



EVERY STEP of the WAY

JEWISH FAMILY & CHILD 2012/2013 ANNUAL REPORT

EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

When our clients begin their journey with Jewish Family & Child (JF&CS), they do so with a first step. Often, it begins with an emotional step as they gather the courage to reach out and ask us for support or assistance. Next, it is a physical step as they walk through the doors of one of our offices for the first time. Once they have done so, it is the beginning of a journey along which JF&CS is there for them, *Every Step of the Way*.

It is not just our Agency's tagline; it also exemplifies the client-centred approach towards which we strive every day. Our priority, once that first step is taken, is to ensure our clients' needs are met by one or more of our three strategic areas of focus: increasing safety and security, reducing the effects of poverty and improving mental health and wellness.

The stories in this Annual Report are just a sampling of the many different steps taken by our clients every year as they traverse the path toward their own personal destination. Read on and join Jewish Family & Child as we walk beside them, *Every Step of the Way*.

PLANNED GIFTS

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

GIFTS IN KIND

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of donors who have supported Jewish Family & Child through gifts in kind, including simcha baskets, sports and event tickets and items for our Just A Second Shop.

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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FROM THE PRESIDENT JUDY WINBERG

Zoey, Sam, David, Beth and Pearl. Their names may be fictional but their stories, found throughout this Annual Report, are very real.

It is because of the Zoey's, the Sam's, and others like them that Jewish Family & Child has existed in our community for over 140 years. It is also because of them that people like me choose to volunteer for the Agency.

Some say it is the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, that motivates us to reach out and volunteer to help others. Voluntary service can take many forms. Among the hundreds of volunteers at Jewish Family & Child who tutor struggling students, drive foster children to appointments, visit fellow Jews in hospitals and other institutions, are those who serve on committees and on the Board of Directors. Do we do it to save the world? No, not really. We do it because we know that there are Jewish people in our community who are struggling and whose lives can be improved because of the work of Jewish Family & Child.

Each Board meeting begins with a "Client Story" – a narrative about a client of the Agency which provides Board members the opportunity to learn firsthand about the types of services that are delivered, while at the same time offers an insight into the life of a client and his/her family.

Our clients are among those in the GTA who face the daily realities of unemployment, poverty, domestic abuse and mental health issues. Agenda items at the Client Outcomes Committee and the Programs and Services Committee include discussions on ways to measure the effectiveness of the services, assessing current situations and anticipating future needs, and reviewing service plans that directly affect the lives of children and youth in our care.

Talia, Jonah & Yael Benmor Fund The Henry Korenblum Fund 1 to 1 The Idek Geitzhals Camp Fund The Steven Somborac Scholarship Fund Wattenberg Auslander Memorial Fund William Solomon Scholarship Fund

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The members of the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors are diligent in reviewing budgets and determining how best to direct the funding that we receive from the Ontario government, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and United Way Toronto and York Region, to those most in need. The Resource Development Committee is also actively involved in conducting fundraising campaigns and at the same time exploring new sources of revenue through informational parlour meetings and expanding our social media presence.

A commitment to good governance has been a strong factor in expanding the scope of the Nominating and Governance Committee. As the Agency has undergone reorganization and moved from a program-driven to a client-centred model, so too has the Board. With the leadership provided by this committee, we are transitioning from the traditional, operational model to a more strategic model of governance.

As my term ends and the new President's term begins, I extend my most sincere admiration and thanks to the Senior Management team: Monica Auerbach, Talyah Breslin, Zachy Lahav and Wendy Wolfman, and to Eileen Olmer, Executive Assistant. My highest praise and thanks to Richard Cummings, Executive Director, under whose exceptional leadership, Jewish Family & Child is recognized as a leading social service agency in Toronto and York Region, a respected provincial children's aid society and valued partner of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

To Sharon Shore, Past President, for her ongoing and valuable counsel, to fellow Board members for their devoted service and with best wishes to Alan Levine, incoming President, I thank you all for your support over the past two years of this meaningful experience.

If membership on the the Board of Directors is an act of *tikkun olam*, it is one we perform with humility and sincerity and with the commitment to always respect and honour the clients of the Agency, *Every Step of the Way*.

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

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Zoey was born to a young mother with bipolar disorder - a condition that caused her moods to fluctuate, often very quickly, from extreme highs to severe depression.

