

Prosserman Wunder Levine Brodlieb Orzy

We posed this question to the eight donors

Why donate to Jewish Family & Child?

highlighted in Jewish Family & Child's 2011/ 2012 Annual Report. The responses were as varied as the people themselves.

The donors we interviewed are not necessarily our largest donors, nor have they donated over the longest period of time. They are people with a compelling story to tell.

We spoke to a thirteen year old boy one day, and on the next day, a couple in their mid-eighties. We learned that JF&CS truly inspires people and that inspiration has a way of being passed down through generations.

The donors featured in this report are from all walks of life and represent the diversity of our community. They donate to JF&CS because they want to prevent abuse, protect children, support the frail and feed the hungry. For each of these donors, an aspect of our service had a particular resonance because of their own unique life story. This report also lists more than one thousand others who have their own stories and reasons for supporting Jewish Family & Child.

On our cover is a photo of Jack Nichols ז"ל. His is, perhaps, the most intriguing narrative of all and you'll learn more about him while reading the centre spread.

Collecting stories from our donors allows JF&CS to appreciate our community's history and philanthropic values. If the people in this Annual Report move or motivate you, we encourage you to share your story with us as well.

Why do you donate? Tell us by emailing: stories@jfandcs.com

# **FOUNDATION**

We are pleased to announce that The Jewish Family and Child Foundation has been established. Although independent of the Agency, the Foundation has very similar charitable purposes and goals to those of the Agency. We expect to work closely with the Foundation over the coming years to raise as much money as possible to pursue this important work, serving the

most vulnerable members of the community, and to promote additional efficiency in the management of donations and donor relations. For more information, please contact Hannah Wasserman at hwasserman@ifandcs.com

# PLANNED GIFTS

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our donors who have included Jewish Family & Child in their estate plans.

# **ENDOWMENTS**

We acknowledge with gratitude the following endowments that have been established with Jewish Family & Child. Some are presently making a difference; others will make that difference in years to come.

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Jenn and Jesse Brodlieb wanted to create and donate simcha baskets in lieu of centre pieces at their daughter's baby naming. A friend suggested they look into the needs of the Family Resource Centre (FRC) at the Promenade Mall.

The FRC is an initiative of JF&CS and the Prosserman JCC. It's a warm, supportive environment where kids and their caregivers can play, learn and relax together. Jenn visited the FRC with her mother and was immediately charmed. As a social worker, Jenn recognized the FRC's value in the development of happy, healthy children.

"We had so much in those simcha baskets!"
Jenn says, laughing. "We wanted to give the
FRC everything ... toys, books, art supplies,
newborn items, you name it! My mom and I
delivered the baskets during their Shabbat
program and we both just melted. That's when
the FRC found its way into my heart."

Jenn was determined to help raise awareness. She brought together a group of her friends in their twenties and thirties – most of whom also had small kids. They decided to plan an awareness/fundraising event and that's when the FRC FunDay was born.

"The event was held at a children's play place,"
Jenn recalls. "We didn't charge much to

attend and we got a lot donated. Overall, it was a big success."

That success continued after another year of planning. The second FunDay was held at the Promenade Mall. The committee doubled the event attendance and raised more than \$12,000.

Jenn's connection to JF&CS was further strengthened this year as she joined Alan Levine as co-chair of our annual fundraising campaign. Jenn and her committee are also well underway in planning the third FunDay to be held at the Prosserman JCC on November 18, 2012.

"Young people like me often want to give back, but they just don't know how to go about it,"

Jenn notes. "Just try. Ask questions. Talk to people. Find something that makes you passionate and don't assume you're not needed. There is always a way to give back."

Proceeds from Family FunDays have allowed the Family Resource Centre to remain open on Sundays

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# CHAI PATRONS \$1,800 - \$4,999

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Laura Orzy grew up in South Africa. Her grandfather was a founder of Johannesburg's Arcadia Jewish Children's Home. Laura was always connected to the Home's orphaned kids, who were part of her life.

Rick is from Kitchener-Waterloo. His father, Alex, was a community leader there who led the building of the current synagogue and Jewish Community Centre. His mother, Alyce, was the go-to leader in all facets of social services within the Jewish community.

