



JEWISH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE  
Strengthening Lives in Keeping with Jewish Values

# Annual Report

## 2023-2024





## JEWISH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE

Strengthening Lives in Keeping with Jewish Values

## OUR VISION

JCFS strives to be the place in the community where all voices are heard and needs are fulfilled.

## OUR MISSION

Strengthening lives in keeping with Jewish values.





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JEWISH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE  
Strengthening Lives in Keeping with Jewish Values

Jewish Child and Family Service is located on original lands of Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories and acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past. We dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of truth, reconciliation, and collaboration.



# BOARD

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Al Shpeller**  
President



**Ari Hanson**  
Past-President



**Dr. Jenn Ritter**  
Vice-President



**Michael Schacter**  
Treasurer



**Sherry Lercher Davis**  
Member-at-Large

## BOARD MEMBERS



**Bradley Abells**



**Dr. David Folk**



**Viviana Goldenberg**



**Brenlee Schacter**



**Elena Grinshteyn**



**Reannah Hocken**



**Abby Morris**



**Honorary Solicitor**  
David I. Marr, BSc, LLB

## COMMITTEES

### FINANCE

Michael Schacter - Chair  
Sherry Lercher Davis  
Jeff Gilbert  
Ari Hanson  
Grant Zipursky  
Al Shpeller  
Alexis Wenzowski, Director of Operations  
Steven Bernstein, Director of Finance  
Al Benarroch, Executive Director

### INVESTMENT

Stephen Rosenfield - Chair  
Michael Schacter  
Bradley Abells  
Al Shpeller  
Steven Bernstein, Director of Finance  
Al Benarroch, Executive Director

### GOVERNANCE

Ari Hanson - Chair  
Al Shpeller  
Meira Gisser  
Meir Serfaty  
Alexis Wenzowski, Director of Operations  
Al Benarroch, Executive Director

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Bradley Abells - Chair  
Viviana Goldenberg  
Al Shpeller  
Steven Bernstein, Director of Finance  
Al Benarroch, Executive Director

### ADDICTIONS RECOVERY CENTRE

Dr. Jennifer Ritter - Co-Chair  
Sherry Lercher Davis - Co-Chair  
Elena Grinshteyn  
Dr. David Folk  
Brenlee Schacter  
Al Shpeller  
Michelle Pollock-Kohn  
Ivy Kopstein  
Alana Demler, Staff  
Cheryl Hirsh Katz, Director of Adult Services  
Alexis Wenzowski, Director of Operations  
Al Benarroch, Executive Director



# STAFF

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Al Benarroch, MA (Psych)

Executive Director

Alexis Wenzowski, M. Ed.

Director of Operations

Cheryl Hirsh Katz, MSW, RSW

Director of Adult Services

Wade Bilodeau, BA until Oct. 2023

Child Welfare Supervisor

David Azuelos, MSW, RSW

Child Welfare Supervisor as of Oct. 2023

Steven Bernstein, B. Comm (Hons), CPA

Director of Finance

## ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Mara Pellettieri, BA

Office Manager

Carla Greenberg

Edith Freylejer

Indira Perez Sanchez

Jackie Towle

Mazi Frank

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Einat Paz, BSW, MSW

Randee Pollock, BSW, MSW, RSW

Debra Stern, BA

Adriana Vegh-Levy, BA

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

### Counselling

Denise Rubin, B.H. Ecol, MACP, CCC

Clinical Supervisor

Sandra Novak, BA, MMFT

Brooke Zelcer, BA (Hons), BSc

### Contract Counselling

Brodin Anderson, MA, APC

Gabriela M. Fonseca, MA, APC

Liz Wolfe, MMFT, RSW

Murielle Jennings, MMFT, CCC

Nan (Nancy) Campbell, MMFT

Penny Yellen, MSW, RSW

### Financial Empowerment Services

Shelley Garfield, B. Comm (Hons)