When Zoey was five months old, a neighbour in her apartment building heard prolonged screaming coming from next door. She knew a young woman and a baby lived there and she grew concerned. She knocked on the door and called out several times but no one answered and she could hear the baby crying loudly the whole time.

Unsure of what to do next, she phoned the police.

Two officers had to break down the door after several unsuccessful attempts to get the mother to answer.

What they found inside was a baby screaming in her crib with a cut along her forehead and eyelid and no mother in sight. The balcony door was open and it was clear that she had escaped from the second story and left her baby unattended.

The police took Zoey to the hospital where it was discovered that in addition to the cut, she was malnourished and dehydrated.

Jewish Family & Child was called in, as a Children's Aid Society, to take Zoey into care. Once she had been medically treated, we placed her with one of our emergency foster parents, experienced in caring for babies.

Three weeks passed before a call came in to 911 regarding Zoey's mother. She had been staying with a man who found her on his couch, overdosed on prescription pills. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

When it was determined that Zoey had no family members other than an uncle in London who was unable to take her, she was

adopted, within weeks, by a couple who had been on our waiting list for a Jewish baby.

JF&CS PROTECTS the most vulnerable members of our community – our children

EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

IN 2012-2013, JF&CS CONDUCTED 708 INVESTIGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT.

Zoey is now thriving as part of

a very loving family. Her adoptive parents have worked with a JF&CS social worker to understand bipolar disorder and were so moved by Zoey's story that they have also decided to become foster parents.

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At fourteen, Sam was going through a rough time. His parents had just separated after twenty years of marriage and his older brother had left for university in Vancouver. Sam was overwhelmed by how challenging his first month of high school was and felt like he had no support at home.

Desperate to talk to someone, he made an appointment with the JF&CS social worker who was placed in his school. He told her that he couldn't focus in any of his classes and that he didn't relate to the other kids his age. He also admitted that he would often pretend to be sick so he didn't have to go to class.

They met weekly for some time before she decided to talk to Sam's parents about enrolling him at the Jerome D. Diamond Adolescent Centre (JDD). The Centre provides a supportive school environment for youth with emotional, educational, social or behavioural challenges. The class sizes are a fraction of those in community schools. Toronto District School Board teachers work alongside JF&CS social workers and child and youth workers to support each student comprehensively,

teaching them the skills, and building their capacity, to transition back to their own schools and manage successfully once there.

Sam's parents visited the JDD and were immediately convinced that it was the right place for Sam. They were overwhelmed by the positive environment, complete with large classrooms, a library and media centre, a school yard with a basketball court and a spacious lunchroom.

Once enrolled, Sam was taught the necessary strategies to be able to focus on his schoolwork while learning to cope with the

feelings he was experiencing about his parents.

Sam spent two years at the JDD. He excelled in class,

A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF THE JDD FOUND NUMEROUS POSITIVE OUTCOMES, INCLUDING INCREASED ATTENDANCE, HOMEWORK COMPLETION AND PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.*

made a number of close friends and even took a leadership role editing the JDD yearbook. He is now about to begin Grade 11 back at his local high school and he's excited and enthusiastic about the challenge.

* The full evaluation report can be located at: www.jfandcs.com

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When David first called JF&CS years ago, it was for supplementary financial assistance. He was 45 and had lived with his mother all his life. She had recently passed away leaving him with no income other than monthly social assistance from the government.

David couldn't work, nor could he visit JF&CS due to agoraphobia, a condition that caused him extreme anxiety in public environments that were unfamiliar, including wide open spaces and crowded areas. He simply sat at home watching television and reading books from his mother's vast collection.

David's social worker often paid visits to his home to deliver his financial assistance cheque and spend time counselling him. When family members could not stop by with groceries, David's worker would often pick up the essentials on her way over.

Over the course of a few years and in partnership with David's doctor, his worker encouraged him to combine medication with cognitive behavioural therapy, as these therapies have been shown to be the most effective treatment for agoraphobia.

Slowly, David started to venture outside his home. He began by walking down his driveway, then down the street. He progressed to going to the corner store and then to buying groceries. After only

a few months, David was outside every day and was even able to walk to JF&CS to meet with his worker.

After seeing David's success, she encouraged him to join The Bagel Club - a weekly socialization and support group which JF&CS runs for adults with mental health challenges. The Club provides a place for isolated individuals to feel connected to the community in a respectful and safe environment.

