

Mary Ann Turnbull, M.Ed.

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Mary Ann Turnbull had a 40-year career dedicated to children, first as a teacher and then as an administrator. She received her B.Sc. in Psychology from the University of Toronto and then pursued graduate studies there at the Institute of Child Studies. She later received her B.Ed. and M.Ed. from the University of Ottawa, as well as the Specialist Level in Special Education.

In 1992 Mary Ann founded the Turnbull School, for junior kindergarten to grade 8, beginning with 30 students. It has now grown to 430. She retired from the School in 2013 but continues being active in many local child centred activities, including being a grandmother of three boys.

Mary Ann received the distinction of being named the “Educational Leader of the Year” at the provincial level of the Council for Exceptional Children for her contribution to education. In addition, she was a recipient of the Businesswoman’s Achievement Award in honour of her business contribution to the community. Mary Ann and her staff were honoured by the Ottawa Board of Trade, receiving the Bronze Award for “Business of the Year”. The Board highlighted the staff’s community service and professional excellence as major factors for receiving this award.

Mary Ann’s community volunteer work has included being a former Board member and Treasurer of the Executive Committee of the United Way, a Director of Scouts Canada Foundation, and a Board member of Help Lesotho. Mary Ann also supports a number of charitable organizations within Ottawa that promote the well-being of children, including programs in the visual and performing arts, recreational activities, summer camps, and after school homework clubs.

The Vanier community has been a special one for Mary Ann where, throughout COVID, she and her husband delivered food to families for the Vanier Food Bank. She has now teamed up with community leader, Dr. Peg Herbert to create Chosen Grandma Ottawa, with its origin in the Vanier neighbourhood.