

“Mois Chitim”: Passover Assistance

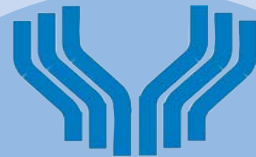
“Mois Chitim” is defined as “Wheat Money”, which traditionally meant a collection made before Passover to ensure a supply of flour for unleavened bread (matzah) for the needy. “Mois Chitim” is distributed to needy families who have requested help to meet the financial burden of purchasing Passover goods. Jewish Child and Family Service clients who need this help are identified by their social workers. The community is notified of this assistance by ads in The Jewish Post & News. Everyone who requests assistance is eligible to receive help from this program.

Jewish Child and Family Service acts as the central agency for the collection and distribution of Passover assistance to those Jewish individuals and families in our community who need help. A contribution to the Passover Assistance program will help adults with mental health problems, recent immigrants, the frail elderly and those in institutions.

Typically the agency receives requests for over 100 hampers with Passover products. Past recipients of these hampers have expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the generosity of the community in helping them to fully participate in the celebration of the Passover holiday.

A yellow flyer is enclosed with this newsletter indicating how you can contribute and help other community members celebrate the Passover holiday. In the true spirit of “tzedakah” please contribute generously to the Passover Assistance program.

THIS YEAR YOU CAN DONATE ON LINE! Check out the donation section at www.jcfswinnipeg.org



The Asper Helping Hand
INITIATIVE

TAHHI offers interest free loans to Jewish individuals and families who are experiencing a temporary hardship. These loans are available for a variety of different purposes such as educational, medical needs, immigration, vocational, life cycle events, first time home buyers, family emergencies and debt consolidation. For further information on how to apply, please contact the Administrator of the TAHHI program, Shelley Garfield, at 338-7132 or email sgarfield@aspercampus.mb.ca.

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Jewish Child and Family Service is committed to protecting the personal information by following responsible information handling practices in keeping with the privacy laws.

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Say It With A Card From

JEWISH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE

SEND A MAZEL TOV on a special occasion like a bar/bat mitzvah, a special birthday, anniversary, wedding or graduation. Send a note of sympathy or a note of encouragement to someone who is recovering from a recent illness or hospital stay. (minimum of \$10.00 donation)

COVER OUR KIDS WITH CARE: Foster families and the children they care for can be supported by sending out a specially designed card. (minimum of \$18.00 donation)

To send out either type of tribute card call us at 477-7430 or email us at jcfs@aspercampus.mb.ca or send us the information online at www.jcfswinnipeg.org.

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If you or someone you know have been confined to hospital and would appreciate a visit from the Jewish Community Chaplain, please notify the JCFS office. Many patients have benefited from Rabbi Charytan's spiritual counsel. Unfortunately, because of the privacy legislation, we have been limited in our ability to access patients who are Jewish. If a Jewish patient does not sign a request, they will not be placed on the hospital's list marked for a chaplaincy visit. Call JCFS at 477-7430 and explain that you, or the person you are calling on behalf of, would like to be visited by the Rabbi.

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THE EVE AND HARRY VICKAR COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Funding to help support Jewish individuals or families who are experiencing a significant financial hardship has been made available through The Eve and Harry Vickar Community Assistance Program. All applications are treated with the utmost respect, dignity and privacy of the applicant. Contact JCFS at 477-7430 to inquire. This program is generously sponsored by the L. Kerry Vickar Charitable Foundation as a designated gift through the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH JEWISH SENIORS:

- Grocery shoppers
- Friendly visitors
- Van drivers
- Medical appointment companions

Scheduling is flexible and you will make a huge difference in an elderly person's ability to continue managing independently. Call JCFS Manager of Volunteer Services Einat Paz Keynan 477-7452.

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NEW!!! DONATE ONLINE: Our web site www.jcfswinnipeg.org has a new section in which you may send in an on-line donation.

SHERUT

MARCH 2008



JEWISH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE
Celebrating over 50 years in a tradition of caring

JCFS Providing Roots And Wings For Children

Providing **roots** so that children have a firm foundation in which to develop and **wings** so that they can become self sufficient and confident adults — this is the age-old adage that describes the role of a good parent. For children in foster care, JCFS acts as the responsible parent who insures that every foster child has a safe haven in which to grow and thrive.

Children come into foster care for a variety of reasons. Sometimes they are victims of abuse, neglect, family conflict or family breakdown. In most cases, these children have parents who, for a variety of reasons, cannot care for them. No matter how difficult the family situation is, it is a traumatic and stressful time in a child's life to leave the place they call home and begin a life with strangers.