Fast forward to 1988. Laura was living in New York. While visiting Toronto for a wedding, she was invited to a party at the home of a friend's friend, and that home happened to be Rick's.

"Rick says that I crashed the party," Laura points out. "Nonetheless, he asked me out on a date in New York, since he often came for his work on behalf of Soviet Jewry."

They were married a year later.

Today, Laura serves as Women's Division Chair for Israel Bonds and is a Beth Tzedec Board member. Rick has volunteered with the Soviet Jewry movement, UJA Federation, Jewish civil rights advocacy and Israel Bonds. He is also a leading restructuring lawyer whose former partner was the husband of JF&CS social worker, Elinor Gertner '\'\ Elinor encouraged Rick to join our Board of Directors. He served as Board President from 2007-2009 and is now the President of The Jewish Family and Child Foundation.

"When you give to support JF&CS, your money is put to direct and immediate use within our community without bureaucracy, undue cost or waste. The money is sorely needed and is used to fulfill urgent needs."

The community service gene was clearly passed on to the Orzy children. Ilan and Noa made Aliyah, and are now serving in the Israel Defence Forces. Han previously volunteered and taught in Israel with Magen David Adom. Noa worked in Israel with children affected by terrorism, and advocates on behalf of the Lone Soldiers' Center. Zev is spending next year in Israel with Young Judaea's Year Course, where he will work with vulnerable kids in impoverished areas of Israel.

It's a good thing Laura crashed that party.

The Orzy family plays a vital role in sending vulnerable kids to Jewish summer camp

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"I grew up surrounded by people who demonstrated the importance of making a personal commitment to the Jewish community," says Sharyn Salsberg Ezrin.

"Surrounded" is almost an understatement

Sharyn's paternal grandparents were active in settling Jewish refugees and immigrants. They had a shoe manufacturing company on King Street West and would employ and house these men and women – providing a safety net to start anew in Canada.

Sharyn's aunt, Dora Wilensky, was a university-educated social worker who, in 1944, became Executive Director of Jewish Family & Child – a position she held for more than fifteen years until her untimely death in 1959. Dora's husband, J.B. Salsberg, was a very prominent labour unionist, Yiddishist, politician and journalist.

Sharyn's paternal grandmother established a ladies' benevolent society whose members went to manufacturers on Spadina at the end of every season, and picked up unsold clothing to distribute to the neediest Jews in the community. Her paternal grandfather even made his own matzah to distribute at Passover.

By age ten, Sharyn had already developed a deep sense of responsibility.

"The builders of the Jewish community were not wealthy people." She says. "This vibrant

community was formed on the shoulders of people who championed a cause – regardless of their economic status."

Sharyn worked professionally as an organizational psychologist, but has been equally focused on community work throughout her life. She has served on boards and committees with United Way Toronto, Family Service Association, Jewish Family & Child and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. She is also a strong and active supporter of the Wellness Library at Baycrest, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Sharyn, her husband Hershell, and their daughters Rachel and Shayna, are especially proud to oversee JF&CS's Dora Wilensky Memorial Fund which supports professional development at the Agency.

"JF&CS serves Jews of all backgrounds, denominations, orientations and socio-economic status," Sharyn notes. "That's how I was raised – to help where help is needed and I'm blessed and privileged to be able to carry on my family's philanthropy."

The Dora Wilensky Memorial Fund allows our staff to advance their skills and keep us on the leading edge of the social work profession

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"At least three times a day, my mother would complain to my father that we were the only Jewish family in town," Irving Levine recalls, smiling. "She told him her kids would never meet or marry anyone Jewish. She nagged him constantly!"

The town his mother was referring to was Grimsby, Ontario where Irving's father owned a clothing shop in which Irv and his brother, Harry, worked each night until ten o'clock. The family also had a cottage in Crystal Beach, about an hour away. That's where Irving first met Ruth. He asked her on a date, though he knew his strict father would never let him leave work early.

"I remember summoning the courage to ask my dad if I could leave two hours early for a date. Instead of answering me, he turned to Harry and told him I was a lazy bum with a lousy work

ethic. Before he could get much further in his rant, Harry interrupted him to stress that my date was with a Jewish girl. With my mother's voice in his head, my father paused, turned back to me and said, 'so what are you waiting for?'"