Financial Empowerment Manager

### Mental Health and Addictions Services

Alana Demler, DSW

Team Lead

Blaire Kelly, BSW, RSW

Charmayne Shmon

David Coodin, MA

Matthias Kaay, MSW, RSW

Nira Diamant, BSW, RSW

Rabbi Allan Finkel, LLB, MBA

Sadie Silverstein, BSW, RSW

### Settlement Services

Iael Besendorf

Team Lead

Anna Schoichet, MD, BSc

Carina Blumgrund, BA

### Child Welfare Services

Yardena Zimmermann, BA, ECE II, BSW, MSW, RSW

Meghan Dick, BHE, FSS

Sonja Iserloh, ECII, B.H. Ecol, MSW, RSW

## Older Adults Services

Heather Mandell Kraut, BSW, RSW

Team Lead

Keith Elfenbein

Margarita Iskijaev, MA, BSW, RSW

Janelle Raimondi, MSW, RSW

Willow Dekker, BSW, RSW

Yvonne Janzen, BSW, RSW

## Holocaust Survivor Support Services

Adeena Lungen, BSW, MSW, RSW

Sarah Bruce, BSW, RSW

## Jewish Community Chaplain

Rabbi Yitzchok Charytan

## Volunteer Program

Einat Paz, BSW, MSW

## Students

Tyler Bezpalko

## Professional Consultants

Cara Kroft, MD, FRCPC

Psychiatric Consultant

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we reflect on the past year, it is with heavy hearts that we acknowledge the challenging realities faced by our community. The gruesome Hamas attacks of October 7th on Israel and the alarming rise in antisemitism globally, have deeply impacted us all. Not only have we witnessed the deep emotional effects on our Jewish community, but

we are still reeling from the economic and emotional impacts of Covid-19 with rising inflation on the cost of food and other items, a mental health and addictions epidemic, and more.

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East, the continued rockets launched by Hamas against innocent civilians in Israel, and the alarming surge in global antisemitism have been a stark reminder of the persistent threats faced by our people. These attacks and ensuing war have not only resulted in a tragic loss of life and widespread destruction on both sides, but have also instilled fear, anxiety, and traumatized many. The dramatic rise in global antisemitism, verbal harassment, physical assaults, vandalism, and online hate speech, has reared its ugly head once again. As an agency that supports and assists Holocaust survivors, we never fathomed that this could ever occur again in their lifetime, let alone ours. This disturbing trend not only undermines our sense of security but also threatens the very fabric of our society.

As an agency, JCFS is committed to supporting the emotional wellbeing of the Jewish community, and we stand in solidarity with Israel and with Jews around the world. In the face of these challenges, our commitment to serving the needs of our most vulnerable remains unwavering. This past year, JCFS responded with more food security programs, pivoted to quickly deliver enhanced and customized mental health services to respond to the elevated fear, trauma, and anxiety from the Hamas attacks, ensuing war, and rise in antisemitism.

We responded to our clients, community members, Jewish students and youth, Jewish communal professionals, partner Jewish organizations, and even distraught people from the general and local Muslim communities. Remaining true to our mission, *"JCFS strengthens (ALL) lives in keeping with Jewish values"*, these supports will continue for as long as necessary.

As we look to the future, JCFS is excited to be embarking on a new Strategic Plan, drawing strength from our culture, traditions, heritage, and shared values. JCFS will continue to work tirelessly to build a world where every individual is treated with dignity and respect - drawing on the strengths of diversity, inclusion, and shared beliefs. We will continue to be leaders in building community through our core values of: Compassion, Communal Responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Dignity for Human Life, and *Tikun Olam* (repairing the world). Together, we will overcome adversity and pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.

In the words of our sage Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel:

*"The world stands on the merit of three things - justice, truth, and peace (Ethics of Our Father 1:18)."*

Thank you to all our dedicated staff, board members, agency partners volunteers, funders, donors, and supporters for your unwavering commitment to our important work. With your continued support, we will navigate these challenging times and emerge stronger than ever before.

Al Benarroch, MA  
Executive Director



# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



As I look back on my final year as the President of Jewish Child and Family Service, I am pleased to see how the organization continues to adapt to the changing needs for our services throughout the challenges.

Last spring, the Board had several priorities:

1. Addressing the serious lack of office space, which impacts both staff and clients.
2. Conduct a through analysis, and provide a recommendation to the Board on whether we should build a separate facility to house and provide services to people who are recovering from addiction.
3. Complete a Strategic Plan to provide priorities to the organization for the upcoming three to five years.

After October 7th, we were faced with the question of which services did we need to expand, and which services had to be reduced. Led by our Executive Director, a decision was made to refocus more of our resources to address the mental health challenges facing our community. Everyone was (and continues to be) on high alert to the potential threats facing our population.

I am happy to report we did complete our Strategic Plan and will be implementing it beginning this fall. As always, our focus is to meet the needs of the Jewish community, our clients and our staff.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our devoted volunteers. Your ongoing support enables us to provide essential services to our community. Whether you volunteer regularly or for specific programs and committees, your contributions are invaluable.

I also thank our remarkable staff. Your tireless advocacy for our clients and innovative problem-solving efforts are the foundation of JCFS's importance to the community. We recognize the challenges you have faced and are deeply appreciative of your commitment. Your work in providing counselling services to so many people who have been impacted by the war and the rise in anti-Semitism has been a blessing to us all.

On behalf of the Board, we extend our sincere appreciation to the JCFS Management team for their exceptional work in guiding and leading the staff to adapt our services in response to the needs of the Jewish community following October 7th. Their ability to maintain JCFS's financial stability ensures our continued presence, both now and in the future.

We are also deeply grateful for the continued commitment and expertise of our Board members, who generously volunteer their time to support the organization.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to our donors. Your continued support is crucial as we strive to address the ongoing needs within the Winnipeg Jewish community and the broader community. Without you, we would be unable to achieve the great things we do.