At the time of writing, there are 18 children in JCFS foster care. Child welfare social workers have specialized training to deal with the difficult transition of placing a child in care. Priority is given to placing children with Jewish families. Particularly when an extended stay in foster care is expected, it is preferable for a child to be in an environment that promotes his/her Jewish identity. When a Jewish home is not available, a great deal of care is taken in finding a home where the child's Jewishness is respected and promoted.

For many complex reasons, attending a Jewish school is not always possible for our foster children. In those cases, JCFS works hard to ensure that exposure to activities that reinforce the child's Jewish identity are maintained. The agency has recently partnered with Chabad-Lubavitch of Winnipeg to implement a program with this goal in mind.

The **Friendship Circle** is a Jewish mentorship program in which pairs of volunteers are matched with Jewish children in care. The volunteers have the unique opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of children, who, through no fault of their own, have had their lives dramatically disrupted. The mentors receive specialized training to play games and work on projects that focus on core Jewish values such as: the Jewish holidays, attending synagogue, life cycle events, tzedakah, kashrut and Torah study. The agency's social work staff provide training in communication, family dynamics, dealing with problematic issues, etc.

The initiative is directed at enhancing the connection of a Jewish youngster to his or her cultural roots and Jewish community. Einat Paz-Keynan, JCFS Volunteer Manager, is very enthusiastic about how this program is progressing. She can already see the positive benefits for the children in foster care. "It is a real chance to mold a child. Every child deserves to

have happy and joyous memories of growing up. We hope to instill a sense of being part of a community that cares about them. As adults they will feel a sense of belonging and hopefully they will want to reciprocate by participating and investing in things that will improve the lives of others."

Foster families receive ongoing support and guidance from the professional child care staff at JCFS. They obtain a per diem to cover the costs of caring for a foster child.

This allowance covers the basic necessities, but not the extras. For example, if a child has a passion for music or sports, the cost of lessons and equipment can be exorbitant.

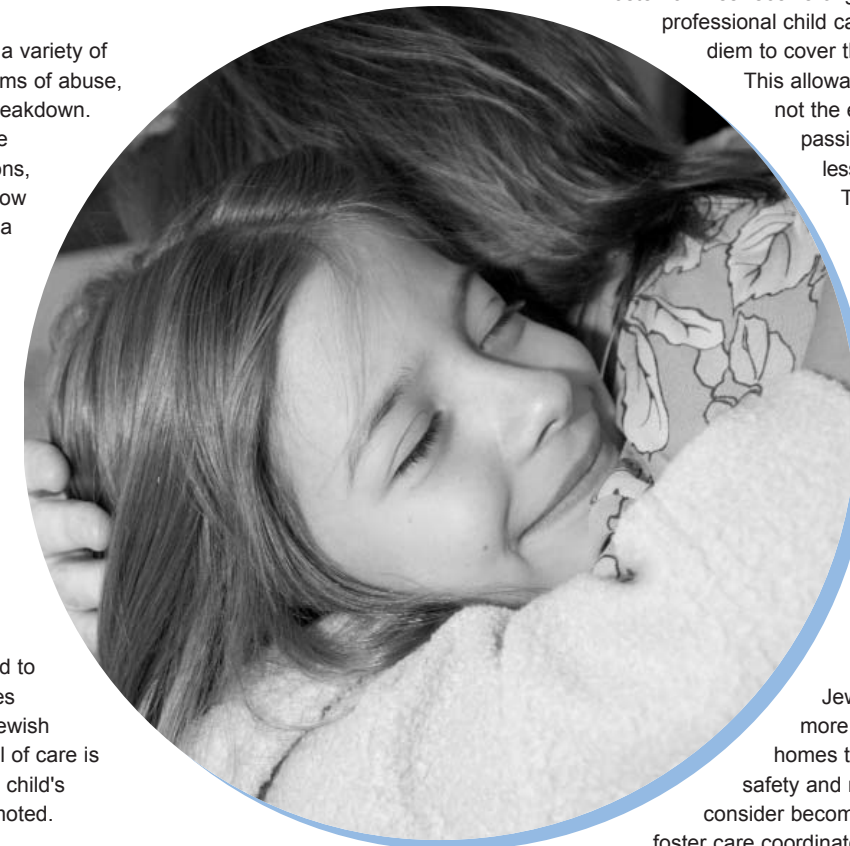
There is recognition that these enrichment opportunities help ensure that a youngster will mature into a fully functioning and productive adult. Like most Jewish parents, we want the best for our children — so the agency looks for ways to pay for these additional opportunities. The upcoming **Stars of Tomorrow** fundraising concert is designed to support our youngsters in care so that they will have the chance to participate in activities, expand their horizons and reach for the stars! (See page 3 for details)

Jewish Child and Family Service needs more foster homes. The agency requires homes that can offer the attention, guidance, safety and nurturance a child needs. Please consider becoming a licensed foster home. As our foster care coordinator Randee Pollock comments, "In the

true spirit of tzedakah, there is no greater mitzvah than opening your heart and your home to a child in need. Being a foster family can be a very enriching and enjoyable experience. I welcome the opportunity to discuss the possibility of fostering with interested community members."

