please visit: <https://www.d4dstem.com/>.**

All donations will go towards buying new STEM activities, books and toys for kids in need.   Volunteers will be buying and dropping off all items on throughout the campaign to limit shipping delays with a final purchase on December 17th, so please get your donations in ASAP.

**Instilling early curiosity, confidence and foundational skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) will help prepare kids for any career path.** However, by the time some girls are in 2nd grade, they have already begun to believe that math and science are for boys.  In addition, STEM toys aren’t easily accessible to kids in lower socio-economic areas.  There is a gap.  This holiday season, you can be part of the solution to close the gap.  By supporting the D4DSTEM and Boys & Girls Club of Canada STEM Toy Drive, you can help to ensure that kids in the GTA – particularly girls and those in lower socio-economic areas – are given equal opportunity to build our future.

**Please visit the [GoFundMe](https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c) page to donate now:**<https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c>**.   For more information, please visit: https://www.d4dstem.com/.   Thank you for your support!**

<Insert Employee Corporate Champion Name>

**Email or Intranet Post 3 (after first week of campaign kick off)**

**From:** <D4DSTEM Participating Leader Corporate Champion>
**To:** <All Employees on Team or Department>

**Subject:** Please Donate Today! <Insert Company Name>’s Annual STEM Toy Drive – Every Kid Deserves a Chance to Participate and Compete!

To those who already donated and shared with your teams, thank you!  Just a quick update … great start to the STEM Toy Drive!  With only 10 days to go before we buy and drop off all the toys, we helped to to raise $<>!  So, we’ve achieved <>% of the goal of raising $<>.

Last year the D4D STEM Toy drive provided high quality STEM gifts to 150 kids in the GTA!  As we have all been challenged to adapt to life during COVID-19 and rising prices with record high inflation, families with small kids in lower socio economic areas have been especially hit hard.

If you’re willing & able to, by December 15th, please support Laurentian Bank’s employee driven STEM Toy Drive by donating as little as $20.00.  **Please visit the [GoFundMe](https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c) page to donate now:**<https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c>**.  For more information, please visit: https://www.d4dstem.com/.**

**Email or Intranet Post 4 (Final Email)**

**From:** <D4DSTEM Participating Leader Corporate Champion>
**To:** <All Employees on Team or Department>

**Subject:** Please Donate Today! <Insert Company Name>’s Annual STEM Toy Drive – Every Kid Deserves a Chance to Participate and Compete!

To those who already donated and shared with your teams, thank you!  Just a quick update … With only 3 days to go before we buy and drop off all the toys, we helped to to raise $<>!  So, we’ve achieved <>% of the goal of raising $<>.

As we have all been challenged to adapt to life during COVID-19 and rising prices with record high inflation, families with small kids in lower socio economic areas have been especially hit hard.  If you’re willing & able to, by December 16th, please support Laurentian Bank’s employee driven STEM Toy Drive by donating as little as $20.00.  **Please visit the [GoFundMe](https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c) page to donate now:**<https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c>**. For more information, please visit: https://www.d4dstem.com/.**

**FAQ - Corporate STEM Toy Drive**

1. **How will my donated money be used to purchase STEM activity, book or toy help kids?**
* Your donation will make a difference to ensure that Canadian kids – particularly girls - are given equal opportunity to build our future through curiosity and confidence in STEM. Curiosity and confidence starts when kids and often their parents or caregivers interact with them while playing with higher quality STEM activities, books or toys. As these items tend to be priced at a premium and / or some parents aren’t aware of the importance of STEM, your thoughtful donation will help to start building curiosity, confidence and critical skills in STEM.
* All donations will go towards volunteers buying new STEM activities, books and toys for kids in need.   We will be buying and dropping off all items on December 19th so please get your donations in ASAP.
1. **When will the STEM Toy Drive Start and finish?**
* The STEM Toy Drive will be collecting items from November 29th, 2022 to December 16th, 2022. As this is a Virtual STEM Toy Drive, STEM gifts will be purchased throughout the campaign with a final purchase on December 17th, 2022.

3**. What type of STEM inspired activities, books or toys will be purchased?**

* High quality Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) activities, books and toy will be purchased at Amazon, MasterMind Toys and Walmart. Here are a few examples of what was purchased in previous years
	+ $10 - $25 - Human Brain Model, Hape Your Body, Discovery Kids Slime, Maker Lab, Doll-E 1.0, Cece Loves Science, Ada Twist - Scientist, Rosie Revere - Engineer
	+ $25+ – Snap Circuits Jr., Crazy Forts, GoldiBlox, Hand-Crank Flashlight Kit

**5. How will my donation be directed to kids in need?**

* Dads for Daughters in STEM will be collecting funds from participating companies to purchase activities, books and toys throughout the campaign with a final purchase on the morning of December 17th and will be bringing all items to designated Boys and Girls Club of Canada locations for distribution to kids in lower socio-economic areas. Please note: No less than 60% of items will be distributed to girls.

**6. What is Dads for Daughters in STEM?**

* Dads for Daughters in STEM is a Canadian volunteer driven not for profit. Our organization is committed to empowering parents and caregivers to prepare Canadian kids – particularly girls ages 3 to 10 with a focus on higher risk socio economic areas - to be innovators and leaders in the Canadian economy. For more information on Dads for Daughters in STEM, please visit: <http://d4dstem.com/>.

**7.What is Boys and Girls Club of Canada?**

* Boys and Girls Club of Canada provides safe, supportive places where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships, and develop confidence and skills for life. For more information about Boys and Girls Club of Canada, please visit: <https://www.bgccan.com/>.

**Looking to Give back to your community this holiday season? Volunteer to be a Corporate Champion and Organize a Virtual STEM Toy Drive at your Place of Work!**

D4DSTEM and Boys & Girls Club of Canada, Toronto Branch, are getting to launch our 5th Annual STEM toy drive and we’re looking for purpose driven Corporate Champions to support.

As families with kids have been navigating life through COVID-19 and rising prices with record high inflation, this year especially, we need your support to give high quality STEM activities, books and toys to the amazing kids that are part of Boys & Girls Club of Canada program. Every kid deserves a chance to participate and compete! Donations will make a difference to ensure that Canadian kids – particularly girls - are given equal opportunity to build our future through curiosity and confidence in STEM.

If you’re interested in organizing a “turn key” Virtual STEM Toy Drive at your company, please email darryl.silva@gmail.com and we'll share the details.  All we need is your passion for the cause and your help to promote the event at your workplace through emails and intranet postings.

All donations will go towards buying new STEM activities, books and toys to kids in need.   Organizers will be buying items throughout the campaign and drop off all items on December 19th, 2022.  This year we’re trying to raise $5,000.00 in celebration of our 5th year!

**Please email**d4dstem@gmail.com**if you’re interested in being a Corporate Champion or visit the** [GoFundMe](https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c) **page to donate now:**<https://gofund.me/f5e33a0c>**. For more information, please visit: https://www.d4dstem.com/.**