Irving and Ruth married in 1952 and moved to Toronto. They had three children: Alan, Michael and Susy.

Five years ago, Irving and his business partner Lionel Robins, made a significant donation to UJA's capital campaign which helped in the construction of

JF&CS's new office space. Irving wanted to ensure that a family member stayed involved and that 'Levine' was not just a name on our

wall. Alan was that family member - first as a Board member - and then as chair of our Resource Development Committee.

Alan's wife, Ellen, and his sister Susy, were next to catch the JF&CS bug when they co-chaired our inaugural Jewish Folks Telling Jokes fundraising event in May 2012.

"We were raised with certain values,"
says Susy. "We appreciate what we
have and we give back to the
community. Our children now
share those same values."

With the Levines, it is truly a family affair ... all thanks to a little nagging!

Jewish Folks Telling Jokes raised \$150,000 to support JF&CS's greatest needs

Back row from Right to Left: Ellen Levine, Alan Levine, Susy Miller, Murray Miller Front row: Irving and Ruth Levine

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2011 – 2012 has been a challenging year for Jewish Family & Child (JF&CS). We have seen a distressing increase in client need for financial assistance and psychosocial support. Meanwhile, the Agency has struggled to identify savings and control expenditures in the face of increasing costs and reduced funding. Despite this, our commitment to clients to be there Every Step of the Way, has served as a powerful impetus for change. Our 2008 Strategic Plan resulted in the revitalization of Agency systems and infrastructure, supporting the growth of our clinical skills and competencies and informing our understanding of complex client needs with the best available evidence. We have implemented a new organizational structure featuring mixed practice teams and case management,

ensuring client-centred rather than program-driven service delivery. We commend our funding partners - the Government of Ontario, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, United Way Toronto and York Region, and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany - for the wisdom of investing in Jewish Family & Child in recent years.

As a Toronto family service agency and Children's Aid Society we must acknowledge the increase in street violence and senseless tragedy that we have experienced in our city in recent months. The risks associated with poverty, family violence and mental illness in a large urban environment are evident and significant. More than ever, we must use scarce resources to the best possible effect. Our commitment to increasing safety and security, to improving mental health and wellness and to reducing the effects of poverty,

takes on a great sense of urgency as we mourn the city's recent loss of life. Notably, it has been almost 23 years since Canada adopted an all-party resolution to end child poverty. We have not accomplished this imperative, nor have we adequately supported the needs of vulnerable individuals and families so battered by these difficult circumstances. The growing need for JF&CS's child welfare, woman abuse, financial assistance and mental health services reveals how very challenged we are as a society to do the right thing.

However, there is hope; indeed it leaps off the pages of this Annual Report.
Our donors bring a singular sense of social responsibility and generosity to their giving. We are deeply grateful to the caring individuals and organizations who ensured that Jewish Family & Child was able to respond this past year to 10,443 calls to our Intake Department.

The Agency completed 536 child abuse and neglect investigations and provided foster homes and treatment facilities to 97 children. Four hundred and two women and 630 children received support thorough our woman abuse services.

We were able to provide camp subsidies for 330 children and financial assistance to 1,232 individuals living in poverty, and we provided counselling support and emergency funds to 521 Holocaust survivors. These statistics represent but a sample of the many services we provide.

It is a privilege to do this work. I thank our clients for their courage, our Board of Directors for their dedication, my staff colleagues for their remarkable efforts and our many stakeholders for their abiding contribution.

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When people donate to JF&CS, they do so for a myriad of reasons. Often, we are unaware of what brings us to a donor's attention, as in the mysterious case of Jack Nichols.

In May 2012, we received a letter from a law firm indicating that Mr. Nichols had bequeathed a very generous sum to JF&CS. We have no record of his ever donating before, and he was not a former client. After some digging, we obtained his obituary from *The Globe and Mail*, though

we do not know what moved him to include us in his will.

