CAMP IMPACT REPORT 2026

JF&CS
JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILD SERVICE OF GREATER TORONTO

For a family already worrying about rent and groceries, finding the money for camp can feel next to impossible. Yet they want what every parent wants: for their child to find a friend, discover something they love and come home bursting with stories. Camp is more than an activity. It's a place where children can build confidence, experience new adventures and simply be kids, while giving parents peace of mind knowing their children are safe, supported and having fun.

This summer, thanks to the generosity of donors and community partners, more children had the chance to experience the joy of camp, create lasting memories and feel a sense of belonging. As we look ahead to summer 2027, we hope to open that door for even more children, giving them the opportunity to experience a summer they will always remember.

NCJWC Toronto: Helping Children Arrive Ready

Getting ready for camp is part of the excitement of summer, but for families facing financial pressures, the cost of supplies can be another challenge. This summer, NCJWC Toronto provided $100 Walmart gift cards, helping families purchase the essentials their children needed.

One father arrived at JF&CS with his two sons, ages six and eight. When the boys spotted backpacks in reception, they eagerly asked whether the bags were for them. Learning that they would each receive a backpack and a Walmart gift card to shop for camp, their faces lit up. Before leaving, both boys hugged the staff member and said thank you.



It's moments like these that reflect the impact of NCJWC Toronto's generosity. Over the past five years, they have contributed 825 gift cards valued at **$69,123.71**, helping families prepare their children for camp with greater ease and less financial stress.

Thank you to NCJWC Toronto for five years of generosity and partnership, helping children head off to camp feeling prepared, excited and ready for all that summer has to offer.

Your Impact in 2026

$409,263 provided toward camp fees, easing financial pressure on families.

13 children received one-to-one support, helping them participate alongside their peers.

150 camp bags provided to children and youth with essential supplies.

Giving Back the Gift of Camp

From Camper to Community Supporter – Damon's Tuck Shop



When Damon celebrated his Bar Mitzvah last May he wanted to mark this special milestone by giving back to his community. As part of his celebration, he created an online tuck shop inviting his family and friends to make donations in support of JF&CS's camp program. Damon also generously contributed a portion of his own Bar Mitzvah gifts to help provide essential camp supplies sleeping bags, duffle bags, sheets, sunscreen and many other essentials.

Together, Damon and his family **raised more than $3,000**.

For families facing financial barriers, these items can make a meaningful difference, helping children arrive at camp feeling prepared, included and ready to enjoy all that camp has to offer.

We are deeply grateful to Damon and his family for making tzedakah such a meaningful part of his Bar Mitzvah celebration.

A Family Tradition of Camp and Giving – With Gratitude to the Zevy Family

Camp has always been an important part of growing up for the Zevy family. At Young Judaea, their children formed lifelong friendships, developed leadership skills and strengthened their connection to Jewish values. In time, they returned to camp as staff, helping create those same meaningful experiences for the next generation.

For Dov Zevy, a JF&CS Board Member, those memories made supporting other children especially meaningful. The Zevy family recently made a generous gift of **$18,000 to the JF&CS Camp Program**, helping more children experience the friendship, belonging and sense of connection that camp can provide.

Through their generosity, more children will have the opportunity to create lasting memories of their own and experience the joy and belonging that make camp so special.

A Lasting Legacy of Camp and Connection Thanks to the Jonathan Slivka Legacy Fund

When Jonathan "Jono" Slivka was growing up, summer camp held a special place in his heart. He loved the experience so much that, as he got older, he became a camp counsellor for many years. Camp was a place where he could have fun, build lifelong friendships and create memories that stayed with him long after the summer ended. That sense of warmth, connection and belonging remained important to Jonathan throughout his life.

Jonathan passed away on June 8, 2025, at the age of 51, following a courageous battle with Crohn's disease and lymphoma.

As Marsha Slivka, Jonathan's mother, marked one year since his passing, she wanted to find a meaningful way to honour Jonathan's life and keep his memory alive. Remembering how much camp had meant to him throughout his life, she established the Jonathan Slivka Legacy Fund at Jewish Family and Child Service.



Through the Fund, children who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend camp will be able to experience the same joy, friendship and sense of belonging that meant so much to Jonathan. The Jonathan Slivka Legacy Fund is a lasting tribute to a life filled with love, family and connection. Through the experiences of future campers, Jonathan's legacy will continue to create moments of joy, friendship and lasting memories for years to come.

Packing More Than Camp Bags

At JF&CS's first ***Meet at the Mess Hall*** event, more than 75 volunteers came together to pack **150 camp bags** filled with donated essentials. Parents, grandparents and children worked alongside Board members, donors and staff, sharing their own camp memories while helping other children prepare for a summer filled with new experiences friendships and fun.

The impact extended well beyond the packing tables. The evening also raised **$8,000 toward camp subsidies**, helping even more children experience the joy of camp and create lasting memories of their own.



Taking Home More Than Camp Supplies

A father and his two sons, ages six and eight, came to JF&CS to pick up camp supplies. As soon as they entered the reception area, the boys spotted the backpacks and eagerly asked if they were for them.

When they learned that the bags were theirs, along with a $100 Walmart gift card for each child, their faces lit up.

One of the boys turned to his father and said, "*I was really excited about the school BBQ today, but now I'm even more excited to have this $100 gift card.*"

Both boys were thrilled. Before leaving, they each gave me a hug and said thank you.



For families facing financial barriers, support like this can ease some of the cost of preparing for camp, while helping children feel excited, included and ready for the summer ahead. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, moments like this are possible.

More Support.

More Campers.

More Possibilities.