Inda Trakalo, one of the agency's foster moms, knows from first-hand experience what being a foster parent is all about. As a child, Inda spent some time in the Jewish Child and Family group home on Templeton Avenue. Because of this experience, and the positive way that it impacted on her life as a child, she decided at an early age that she would help others. She is now a social work student at the University of Manitoba and has been a foster parent for over 15 years. "My own experiences taught me the importance of having nurturing, trusting and supportive people in my childhood and this has inspired me to want to be able to provide that support to others."

It is not unusual for our ties to youngsters who were once in care to continue far beyond their eighteenth birthdays. Even in their adult years they know they can turn to us for support and guidance as they deal with challenges and life's critical decisions. Like any responsible parent, we watch them test their wings as they prepare to launch.



A Word From Emily Shane And Pam Wener

According to the 'mavens' who track Jewish continuity and the level of adherence by North American Jews to Jewish traditions, Passover seders and Yom Kippur are the most acknowledged Jewish events recognized by even the most assimilated.



A seder may take many forms, ranging from the traditional format taking hours to complete to the most inventive, involving ideas and issues which were not dreamed of by our grandparents. What is common, however, is the knowledge that we are all participating in an event that goes back thousands of years, an event that Jews all over the world celebrate.

Passover seders have even, within our memory, been held in the most adverse conditions, in the ghettos and forests of Europe during the Holocaust, under Soviet oppression of Jewish observance and going further back to the days of the Inquisition.

Today in our 'shtetl' of Winnipeg we are fortunate that we have the freedom and means to celebrate Passover, however we wish to do so. With our families and friends around us we engage in an ancient ritual that is a reminder of who we are and how we can best pass on to our children their inheritance. With this freedom comes the responsibility on all of us to ensure that everyone in our community can participate in this mitzvah.

The Mois Chitim campaign provides resources that allow all Jewish families to celebrate Pesach. The campaign is facilitated by Jewish Child and Family Service on behalf of the community. Your commitment to the campaign, as well as a conscious determination to ensure inclusion of all, is something that we hope we can rely on. Sharing the comfort and security of our lives with others is a goal that is achievable for all of us...

We do want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy Passover. May the arrival of spring and Passover mean only good things for all of us!

*Pam Wener
JCFS President*

*Emily Shane
Executive Director*

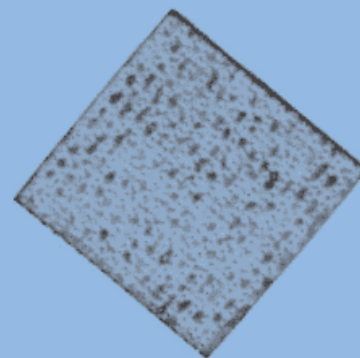
Recovery Support For Jewish Addicts (JACS*)

Ongoing 12 step meetings for recovering Jewish addicts are held at the JCFS offices on Thursdays at 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Please contact our office at 477-7430 if you are new to the group and want to confirm that the meeting is taking place. The anonymity of each individual is respected and strictly enforced.

**Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others (www.jacsweb.org), is a voluntary mutual-help group dedicated to helping develop and sustain recovery from addiction in a nurturing environment, promoting knowledge and understanding of alcoholism and chemical dependency as it involves the Jewish community, and acting as a resource to the Jewish community to address the effects of alcoholism and chemical dependency.*

JCFS PASSOVER COOKBOOK AVAILABLE AGAIN THIS YEAR

Jewish Child and Family Service will be selling its Passover cookbook "A 21st Century Passover: recipes from the friends of Jewish Child and Family Service" in various locations around the community. This treasured collection of taste-tempting recipes has received fantastic reviews from many culinary "mavens".



The cookbook is a wonderful blend of the traditional recipes that have become synonymous with Passover, as well as some innovative recipes that will spice up your Seder dinner menu. It is \$18.00 and is nicely organized in easy to follow recipes for the new cook or for the experienced expert. Many of the recipes have been given to us by some of Winnipeg's finest culinary experts.