We do know that Jack Nichols was born in Montreal in 1921, was the youngest of three sons in a Jewish family, originally named Nachlis, and possessed a natural artistic ability. Jack was orphaned at a young age and tragically his middle brother drowned while

trying to save a friend. He quit school at 14 and a mere two years later, was exhibiting his drawings to the public.

In the 1940s, Jack was appointed an Official War Artist with the Royal Canadian Navy.





**Left:** Men on H.M.C.S. Iroquois at Action Stations **Right:** Drowning Sailor

Unlike most war artists, he concentrated not on weapons or ships, but on human experience. Jack accompanied our troops in crossing the English Channel on D-Day.

He moved to Paris in the sixties, became a skilled mandolin player and met the woman with whom he had his only daughter. Nobody knows why he moved back to Toronto shortly after, but upon doing so, something went awry. Jack moved to Cabbagetown,

became reclusive and had difficult dealings with art dealers and galleries. Friends reported that he was struggling and for long periods of time he stopped making art.

Curators and archivists visited and neighbours looked after his legal and medical needs. He was



eccentric, private and ultimately too frail to live independently; a neighbour arranged his move to a residential facility. He died in 2009 after suffering a stroke.

Jack's sensitivity and generosity represent an honourable legacy which will, through the services of JF&CS, continue to have impact. If you would like to view Jack's artwork or read his detailed obituary, please email your request to Jo Michaels I jmichaels@jfandcs.com





"That doesn't happen in our community."

I have heard this sentiment expressed repeatedly when I talk about the work of Jewish Family & Child. It is usually followed by questions such as: How can there possibly be Jewish people living below the poverty line? Are there really Jewish children who go to school hungry? Do Jewish people really abuse their partners? Can child abuse exist in a Jewish home? How is it possible that there are Holocaust survivors who need emergency funds for such basic needs as dental care or kosher food?

The question I ask myself, however, what are we doing about it?

You need only to look at Executive Director Richard Cummings' comments in this Annual Report to find answers. The statistics speak to the reality that these conditions in fact exist, and that Jewish Family & Child provides service to one in seven

members of our community each year. We recognize that the need exists, and we respond by offering programs and services to address these ever increasing needs. Jewish Family & Child provides over 35 distinct social service programs and is mandated by the Province of Ontario as the only Jewish Children's Aid Society in Canada.

It is important to recognize and give thanks to those who support, deliver and fund our vital work. Offering my appreciation to large numbers may appear to diminish the sincerity of the expression, however, I assure you that this thank you is heartfelt and extremely sincere. I commend and thank:

• The professional and support staff of Jewish Family & Child for their diligence, hard work and commitment;

- · Our direct service volunteers like those who drive our foster kids to medical appointments or who act as big brothers and sisters, tutors and mentors, and those who visit homebound or hospitalized community members;
- · Our Foster parents many of whom open their homes to provide emergency shelter or respite care and those who take in children for extended periods of time when their needs cannot be
- · Our funders: The Government of Ontario, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, United Way Toronto and York Region, and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany;

· Our generous donors like those highlighted in this Annual Report, along with many others who have supported the Agency through bequests or endowment funds, made personal donations to our annual Friends Campaign, sent tribute/ condolence cards or organized and attended third party events;

Our Board of Directors and committee members that number over fifty, and whose dedication and commitment

In Hebrew, hakarat ha-tov, is translated as "recognizing the good". As President of the Board of Directors of Jewish Family & Child, it is truly my honour to recognize the good provided by all of the above and to say thank you. Without their support, JF&CS would not be the premier social service agency that we are today, providing help, Every Step of the Way.

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Brian & Pamela Hochman Holy Blossom Temple Pre-School Robert & Judith Kanee Ari Kashton Joy Kaufman David & Lisa Kaufman Andrew & Wendy Kay Carolyn Keystone Howard & Paula Klaiman Monty & Eileen Kobrin Cliff & Katy Korman Lee Davis Tzedakah Fund at the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto Martin Prosserman grew up in Montreal with a single mother, a younger sister and a grandmother – all of whom shared one room.

The other rooms were often filled with renters - vulnerable people who urgently needed housing. For Martin, his mother's goodwill offered him an early and impactful lesson in generosity and philanthropy.

