



JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILD SERVICE OF GREATER TORONTO

Jewish Family and Child Service of Greater Toronto

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Dear Friends,

These are unprecedented times. Today, JF&CS continues to face new challenges in ensuring the safety and well-being of clients as well as dealing with the influx of new calls asking for support, both emotional and financial, as a result of COVID-19.

We are here for our community and continue to provide our clients with support and care during this trying time. Please read about JF&CS' response to the challenges this pandemic has brought to the Agency and the incredible way our staff and community have stepped up, ensuring the safety and well-being of our clients.

Our child welfare services are continuing, with extra caution being paid toward safety of the staff and resource families. We have been fortunate to have been able to procure critical PPE through community donors, so that in-person services can continue when necessary.

Food security is at the top of the list of our need to address our community's most essential needs. Many of our clients live cheque to cheque and are unable to buy groceries to last for more than one or two days. Many are simply unable to afford or access food delivery and cannot go out as they are considered high risk. Some people cannot cook for themselves due to health restrictions or disabilities. For us, ensuring people have enough food remains one of our highest priorities

There has been an increase in the number of calls from Holocaust survivors. The Holocaust Survivors Services team are working tirelessly to make sure that both current and new clients receive the care they need. We are extremely fortunate that our primary funders have maintained their generosity so that JF&CS can give our Survivors the essentials they need.

Our Financial Empowerment Worker has been working diligently to ensure that all JF&CS staff are up to date and aware of all government benefits available to our clients at this time. JF&CS staff are helping clients access and/or navigate new and often complex government forms.

The longer social distancing measures are in place and women and children are isolated with abusive partners and caregivers, the greater the need for Woman Abuse services. A Social Worker expressed her appreciation for critical donors funds received for Woman Abuse clients:

"I wanted to let you know that I particularly have been grateful (as are the clients) for the financial help that several of my woman abuse clients have received from the our generous donors for emergency funding for woman abuse clients, which has helped them with being able to manage very immediate and essential needs, mainly food. For many woman abuse clients, they are either financially "on their own" or not receiving any support from their ex-partners and certainly not receiving it now with the job loss and the court system not fully operational. These funds have assisted greatly, as children, especially students, have come home and grocery bills have swelled. Many children are isolating in one home and not necessarily going on access visits, leaving the bulk of food needs resting on one parent and in most of the woman abuse cases I have, it has been the mom. I want to just say a big thank you!"

As we are all making sure our loved ones are being looked after, JF&CS continues to reach out to clients and provide support where needed. After all, we are all in this together.

Keep well and stay,

Sharon List

President | Board of Directors

Jewish Family and Child Service



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