It has been an honour to work with all of you during my term as President of Jewish Child and Family Service.

Am Yisrael Chai!

*Al Shpeller*

Al Shpeller  
President

# 2023-2024 FINANCIAL REPORT



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Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P 2V4  
Tel: (204) 284-7060  
Fax: (204) 284-7105  
[www.bookeandpartners.ca](http://www.bookeandpartners.ca)

## Report of the Independent Auditors on the Summarized Financial Statement

To the Directors of  
Jewish Child and Family Service

### *Opinion*

The accompanying summarized financial statement, which comprise the summarized statement of operations for the year ended March 31, 2024, is derived from the audited financial statements of Jewish Child and Family Service for the year ended March 31, 2024.

In our opinion, the summarized financial statement is a fair summary of the audited financial statements, on the basis described below.

### *Summarized Financial Statement*

The summarized financial statement does not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summarized financial statement and the auditors' report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditors' report thereon.

### *The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon*

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated June 24, 2024.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement*

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summarized financial statement on the following basis:

The summarized financial statement includes the major totals and subtotals from the related complete financial statements dealing with matters having a pervasive or otherwise significant effect on the summarized financial statement.

### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summarized financial statement is a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".

*Booke & Partners*

Winnipeg, Canada  
June 24, 2024

Chartered Professional Accountants



## Jewish Child and Family Service Summarized Statement of Operations





Year Ended March 31	2024	2023
<b>Revenues</b>		
Province of Manitoba		
- Program and Other	\$ 1,084,275	\$ 995,267
Camperships: donations/rebates	3,438	15,549
Asper Helping Hand Initiative	32,107	6,519
Client fees	51,586	45,820
Donations (Annual, Passover and general)	335,868	296,306
- Bequests	-	150,840
- Donations - Tribute Cards	19,779	22,065
Donor directed gifts (including GiftPact, Canada Helps, United Way)	60,744	56,813
Financial Assistance	27,556	21,992
Grants - Special Programs	20,413	19,982
Holocaust Survivor support services		
- Cummings - Holocaust Survivor support	135,085	142,187
- Cummings - Holocaust private pay home care program	104,385	30,540
- Asper Foundation - Holocaust Survivor support	36,237	35,983
- Holocaust Survivor Assistance	7,982	6,517
Human Resources Development Canada - Summer Student	8,947	3,756
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada	115,092	111,978
Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA - Lewar Fund	105,105	2,641
Jewish Federation of Winnipeg (Operations, Chaplaincy and CJA Designated)	1,069,372	1,028,167
Jewish Foundation of Manitoba	90,275	80,131
- JCFS Endowment fund revenue	194,203	146,027
- JFM Distribution - Unrestricted donations	198,276	177,087
Mental health funding - Community of Caring	102,110	-
Operation Ezra	46,533	151,956
Other	48,404	29,770
Senior Transportation	36,952	37,404
Tzedakah fund	61,777	23,503
United Way of Winnipeg	200,316	190,709
War in Israel response	56,222	-
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (Mental Health and Chaplaincy)	77,256	77,256
	<u>4,330,295</u>	<u>3,906,765</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Family Assistance	2,604,920	2,214,734
Child Maintenance	1,141,844	1,075,578
Administration	606,951	594,405
	<u>4,353,715</u>	<u>3,884,717</u>
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses before other items	<u>(23,420)</u>	<u>22,048</u>
<b>Other items</b>		
Donations transferred to Jewish Foundation of Manitoba	(5,000)	(20,000)
Investment income	11,288	5,325
Unrealized gain on investments	48,572	13,415
	<u>\$ 31,440</u>	<u>\$ 20,788</u>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenses</b>	<u>\$ 31,440</u>	<u>\$ 20,788</u>

The complete financial statements, including notes to the financial statements and the independent auditors' report, are available upon request by contacting the agency's office.

# Annual Impact Report **Serving the** *community*

Some  
incredible  
highlights!



	Projects	Outputs	Outcome
	<b>Clinical Therapy Sessions DELIVERED</b>	Our dedicated clinical therapists have been a beacon of support, delivering an impressive 1600 Clinical Therapy sessions to those in need	Clients of all ages learned skills to help support their emotional wellbeing
	<b>Clients and participants REACHED through programing</b>	Our team provided services that benefited 5000 individuals in 2000 families	A wide variety of needs were met and across various life domains
	<b>Educational Programs successfully DELIVERED</b>	We have hosted over 25 educational programs including workshops, guest speakers & awareness campaigns	Participants learned about a variety of topics to use in their lives
	<b>Tons of food DISTRIBUTED by our Pantry</b>	Our pantry is a vital lifeline, distributing over 8 tons of food to those experiencing food insecurity in our community	Individuals received the ethno-cultural food (i.e. kosher) supports they need, along with their nutritious needs met