Although he was quiet and a little overwhelmed during his first visit, he enjoyed the lunch

the mental health and wellbeing of our community

IN 2012-2013, JF&CS PROVIDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, COUNSELLING, ADVOCACY AND REHABILITATION TO 1,681 INDIVIDUALS.

and animated conversation. One member had brought in an article clipped from the Toronto Star and a lively debate had ensued. David left knowing he definitely wanted to return the following week.

It has now been more than a year since David joined the Bagel Club. He is not only an active member but he regularly introduces topics and shares personal stories about his life.

David also found a part-time job at his neighbourhood library. He loves chatting with people and sharing recommendations as he helps them sign out books.

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Renee & Ivor Simmons

Beth never thought highly of herself. At the age of 36 she was working as a receptionist in an accounting firm. She found the job unchallenging but she had a steady paycheque, and could afford her rent, so she never considered other possibilities.

Beth had dated but all of her relationships had fizzled out before the topic of marriage ever came up. She lived a simple life, spending most weeknights surfing the web or watching television. On weekends, she would go out for dinner with a close friend or two.

She took care of herself physically - jogging every morning and eating well - but she never put much thought into taking care of herself emotionally; she didn't see the point.

Over lunch one day, Beth's colleague, Susan, told her about a workshop she and her husband had just attended at Jewish Family & Child that dealt with teens and substance use. Susan said it was helpful as they were concerned about their son and peer pressure. She gave Beth the JF&CS Groups & Workshops brochure and told her to see what else was offered. Beth politely noted that she wasn't Jewish but Susan insisted that groups were open to anyone - regardless of their religion.

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On the subway ride home that evening, Beth read the brochure and was intrigued. She decided to register for a six-session group: Life Skills for Today's Woman.

Over the course of the group, Beth learned tactics to build her self-esteem and improve her communication and conflict resolution skills. Along with the other women, Beth addressed

her desire to be more assertive and to pursue what she wanted.

growth and fulfillment Not only did Beth gain new EVERY STEP OF THE WAY skills from the group but she

and to go to a singles' event later that month.

IN 2012-2013, JF&CS DELIVERED MULTI-SESSION GROUPS **TO 205 INDIVIDUALS** AND WORKSHOPS TO 2,286 PARTICIPANTS.

also made new friends and was even invited to join a book club

opportunity for personal

JF&CS PROVIDES

Feeling empowered, Beth spoke to her boss about her lack of fulfillment at work. He suggested she apply for the Office Manager position that had just opened up as it held more responsibility and offered greater challenges.

Beth's newfound confidence got her the job and also led her to meet a man at the singles' event she attended. After a year of dating, they are now engaged.

Karen Weinstein & Jason Hanson Jerry & Lynda White James & Lauren Wise Debra & Jeff Wolfe Barry Yontef & Joanne Paul Cecile Zaifman Benjamin & Susie Zarnett

CHAI FRIENDS \$180 - \$359

Anonymous (12) Lee & Lynn Abbott Stephen & Harriett Altbaum Phyllis Angel Jake & Vivian Anhang

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Not having any family left in Israel, Pearl's 25 year old grandson sponsored her to come to Canada. Once here, she was only able to afford to live in subsidized housing and sought the help of JF&CS.

Through our Multilingual Access Program (MAP), we connected Pearl with a volunteer translator who spoke Russian and could help her apply for the Ontario Disability Support Program for income assistance. Pearl was so grateful for our assistance that she brought our staff a beautiful chocolate assortment a few weeks later on Rosh Hashanah.

Our relationship with Pearl continued when we learned that she had survived the Holocaust. We gladly provided help to her through our Holocaust Survivor Emergency Assistance Funding. Over the course of seven years, we helped Pearl with the purchase of a hearing aid, prescription medication, a wheelchair and even emergency dental work. Every year at Rosh Hashanah, Pearl brought us chocolates.

All of our regular MAP volunteers knew and adored Pearl and some even went above and beyond to see that she wasn't lonely or isolated. One afternoon, Pearl cancelled an appointment she had with one of our translators, Irina, because she had come down with a cold. Irina drove over to Pearl's apartment anyway with chicken soup and matzo balls and joined her for lunch and an afternoon of chatting.

This past year, Pearl's grandson (now married with children) spoke to us about purchasing a hospital bed for Pearl's apartment and we were able to help.