Cookbooks are available by contacting our office at 477-7430, as well as at Stewart's, Myers Deli, Desserts Plus, Gwen Sector Centre, Sharon's Linens and Gifts, Congregation Shaarey Zedek and Congregation Etz Chayim. In Toronto, it is available at The Israeli Source in Thornhill.

Proceeds from the cookbook will support the services provided by JCFS to strengthen the lives of individuals and families in our community. JCFS is grateful for the support it has received from the Mark and Dorothy Danzker Perpetual Trust Fund in underwriting the costs of producing the cookbook.

JCFS 'Happenings'

The Reaching Out program for survivors of the Holocaust looks forward to welcoming grade nine students from the Gray Academy of Jewish Education for an intergenerational educational workshop. During this activity - "For You I Remember, from You I have Learned" - the students will each be paired with a survivor to compare their youthful experiences and to hear about the survivors' pre-war and immigration experiences. The students will be visiting the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC and will have the opportunity to meet with the seniors prior to the trip as well as following it.

The Reaching Out Group will be holding a special program, led by Rabbi Larry Lander, during Holocaust Remembrance Week on April 24th at the Gwen Sector Creative Living Centre.

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS is a weekly group designed to support seniors who are challenged by memory loss. This group is offered by JCFS in partnership with the Rady Jewish Community Centre. The group meets on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. For further inquiries or to register, contact Cheryl Hirsh Katz, Supervisor of Older Adult Services at **477-7430**. Participants will be prescreened to ensure that they will benefit from the group. Free transportation is provided if required.

Seniors.... This will give you a lift. Transportation for confined seniors - The transportation assistance program designed to help older adults get to appointments and attend to errands outside the home has been expanded through the generous support of the Daniel Tallman Family Fund at the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba. A nominal fee will be charged for this service. To inquire, please call Cheryl Hirsh Katz at **477-7430**.

Workshops To Support Newcomers A workshop for newcomers to obtain information and assistance in completing the Canadian Tax form was held on February 26th. We are grateful to Avrum Charach, a Certified General Accountant, who has shared his experience and expertise in this field for the past several years as the facilitator of this valuable workshop.

The Ma-agal Nashim (the Women's Circle) - This group, supporting immigrant women during their resettlement into Canada, provided an opportunity for them to make new friends and share some of their challenges in a positive and supportive atmosphere. This group was funded with support from a grant from the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba's Women's Endowment Fund.

A new program, SERET (Hebrew for film and an acronym for **S**timulating - **E**ntertaining - **R**elaxing - **E**njoyable - **T**imeout), will invite new immigrant women to share their ideas, express their thoughts and make new friends. Each session will feature a movie dealing with a theme that will stimulate discussion about such issues as family dynamics and the challenges of resettlement and cultural integration.

*A Special
Thank You!*

On Saturday, November 17th, 2007 the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg held a social event at the Winnipeg Convention Centre entitled, "**Dare To Dream**" an Evening with a Conscience... The Half Shekel Task Force* organized the event to help raise awareness of poverty within the Jewish community. Many of our clients benefited from the generous assistance they received as a result of this event.

**The Half Shekel Task Force on Poverty was created by the Planning Committee of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg to address issues of poverty and economic disparity in our community, because poverty is a community issue.*

STARS OF TOMORROW

Sponsored by the Asper Foundation, **Stars of Tomorrow** will showcase talented Winnipeggers, ages 10 to 21. The event will take place on Sunday April 13th, at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, and is in support of the agency's children's services. The show will feature a full spectrum of singers, dancers and musicians that have been selected from a large number of auditions.



Pam Wener, JCFS president, expressed her enthusiasm for the forthcoming event: "We hope this event will heighten community awareness of the needs of both the children in care and their care givers. Proceeds from this event will provide the necessary funds to allow the children to participate in enrichment opportunities they would not otherwise be able to enjoy."

Concert Director and Board Member Mariam Bernstein is pleased to be part of the creative process: "When we put out a city-wide call for auditions, we were overwhelmed with the number of talented young performers. As a result, our concert is guaranteed to entertain and delight the audience! I love the fact that this evening is about youth helping youth: dedicated, passionate young artists using their talents to make a difference."

We are very appreciative of the assistance we received from Kayla Gordon, Debby Maslowsky and Rachel Brown in auditioning the talent for our forthcoming concert.



Concert Director and Board Member Mariam Bernstein

Tickets for the Stars of Tomorrow concert are \$20.00 or \$10.00 for students and seniors. To order tickets call 477-7430.