*Acknowledgements*

**These achievements are a testament to the hard work, dedication and compassion of our staff, volunteers and also the unwavering support of our community.**





# OUR STORY, OUR IMPACT



IN THE PAST YEAR

**2000**  
households  
received support  
from JCFS  
services

Launched  
**2**  
**NEW COMMITTEES:**  
*The Jewish Life  
Committee  
and The  
Rosh Chodesh  
Committee*



JCFS expanded services to include a Spiritual  
Care Specialist for Mental Health and  
Addictions, and an Addictions Counsellor



More than  
**5000**  
individuals  
impacted  
positively by  
JCFS services



**3 TONS**  
of food delivered to families  
for Passover 2024



Supported  
**70**  
families through our  
dedicated War Response  
Counselling Program



**1800**

participants in our various community engagement  
initiatives, like *Hear Our Voices*, *Family Fun Fair*, and  
*Managing Your Money in Retirement*

Engaged in more than  
**60**  
**PARTNERSHIPS**  
in Jewish Winnipeg  
and beyond





# AT JCFS, **WE CARE** ABOUT **FAMILIES**

**Building stronger families, one caring step at a time!**

**We are dedicated to empowering and supporting all families. From sharing laughter-filled moments to offering a helping hand in times of need – we've got you covered!**



## **THIS IS WHAT WE DO... WE CARE**

**Strengthening Lives in Keeping with Jewish Values.  
Our Mandate, Our Commitment, Our Promise.**



# AT JCFS, WE CARE ABOUT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

## OUR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our Community Engagement and Outreach team is on a mission to spread warmth, hope, and togetherness. This team works to identify and address service gaps and bring members of the community together in meaningful ways through a multitude of programs such as:

- Hamsas for Hope & Coffee and Hugs - two art therapy programs offered in the wake of October 7th
- Self-Care and Stress Management (for staff)
- Latkes, Light and Laughter (partnership with Rady JCC)
- Hear our Voices
- Mitzvah Day at Acorn Family Place
- Challah Kits

“Hear our Voices”, was an event that moved the community here in Winnipeg and all over the globe. Our guest, Ayelet Razin Bet-Or, along with Gail Asper, engaged in an empowering conversation on the gender-based crimes that took place on Oct 7th. “Hear of Voices” reached an audience that went beyond Winnipeg and Canada. This was an event of epic proportions and served as a beacon of hope and strength for those who tuned in from all over the world, including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Viena, New York, Buenos Aires etc.

We’re so proud of the positive impact our team is making, and we can’t wait to see what other amazing projects are in store. Stay tuned for more updates on how we are bringing joy, strength, and togetherness to our community!

JCFS provided

**25+**

FREE PROGRAMS  
in 2023-2024

**Did You Know?**  
**Our HEAR OUR VOICES event  
reached 5 continents!**





JCFS is in the community supporting lives! This is community for community!



PINK SHIRT DAY - Stand agains bulling



COFFEE & HUGS for Israeli and Russian Newcomers



MITZVAH DAY



JCFS Community Engagement team in action!

HAMSAS FOR HOPE for Latin American Newcomers







## AT JCFS, WE CARE ABOUT COUNSELLING

### OUR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our dedicated Counselling team is passionate about supporting the well-being of individuals and families within our vibrant Jewish community. Through a range of individual, couples, family and group counselling, we strive to empower, educate, and uplift those we serve. This also includes Positive Parenting workshops, trauma, psycho-education, personalized youth counselling, and school partnerships.

Since October 7th, we have been deeply increasing and addressing the concerning rise of antisemitism in our society.

JCFS provided  
**1600**  
COUNSELLING  
SESSIONS  
in the past year

*"I attended the Unity in Community program. I am glad I did. It has provided a safe space for me to process my emotions and develop healthy coping mechanisms. Experiencing anxiety and facing antisemitism on campus was not something I was ever prepared for. This group has made an immense difference in helping me feel stable again." - JCFS CLIENT*

*"With my sessions, I have gained a better understanding of my anxiety triggers and I am learning how to manage my stress. My counsellor has helped me connect with my Jewish identity. My sessions have been a source of comfort during these strange times." - JCFS CLIENT*



# AT JCFS, WE CARE ABOUT CHILD WELFARE

## OUR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our Child Welfare team is dedicated to making a profound difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families. Each day, our Child Welfare professionals go above and beyond to ensure the safety, stability, and well-being of the children and families we serve. Through a holistic approach, they provide a wide range of critical services, including:

- Adoption
- Foster Care
- Child Protection
- Family Reunification Services
- Counselling and Mental Health Resources
- Prevention Services...  
And More!

