

Jewish Programming

In a time of rising antisemitism, strengthening Jewish belonging isn't just meaningful — it's vital. Through Jewish programming, we create spaces of safety, pride, and connection that build resilience, uplift individuals and families, and remind them they're not alone.

1,174 clients and community members were supported through:

985 holiday meals

347 subsidies for Jewish summer camps

7 Bar/Bat Mitzvahs funded

700+

boxes of kosher groceries for Passover and year-round through our three community pantries

266+

gift cards and toys distributed at Chanukah through Drive for Dreidels

"I feel like I am alive again."

shared a senior who, after years of homelessness, has now secured housing, tickets to shul, a dress to wear to service, and access to holiday meals.

Housing

Our Housing program restores hope through personalized case management and outreach. Housing Workers help clients find homes that are safe, affordable, accessible, and close to the Jewish community.

"JF&CS helped me find an affordable apartment—something even my shelter's housing worker couldn't manage. I can't thank you enough. I feel happy every time I come home."

Pearl Project

Nearly half of JF&CS's former foster youth now in their twenties lack a consistent adult presence in their lives. Many face precarious housing, employment struggles, and unresolved trauma.

Through the Pearl Project, a JF&CS social worker connects these youth with caring adult mentors. The program supports skill-building and career planning, as well as access to:

- Housing
- Financial assistance including education funding
- Financial literacy training
- Employment resources through partners such as JVS Toronto
- Connection to the Jewish community

"The Pearl Project welcomed me when I thought I was alone. I was encouraged to seek support to process my childhood experience because I was not feeling good about myself and starting to withdraw. I am now getting coaching and mentoring from a caring professional who's helping me see the kind of woman I want to – and can be."

The Pearl Project currently supports 17 youth.



\$28,186

provided to assist with first and last month's rent, moving expenses, furniture, clothing, and groceries

Among the many served, 34 clients have housing through our partnership with St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society.

Key partners include Kehilla Residential Programme, Reena Residences, and St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society.

126

individuals and families in Toronto and York Region were supported

25% increase from 2023

Financial Empowerment

Our Financial Empowerment and Problem Solving (FEPS) team plays a vital role in helping vulnerable community members regain control over their finances.

586 people were provided the tools and guidance to build financial confidence by managing expenses, planning budgets, filing taxes, and accessing the government benefits they had earned.

431 of those clients received a total of \$1,725,390 in tax refunds and benefits, averaging \$4,003 per client in just one year.



Follow-up support ensures that new plans remain effective and sustainable. The team also runs financial literacy groups and workshops welcoming clients, pre-retirees and Israeli newcomers.

300 individuals and families attend JF&CS tax clinics.

The FEPS team assists with navigating:

- The Disability Tax Credit
- The Canada Disability Benefit
- Medical benefits through social assistance
- Amendments to pension income
- Debt management strategies

DID YOU KNOW?

JF&CS is listed on the CRA website, and our FEPS staff are authorized to file tax returns free of charge. Many cases require months of personalized assistance due to the complexity of government programs and systems.

"I didn't even know there was a problem until JF&CS offered to help me. I never could have done this on my own."

Basic Needs + Connections

Over the past year, 2,557 individuals facing financial hardship turned to JF&CS for support.

With donor support, we continue to address basic needs:

213

high-need clients receive fresh produce boxes every other week

17

youth and adults received refurbished or new computers, allowing them to access education, jobs and community life

70

extracurricular activities funded



"This is the best produce I've had in years. It's so important to my health. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, and G-d bless you and all responsible for this."

1,439 people received one-time financial assistance to resolve urgent needs.

*All statistical data is drawn from the 2024 calendar year.

The Impact of Your Gift

\$72

One holiday food box to a family living in poverty.

\$180

One month of transit fare connecting clients to work, counselling, medical appointments and education.

\$360

One week of groceries for a family of four.

\$500

One year's worth of essentials for a child, such as new clothing, student fees, and seasonal items.

\$1,000

Funding to support clients' first month of rent.

\$5,000

Support for families working toward long-term stability, such as case management, housing stabilization, and financial counselling.