

Issue 43 | December 2015

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RICHARD HAS LEFT THE BUILDING...

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DR. RICHARD L. CUMMINGS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | 2006-2015

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
FROM JEWISH FAMILY & CHILD

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13, 2016

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Well, not quite. But give him a few weeks!

That's right (in case you missed it) Dr. Richard Cummings will retire from JF&CS at year's end, and he will be dearly missed.

Richard served as Executive Director of JF&CS from 2006 to 2015 and prior to that in the 1980s and '90s, he sat on the Board of Directors as both a member and its president. Suffice it to say, he's done his time!

JF&CS staff will toast Richard at a party in his honour in December, and the community is invited to attend a special retirement celebration for him on January 13, 2016. [Tickets are available here.](#)

[Send Richard a Farewell Message.](#)

summed up his feelings:

"Thirty years ago, fresh from Montreal, I was eager to participate in Toronto's Jewish community and in the good works that stir our hearts and fulfill our responsibilities as Jews and as citizens. I found that opportunity at Jewish Family & Child. For all of this, as baseball's Lou Gehrig said (and he got it right), 'I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth.'"

In our recent [Annual Report](#), Richard

SO MUCH FUNAKAH!



JF&CS wishes you and your loved ones a wonderful Chanukah and a happy, healthy start to 2016.

Our Drive for Dreidels Chanukah Toy and Gift Card Drive was once again quite successful this year! We had enough great toys for every child under 10 and enough gift cards for all of our tweens and teens. In fact, we raised almost \$7000 in gift cards!

Thanks to our partners and other organizations that helped with collection - National Council of Jewish Women - Toronto Section, The Cooper/Shear Family, Miles Nadal JCC, Joseph & Wolf Lebovic JCC, and Prosserman JCC Daycare. Our friends at Reena Foundation donated more than 100 board games (see photo).

Extra special thanks to Rochelle Kerzner who has collected truckloads of toys and gift cards in memory of her mother, Barbara Frances Grimson for more than ten years now! And of course, D4D would not be the success it is without all of the community members who volunteered their time to sort, pack and schlep all of the toys!

OUR FIRST SHABBATON!

JF&CS was invited to participate in a [Shabbaton](#) in conjunction with the Clanton Park Synagogue, the Or Chaim Yeshiva and the Bayit Minyan on Wilson Avenue. The panel discussion with JF&CS staff took place in a congregant's home and exceeded our expectations.

[A new JF&CS video was shown](#) and the question and answer session was lively and challenging. The Shabbat part of the program took place earlier in the day where our own Director of Chaplaincy, Rabbi Ronald Weiss gave the drasha (sermon). We also had two of our current foster parents speak about their own experiences in helping Jewish kids in care. They both spoke with passion and were very well received. JF&CS is so thankful to these congregations for inviting us to participate in this unprecedented and meaningful event.

THE INCOMPARABLE DAVID PINKUS

David Pinkus' family was one of the first settlers to Toronto's Kensington area in 1914. David was born ten years later and has lived there ever since. At 91, he is a veritable fountain of Toronto Jewish history, and upon meeting you, he'll ask your last name, tell you who you must be related to, and share fascinating tidbits about your family's history with you.

His older brother, Maxie passed away not long ago at age 100 and David wanted to honour him in the most meaningful way he could. That's where Shores Jewish Environmental Programs and JF&CS came in.

Two summers ago, David graciously opened his backyard to allow Shores to tend to the earth and create Maxie's Garden. The intent was to provide a supportive, social experience for JF&CS clients and to offer them an opportunity to learn about growing and harvesting vegetables, fruit and flowers. Food security is very important to David, and knowing that our



clients (each of whom he has made an effort to get to know personally), take home the food they've harvested, gives him immense pride.

These clients are experiencing a range of issues including mental health and physical health challenges, poverty, social isolation and unemployment. David makes each of them feel so welcome and treats them with extraordinary dignity.

Maxie's Garden is the product of David's generosity and passion, Shores's skills and expertise, and JF&CS clients' labour and love. Thank you, David; you are a treasure!

If you would like to donate to Shores or JF&CS in David's honour, here are the links to help you out. [Shores](#) | [Jewish Family & Child](#)

IN HER OWN WORDS

"I wanted to express my heartfelt appreciation to Jewish Family & Child and here is the reason why: In March 2014 my beloved husband of nearly 48 years of marriage passed away. Needless to say I was devastated and although I have wonderful children and grandchildren, I was ALONE. The weekends were the worst and most unbearable. I am a rather shy person although I am friendly and not short of friends. But one day I was looking through the CJN and noticed that JF&CS was running a bereavement group for people over 65 having recently lost a spouse. I decided to "go out of my comfort zone" and called to make an appointment. At the time I certainly never realized what a good choice I made! The people who I met at the group have honestly changed my life. The best way of expressing my feelings is to say that they have been a lifeline to me and we have a great time together - going to movies, to the theatre, playing cards... I have to thank the JF&CS group facilitator for her time and patience during such a difficult time in our lives. My family are very proud of me for trying to make a new life for myself. Thank you once again for helping to put the pieces back together. I am so grateful and would certainly recommend this avenue for anyone who lands in my position."



Learn More



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Jewish Family & Child

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