### Interested in Jewish Adoption or Foster Care?

Reach out to David Azuelos, [dazuelos@jcfswinipeg.org](mailto:dazuelos@jcfswinipeg.org), or stay tuned for our upcoming workshops.

JCFS sent  
**10 FOSTER  
CHILDREN**  
to summer and  
day camps

JCFS helped  
**15 FOSTER  
CHILDREN**  
access swimming lessons, art  
lessons, gymnastics,  
attend volleyball  
nationals, and more!

JCFS sent  
**2 FOSTER  
CHILDREN**  
to a Shabbaton  
in New York and to BBYO  
International  
Convention



**LAST YEAR OUR CHILD WELFARE  
TEAM SUPPORTED MORE THAN**

**65**  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**  
(Most of them living at home  
with their own families)

*"The level of care and  
empathy of the Child Welfare  
staff was remarkable. They  
went above and beyond to  
ensure a smooth transition  
addressing any needs we  
had. I'm incredibly grateful  
for their kindness during  
what could have been an  
overwhelming experience."*  
- FOSTER PARENT



# AT JCFS, WE CARE ABOUT SPIRITUAL CARE AND CHAPLAINCY

## OUR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our JCFS Chaplaincy Program has provided support for 40 years. Our ordained Rabbi visits the isolated, those hospitalized, incarcerated individuals, and people living in institutions. Our Rabbi also educates community institutions about the spiritual and cultural needs of our Jewish residents and patients. Finally, the Rabbi also works hard to make Jewish holidays special for those seeking his services.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, "Building Spiritual Capacity", JCFS has been able to extend spiritual counselling to clients in the Mental Health and Addictions program, along with helping JCFS staff to understand the complex yet vital role spirituality can play in enhancing supports.



Though the demands of our busy lives can sometimes make us lose sight of what truly matters, our Rabbi Charytan is a constant beacon, reminding us to pause, reflect, and come together in the spirit of community.

## Did You Know?

The JCFS Mental Health and Addictions group, Hashivenu, incorporates spirituality in supporting individuals in their recovery



## AT JCFS, WE CARE ABOUT FOOD SECURITY



### OUR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023–2024, JCFS continued to meet nutritional needs of our community. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters, JCFS was able to ensure that our pantry was stocked with a variety of foods and hygiene supplies, including proteins, grains, fruits, and vegetables.



Throughout the year, JCFS ensured that needs were met at special times in the Jewish holiday cycle. From 160 Pesach nutritional baskets, benefitting more than 350 Jewish Manitobans, we also delivered special treats at Hanukkah, Rosh Hashanah and Purim, and we supported those struggling with food insecurity.

A special thank you to our community partners, including Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, Jewish Foundation of Winnipeg, Gwen Selter Creative Living Centre, B'nai Brith, National Council of Jewish Women, Gray Academy of Jewish Education, and the synagogues for their ongoing support of this important initiative.

An immense thank you to the community members – like you – that have consistently helped to fill our donation bins, volunteered as drivers, and participated in food drives. We couldn't do it without you!

And to all our dedicated volunteers – we extend a heartfelt thank you! Your selfless dedication and tireless efforts are the backbone of our program, and we are so grateful for your ongoing support.

# THANK YOU!!!

**450**  
**PASSOVER, ROSH HASHANAH**  
**and HANUKKAH BASKETS**  
delivered in our Community



## HELP US FEED THE NEED

Donations of canned vegetables, cereal, pasta, rice, and tuna are always needed. Drop off at either JCFS Winnipeg or one of our blue bins in the community. (Kosher products preferred)



*"The Food Pantry at Jewish Child and Family Service has been a true blessing for our family. During a difficult time when finances were tight, the pantry provided us with nutritious food and essential household items that helped us make ends meet. The Food Pantry is a true lifeline, offering dignity and care. We can't thank you enough."* - JCFS CLIENT

*"This years hamper was excellent. It provided enough food for me to keep Passover the entire duration. I was moved by the kindness of this hamper and the wonderful people who delivered it to me."* - JCFS CLIENT

## BRAVO TO ALL OUR DONORS!



**8.2  
tons  
FOOD  
DISTRIBUTED**







# AT JCFS, WE CARE ABOUT FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Our Financial Empowerment team is dedicated to uplifting and empowering families requiring assistance.

## OUR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Here are just some of the ways that our Financial Empowerment team can help:

- Financial Coaching
  - Transportation Assistance
  - Basic Needs
  - Budgeting Tips
  - Community Education on a variety of topics such as retirement, tax credits and benefits, wills and estates...
- And more!

Our team works closely with each individual to understand their unique circumstances and provide the tailored support they need.

By investing in the financial health of our community, we are not only addressing pressing needs but also laying the groundwork for lasting change.

## Did You Know?

One of the cornerstones of our financial assistance initiatives is the Asper Helping Hand program. This interest-free loan program offers a lifeline to Jewish Manitobans facing unexpected expenses or temporary financial hardship.