When Rosh Hashanah came and no chocolates arrived, we called her family and sadly

JF&CS EMBRACES
all members of our community
– young and old

EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

SURVIVORS WERE PROVIDED
WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
THROUGH OUR HOLOCAUST
SURVIVOR EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE FUND.

IN 2012-2013, MAP PROVIDED SERVICES TO 411 FAMILIES

AND 494 HOLOCAUST

learned that Pearl had passed away. We are proud to have been able to help and enrich the life of such a kind, generous woman who not only survived the Holocaust but lived to 101.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RICHARD CUMMINGS

Jewish Family & Child (JF&CS) has developed significant capacity for accountability, an essential means of ensuring that resources are stewarded carefully in support of positive outcomes. In 2012-2013, we received 13,700 calls for service and provided service to 4,846 cases. Our stakeholders expect that JF&CS services meet high standards of practice and contribute to increasing safety and security, improving mental health and wellness and reducing the effects of poverty.

Jewish Family & Child's recent re-accreditation by COA, the Council on Accreditation, recognizes the quality and excellence of our services as well as our alignment with best practices. Over a three day period in December 2012, three Peer Reviewers from across North America visited our sites, met with our Board of Directors, staff members and clients, reviewed materials and assessed our compliance with over 800 standards focusing on client service, governance, ethics, quality assurance, risk management, administrative and financial practices. Our Final Accreditation Report included the following statement of how we look from the "outside":

The depth of services for such a multitude of populations in various locations is to be lauded. The community is fortunate that this Agency is available & accessible to meet its needs. Analysis of outcomes and trends supports the obvious commitment of the Agency's stakeholders in exceptional service provision.

Highlights of service in the past year are notable. Safety and security is provided to the community particularly through services that address child welfare and family conflict.

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Sandra Proos
Rosalynd & Allan Pyzer

During 2012 – 2013, JF&CS conducted 708 investigations of child abuse and/or neglect, 208 cases were served by our ongoing child protection services and there were 94 children in the care of JF&CS. Counselling and support services were received by 360 women experiencing woman abuse, while their 496 children were supported in related services.

A host of services are in place to improve mental health and wellness. Six hundred and seven cases received individual, couple, and family counselling, 110 families of children with special needs were served by the Family Support Program and a remarkable 2,286 participants attended Family Life Education workshops. Fifty-five students enrolled in the Jerome D. Diamond Adolescent Centre received day treatment and special education services while 43 adult clients of all ages found community and connection through attending our weekly Bagel Club sessions.

Nine hundred and thirty four families and 1,681 individuals were touched by our efforts to reduce the effects of poverty through financial assistance, counselling, advocacy support, housing assistance, financial rehabilitation, and employment support. Systematic evaluation of our UJA funded financial assistance program revealed that the service is carefully managed to combat poverty and to foster participation, connection and affiliation with a caring Jewish community. It is Jewish Family & Child's promise to the community, to be there *Every Step of the Way*; endeavoring **always** to make a positive difference.

Finally and notably, as her term of leadership ends, I thank our Board President, Judy Winberg, on behalf of a grateful Agency for her passion for good governance, her vision and her generous service to the community.

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14 | JEWISH FAMILY & CHILD

Jewish Family & Child Summarized Operating Financial Report

For the year ended March 31

REVENUE	2013 \$	2012
Ontario Ministries of Children and Youth	<u>.</u>	\$
Services, Community and Social Services	9,503,740	9,943,338
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto	5,531,181	5,585,808
United Way	1,958,361	1,906,624
Other Income	1,859,827	1,621,221
Fees from Clients	257,478	232,622
Total Operating Revenue	19,110,587	19,289,613
EXPENDITURES		
Child Welfare Services	8,234,630	8,757,916
Programs and Services (including prevention, outreach,		
counselling and financial assistance delivery)	8,192,067	7,953,091
Direct Financial Assistance to Clients*	3,081,451	3,112,626
Total Operating Expenditures	19,508,148	19,823,633
Operating Deficit	-397,561	-534,020

*Includes camp and Passover assistance and 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, 2012 – March 31, 2013

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Jewish Family & Child 4600 Bathurst St. Toronto, ON M2R 3V3 416.638.7800 info@jfandcs.com www.jfandcs.com facebook.com/jfandcs

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.

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Design

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