Martin spent most of his time outside of his house. When he was nine, he got a job as an errand boy at a clothing store. When he wasn't working or at school, he spent his time at the Young Men's Hebrew Association – or the "Y" For a nickel he'd get a hot shower with soap and a towel – something he rarely had at home.

"My mother only lit the boiler for baths on Saturdays," he recalls, smiling. "We bathed by priority and by my turn, the water was no longer clean. That's why I loved the Y."

He also loved it because it kept him and his friends out of trouble, provided sports and recreational opportunities and he was fortunate enough to meet his wife, Ellen, there as well.

Martin had a very successful career retailing men's apparel and in 1997 he sold his company, Moores, and moved the family to Toronto. In 2009, thanks to Martin's generous donation to UJA's capital campaign in his late wife's honour, the "Jewish Y" at Bathurst and Sheppard was rebuilt and renamed the Martin and Ellen Prosserman Jewish Community Centre.

In early 2012, Martin established the Prosserman Quality of Life Fund at Jewish Family & Child. Its purpose is to assist vulnerable Jewish people with counselling, support and assistance with housing.

"I used to daydream," Martin says. "I dreamt that one day I would 'make it' and I could help people the way I was helped. My family and I were lucky enough to 'make it' in Canada and are truly fortunate to be able to give back in such a personal and meaningful way."

JF&CS partners with The Kehilla Residential Programme to provide rent assistance to clients in need



Right to Left: Ron, Martin, Gary and Brian Prosserman

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Gitta Ganz was born in a small village in Romania, into a family of eight children. Six family members miraculously survived the concentration camps. At the end of the war, at a German displaced persons' camp, she met Sam; he was 18 and she was 19.

"Dating an older woman was best thing that happened to me," Sam jokes. "I was a little nothing! She calmed me down pretty good!" In 1948 they came to Canada and married three years later.

"We were teen agers with no education, no trade, not a word of English between us," Gitta recalls. "We got off the train in Toronto and JF&CS was there along with JIAS. They helped us with everything. They even put us up with room and board in a Jewish woman's house on Euclid [Avenue]."

"We didn't even know what a streetcar was!" adds Sam. "Our JF&CS social worker bought us four tickets for a quarter and had to show us how to board, tear the tickets and place them in the collection box. We thought College Street was pronounced 'Col-lay-gah'"

During those years, Sam and Gitta made a pledge that one day, if they were successful, they would support Jewish agencies, Israel

and anyone living in poverty. Fortunately, Canada treated them very well. Sam, along with his father and brother, founded Ganz Bros. Toys Ltd. in 1950, and it wasn't long before Sam and Gitta fulfilled their pledge.

"We never forget that we are part of both the Jewish community and the broader Canadian society," Gitta says wiping away a tear. "We hope our actions serve as an example to our children, Howard and Mindy, and to our grandchildren, and that they continue to honour these values."

"We believe in helping people, period." adds Sam. "We also love Israel and we try to go once a year, but I'm 83 and this young lady is 84. We're getting a little oldish for all that travel."

"He's always joking," laughs Gitta. "But in all seriousness, as Jews, we all have a stake in protecting the future. And so, we all must do our part."

JF&CS partners with JIAS Toronto to ensure a seamless transition for newcomers

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18 | JEWISH FAMILY & CHILD ANNUAL REPORT 2011/2012 | 19 With a name like Jack Wunder, it's easy to imagine all of the nicknames Jack's friends and family have for him. One of them happens to be 'Wunder Boy'.

It brings to mind the image of a boy with a cape, living in a metropolis while fighting injustice, doesn't it?

But Jack Wunder doesn't have a cape; he prefers a hockey stick and he loves the sport as much as any 13-year-old Canadian kid.

When Jack heard that there were Jewish children just like him who couldn't afford to play, it was as if he immediately morphed into Wunder Boy.

With help from his family, Jack learned about JF&CS's Levelling the Playing Field Program. It ensures that our foster children and the children of our Supplementary Financial Assistance Program clients can participate in music, sports and arts lessons just like their peers. Jack's mother, Leesa, called to ask us if we could use donations to help Jewish kids who wanted to play hockey and of course, we could.