**The Asper Helping Hand initiative  
can provide up to  
\$5000!**



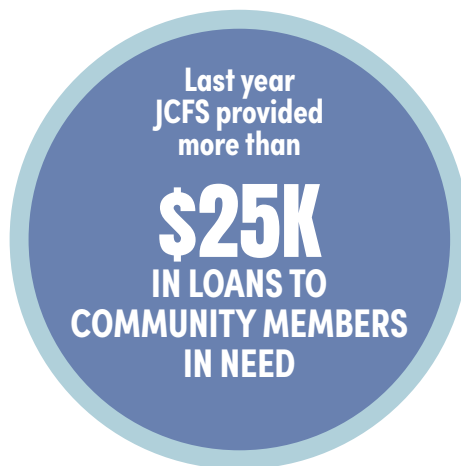
To learn more, call 204-478-8592  
or e-mail [sgarfield@jcfswinnipeg.org](mailto:sgarfield@jcfswinnipeg.org)



## MANAGING YOUR MONEY IN RETIREMENT PRESENTATION



In October, JCFS presented *Managing your Money in Retirement* with support of Michael Silver, This offered great financial tips to retirees or those planning ahead.



*"The Asper Helping Hand loan allowed us to weather the storm and get back on our feet. It was a pivotal moment that prevented our situation from spiraling, and we will be forever thankful." - JCFS CLIENT*



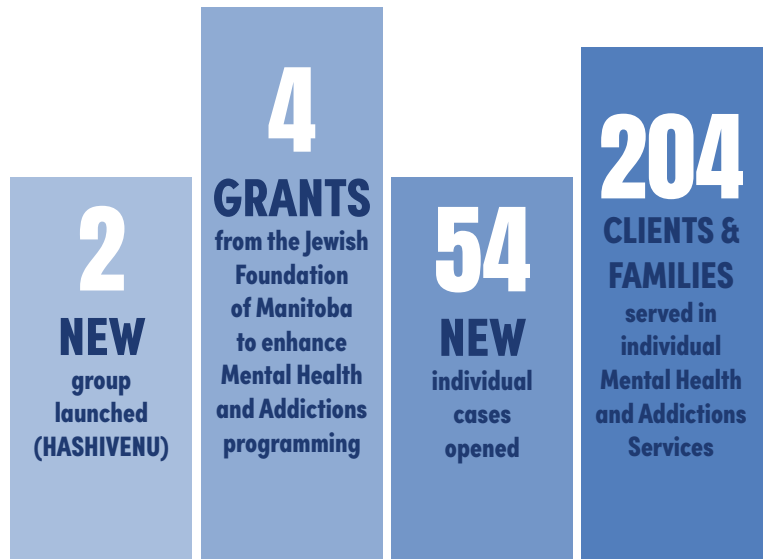
# AT JCFS, WE CARE ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS

Our Mental Health and Addictions team is dedicated to empowering individuals and families struggling with mental health and/or addictions challenges. We aim to inspire hope, renew lives, and foster a community of compassion and understanding, as clients and families embark on their recovery journeys.

## OUR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our Mental Health and Addictions team offers a variety of specific services including:

- Youth Mental Health Support
- Aging Mental Health Support
- Supportive Counselling
- Case Management
- Mental Health Workshops
- Addiction Recovery Workshops
- Community Education
- Mental Health Promotion
- Referrals...
- And More!





*"Right now I have something that I like to call the dream team. Without this dream team I could not exist to this day. I am depressed and they help me with everything that I need"*  
- JCFS CLIENT

## SERENITY SHABBAT



## RECOVERY DAY



Our Mental Health and Addictions Team can often be found out and about in the community championing mental health causes to build awareness and reduce stigma.

One of our most impactful initiatives was the fall Serenity Shabbat program. By fostering open dialogue and offering resources, we hope to destigmatize addiction and inspire hope for those on the path to recovery. Thank you to our speakers and all the synagogues for their participation!



Our Hashivenu Renewal and Recovery meetings and the Chaverim Wellness group both offer a nurturing environment for those seeking spiritual and emotional healing. Participants engage in guided discussions, mindfulness practices, and peer support, empowering them to reclaim their lives and find inner peace.





# AT JCFS, WE CARE ABOUT SETTLEMENT

JCFS Settlement Services help Jewish newcomers who immigrate to Winnipeg. By offering important supports, such as pre-immigration assistance, counselling, referrals, group connections, employment assistance and more, JCFS ensures that those first months – or years in Winnipeg are smooth and successful!

## OUR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Coordinated several major engagement initiatives for newcomers including Welcoming Week and Spring Fling
- Supported 40 families with the pre-immigration process
- Provided a welcoming hand to 70 newcomer families – up from 52 last year!
- Opened 31 new files for newcomers seeking employment related supports

## WELCOMING WEEK PROGRAM



In September, Settlement staff participated in the nation-wide “Welcoming Week” for newcomers. They had a booth set up in the Asper Jewish Community Campus, and were there to answer questions for anyone needing help.

*“The Settlement staff are sensitive and very compassionate. The care we experienced was life-changing. Moving to a new country is not easy. We are now well on our way to a new life in Winnipeg. Thank you, JCFS.” – JCFS CLIENT*





## CANADA DAY



It's always an honour when our clients become Canadian citizens. This year, for Canada Day, we invited a special guest, the Honourable Lieutenant-Governor Anita Neville, to a celebration. Mazel Tov!



Our Settlement team oversees and coordinates several groups that help our newcomer senior community adjust to a new life in Winnipeg. Participants get together regularly for ESL, activities, field trips, and more.





# AT JCFS, WE CARE ABOUT OLDER ADULTS & HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

## OUR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our Older Adult Services (OAS) team provides comprehensive supports to aging Jewish individuals and their families. These holistic services promote independent living in the community while helping clients get connected to the vital supports they need – whether medical, community, spiritual, or emotional. Our dedicated supports include Aging Mental Health, Holocaust Survivor Supports, Seniors Technology, Case Management, Taxi Voucher Program, and more!

## IN THE PAST YEAR

- Our OAS team supported 54 new clients with an overall caseload of 316 seniors and their families supported
- The OAS team, in partnership with the Financial Empowerment team, organized a presentation, “Managing Your Money in Retirement”, with guest speaker, Michael Silver
- OAS partnered with the Jewish Heritage Centre, Cummings Centre, Claims Conference, and Westwood Collegiate for the film “Reckonings” for Holocaust Education Month
- OAS staff supported the community by participating in the Simkin Stroll



Pictured here is our incredible team supporting community at the Simkin Stroll.

## Did You Know?

**61%**  
of clients supported  
by OAS are women



*My mother's experiences during the Holocaust left deep scars. But through the support groups, counselling services, and social activities organized by JCFS, she has found the space to process her trauma and reconnect in a meaningful way. Thank you for uplifting my mother. - CLIENT'S FAMILY MEMBER*

**TOGETHER.** JEWISH HERITAGE CENTRE OF WESTERN CANADA, THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF WINNIPEG, JEWISH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE, AND WESTWOOD COLLEGIATE  
**INVITE YOU TO ATTEND A SCREENING OF THE CLAIMS CONFERENCE FILM**

## RECKONINGS

The First Reparations

**A FREE  
Community  
Wide Event**

**Kristallnacht  
Commemoration**

**SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 12TH  
2 - 4 PM**

**Westwood Collegiate Theatre  
360 ROUGE RD.**

Transportation may be available upon request.  
 PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS  
 FOLLOWING THE SCREENING.

**GET YOUR  
FREE TICKET  
NOW!**



**OR CALL (204) 477-7430 TO REGISTER**



## KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION



JCFS supports 91 Holocaust survivors, and consistently communicates the message of “Never Again” as part of our cause. An example of this was seen with “Reckonings”, at Westwood Collegiate.

## CAFE EUROPA



## Did You Know?

OAS runs a bi-weekly group for  
 Holocaust Survivors at the  
 Gwen Selter Creative Living Centre

**It's been running for over  
 2 decades!**



# AT JCFS, WE CARE ABOUT VOLUNTEERS IN OUR COMMUNITY

## OUR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Through their compassionate actions, our volunteers embody the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*, or “repairing the world.” They are role models, inspiring others to follow in their footsteps and engage in acts of kindness and service. Our volunteers consistently go above and beyond to uplift and empower the vulnerable families and individuals who turn to us for support.

There are many roles in which a volunteer can be a vital part. In 2023-2024, our volunteers could be found providing:

- Companionship to Seniors / Holocaust Survivors
- Food Pantry Assistance
- Client Grocery Shopping
- ESL Education
- Youth Mentorship...
- And so Much More!



## PASSOVER CAMPAIGN



**Did You Know?**  
LAST YEAR WE HAD OVER

**140**  
VOLUNTEERS



*"...The most rewarding part is delivering the hampers directly to people's homes. I'll never forget the look of gratitude on the recipients' faces, and the sense of connection we shared in that moment. These deliveries represent a commitment to supporting our community." - JCFS VOLUNTEER*

## MANY THANKS TO OUR UNCONDITIONAL AND AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!



*"The seniors I've gotten to know are such inspiring individuals, and I'm honoured to be able to make their lives a little bit easier. Their gratitude and the smiles on their faces make every minute I spend with them so meaningful."*  
- JCFS VOLUNTEER

**To become a volunteer with JCFS, complete the form online:**  
[www.jcfswinnipeg.org/volunteer](http://www.jcfswinnipeg.org/volunteer)





# AT JCFS, WE CARE ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Our partners help JCFS deliver many important programs and initiatives throughout the year.