Leesa explained that Jack's Bar Mitzvah was approaching and that in lieu of gifts, he would ask his guests to donate to JF&CS. More than 10% of Jewish children in the GTA live below

the poverty line. Jack wanted as many of those kids as possible to experience his love of hockey – regardless of their family's economic status.

"There's a stereotype," Jack says wisely.

"Everyone thinks Jews are like the richest people, but there are lots of parents who can't pay for their kids to play. It's really expensive and I'm lucky my family can help me."

Jack's Bar Mitzvah donations meant that, unlike other Jewish youth, he didn't get many presents of his own.

"It doesn't bug me," Jack says shrugging.

"I get to share what I love most with kids who wouldn't be able to play and I feel really good about that. That's as good as any present."

With that level of maturity and the fact that Jack has now celebrated his Bar Mitzvah, we should probably start addressing him as Wunder Man.

20 vulnerable children will participate in sports and arts programs thanks to Jack's Bar Mitzvah fund

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The word 'family' has evolved to the point where no two dictionaries seem to agree on its definition. If David Baum '"' were alive today, he would certainly offer a meaning unlike any other.

In 1932, David was born to a young mother who was unable to keep him. Finding David a permanent home during the Depression, when most parents were struggling to feed their own children, proved very challenging. JF&CS placed David in foster care where he remained until he was eight years old. That's when Harry and Rae Baum, who already had two children, adopted him.

"It could have ended up very differently for dad," his son Steven muses. "He could have lived in foster homes until he was eighteen and then who knows what? Instead he wound up with my grandparents – good people who gave him a solid family, an education and a great life. I know how thankful he was to them for that."

David grew up in Toronto, became a well-respected lawyer, married, and had two sons, Joel and Steven, but he made no secret of also wanting a daughter. To ensure that happened, he adopted a newborn girl, Debra, from Jewish Family Services in Calgary.

Some years after that adoption, David's first marriage ended and he became a single father of three.

Fortunately, a few years later, through his long-time involvement with Beth Tikvah Synagogue and its choir, David met Cookie. It was then that he realized once again, just how lucky he was. David and Cookie married in 1983 and spent nearly three cherished decades together until his untimely death at the age of 79.

During his life, JF&CS had remained David's charity of choice, so Cookie and his children did not have to think twice about where to direct condolence donations in his memory.

David spent the first eight years of his life without a clear definition of 'family'. Once he found one; however, he embraced the word wholeheartedly. David is survived by his sons, his daughter, his wife Cookie, and her two sons and eight grandchildren – all of whom miss him dearly.

The David Baum Scholarship Fund was created to assist young adults (including former foster children) with post-secondary educational programs

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# Jewish Family & Child 2011 / 2012 Summarized Operating Financial Report 12 Month Period Ended March 31, 2012

REVENUE		2011/2012	2010/2011
Ontario Ministries of Children and Youth S Community and Social Services	Services,	9,943,338	9,955,975
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto		5,585,808	5,137,223
United Way		1,906,624	1,909,337
Other Income		1,621,221	2,407,930
Fees from Clients		232,622	178,293
	Total Operating Revenue	19,289,613	19,588,758
EXPENDITURES			
Child Welfare Services		8,757,916	8,880,586
Programs and Services (including counsel prevention, outreach and financial assista		7,953,091	8,062,449
Direct Financial Assistance to Clients*		3,112,626	2,657,225
	Total Operating Expenditures Operating Deficit	19,823,633 -534,020	19,600,260 -11,502

<sup>\*</sup>Includes camp and Passover assistance, emergency assistance to Holocaust survivors Audited Financial Statements including a report by Ernst & Young, Chartered Accountants are available at the office of JF&CS. Donors listed in this report range from April 1, 2011 – May 31, 2012



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Mission

JF&CS supports the healthy development of individuals, children, families, and communities through prevention, protection, counselling, education and advocacy services, within the context of Jewish values.

JF&CS Annual Report 2011/2012

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Jack Nichols Obituary: Martin, Sandra (2009, Nov. 7). War artist captured the 'life energy' used in combat. The Globe and Mail, P. S13

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# Drzy Michols Garz Baum Salsberg Ezri