## Just a few of our partners from the past year:

National Council of Jewish Women Winnipeg  
Rady JCC  
B'nai Brith Canada  
The Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre  
Jewish Foundation of Manitoba  
The Asper Foundation  
Gray Academy of Jewish Education  
Jewish Federation of Winnipeg  
Cummings Centre for Seniors  
Gwen Selter Creative Living Centre  
Brock Corydon Elementary School  
and so many more...

## THANK YOU!

We couldn't do it without you.

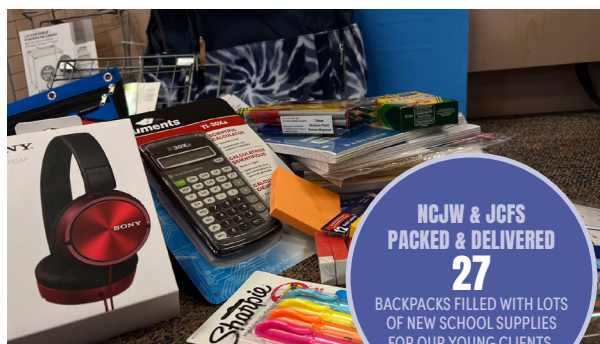
### HANUKKAH SUFGANIOT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HILLEL



*"Your generosity has made an incredible difference in our lives, and we will always be grateful for your support during this challenging time. We are confident that, with determination and perseverance, we will soon emerge from this period of adversity stronger and more resilient than ever before.*

*With warmest regards and sincere thanks.  
A single mother of 4." - JCFS CLIENT*

## BACKPACK PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NCJW



## JCFS & JEWISH FEDERATION OF WINNIPEG



JCFS, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, visiting the Legislative Building with our HEAR OUR VOICES Speaker, Ayelet Razin Bet-Or.

## DE-LIGHT-FUL PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH B'NAI BRITH CANADA



JCFS, in partnership with B'nai Brith, prepared soup, honey cakes, fruit and bunches of colorful flowers that were delivered to members of our community with the help of our amazing and unconditional volunteers.







# 10 EASY WAYS TO DONATE



1

Scan the QR code



2



Visit our website:  
[www.jcfswinnipeg.org/donate](http://www.jcfswinnipeg.org/donate)

3



Call Mara at 204-560-6730

4



Visit our office  
Monday - Friday  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

5

Support our  
Endowment Fund  
at the Jewish  
Foundation of  
Manitoba

6



Visit our page  
on Canada Helps  
[bit.ly/4c5N1pc](http://bit.ly/4c5N1pc)

7



Drop off  
non-perishable food items in  
our blue bins or at JCFS

8



Send a tribute card to a friend or  
family member

9



Email us at  
[jcfs@jcfswinnipeg.org](mailto:jcfs@jcfswinnipeg.org)

10



Start a JCFS  
tzedaka box in  
your home

JCFS accepts all major  
credit cards, cash,  
wire transfers, stock  
transfers, and cheques



# OUR VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thank you to all of our devoted volunteers who provided support and helped our community thrive.

Elissa Abrams  
Yulia Alperin  
Harvey Appelle  
Andrea Arroyave  
Roni Asraf  
Danita Dubinsky Aziza &  
Michel Aziza  
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Fanny Levy & Gustavo Zentner

\* Our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions.

“Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud.” Helen Dyer

OUR VOLUNTEERS

# A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR 2023-2024 DONORS, FRIENDS, FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

Please note that all donations made after March 31st, 2024 will appear in the 2024 - 2025 Annual Report. Our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions.

## \$50,000 +

### TZADIK

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- Winnipeg Foundation

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## WHY I GIVE

*"JCFS Winnipeg is more than an organization; it's a beacon of hope, compassion, and positive change. By giving to JCFS, I know that I am contributing to a better, more inclusive world—one where lives are transformed, families are supported, and healing happens."* - PATRON DONOR

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\* Our sincere apologies for any  
 errors or omissions.

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*"As a supporter of JCFS, I know my contribution makes a difference. When I hear testimonies of members in our community, I get reaffirmed that my support is where it needs to go. Thank you JCFS Winnipeg for your hard work and for keeping our community's heart beating every single day!" - CHAI DONOR*

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\* Our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions.

## GRATITUDE

*"My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed the football and basketball games we attended. We've been Blue Bombers fans since the 70's and were so happy to receive tickets. It's so much fun to be in the stands cheering on the Bombers! It also was a great experience to attend a couple of Sea Bears games. We had never been to a professional basketball game before, so it was a new experience. We thoroughly enjoyed the games. We also received tickets to a Moose hockey game in the past and we're big hockey fans, so we really enjoyed going to this game. Thank you so much to the donors of the tickets that we received. We thoroughly enjoyed all the games!" - COMMUNITY MEMBER*



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