

WARM WELCOMES & FOND FAREWELLS



Deb Stern joins JCFS as our Development Officer - Donor Relations and is part of our JCFS Community Engagement Team. Deb is enthusiastic, creative, and incredibly caring. Deb has worked in both the United States and Canada, in recruitment, talent sourcing, and recognition. Deb will be a touchpoint for all our donors, potential donors, and community members interested in supporting JCFS. Please give her a warm welcome at any JCFS upcoming event or program, as she will be sure to be there!



Adriana Vegh-Levy joins JCFS in the role of Development Officer - Communications and Marketing and is also part of our newly formed JCFS Community Engagement Team. Adriana is noted for her expertise in branding, graphic design, and promotion. She brings to JCFS a wealth of knowledge due to her community involvement along with experience in the private sector. You'll see Adriana at many of our events and will definitely see her graphics on our social media and around town. Welcome Adriana!



Sarah Bruce (BSW/RSW) joined our Older Adult Services team, as an OAS Social Worker, back in the late Spring. Since then, she's been a phenomenal support to her clients, her team, and also the agency as a whole. She is passionate about client-centered care, connecting clients to proper resources, and supporting families effectively. She's friendly, diligent, and extremely knowledgeable. Thank you for being here, Sarah!



Lizell Ortega-Palma, Child Protection Worker, left JCFS at the beginning of November. Lizell was noted for her client-centered care, the strong relationships she fostered with both clients and collaterals, and her support for the Child Welfare Team. We wish you all the best, Lizell!



Jackie Towle joined our Finance Team in June 2023, as the JCFS Accounting Clerk, hitting the ground running. She's noted for her warmth, willingness to go above and beyond, and the extensive expertise she's brought to JCFS. Jackie's assistance is vital to the operations of the agency, and our Finance Team is lucky to have her. Thank you for choosing JCFS, Jackie!



We are excited to announce that **David Azuelos**, MSW, is the Acting Supervisor of Child Welfare. David has extensive experience working in Child Welfare in cities such as Toronto, Vancouver, and of course, Winnipeg. David has been an active member of both the JCFS Staff Association and the JCFS Health & Safety Committee. He brings to the role vast knowledge of the JCFS Child Welfare Program, strong leadership skills, and community-minded focus. Mazal Tov, David!



We are excited to announce that **Rande Pollock** is our new Family Life Engagement Coordinator. Rande previously worked in Foster Care and Adoption for JCFS, and was involved in changing so many lives in that role. As Family Life Engagement Coordinator, Rande joins the Community Engagement Team. She will be behind the scenes, coordinating and supporting JCFS community initiatives, groups, workshops, and presentations. We welcome Rande to this role. Mazal Tov!



Wade Bilodeau, JCFS Child Welfare Supervisor, left JCFS at the end of October. For the past seven years, Wade provided steadfast guidance, mentorship, and management to our Child Welfare Team, and was integral in embedding best practices in Child Welfare standards. His collaborative voice and insight will be missed. Please join us in wishing Wade a wonderful retirement. Kol Hakavod!

"I want JCFS to know how appreciative and grateful I am for everything you have done for our family. You've helped us with respite, camp, therapy, and more. You've always been there. I really don't think I have ever thanked you, and if I have, I don't say it enough. So, thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping to give us the best life possible." - JCFS CLIENT



JCFS is located on Treaty 1 territory, the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Ojibwe, Dakota, Dene People, and the homeland of the Métis Peoples. We support calls by Indigenous peoples and Canadians alike for the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

PLEASE JOIN OUR 2023 ANNUAL SUPPORTERS CAMPAIGN



COMMUNITY **HOPE** **UNITY**
COMUNIDAD תקווה сообщество ESPERANZA תהווה надеяться UNIDAD תמיכה עדוּחְטבו



Thanks to YOU, we are always HERE!

Society is always changing...

JCFS has consistently maintained its sturdy foundation of Jewish values.

THE POWER OF GIVING

"We started donating to the JCFS nearly 30 years ago. We were in our early 40's and, financially, in a place where we felt that it was time to practice tzedakah. We started giving to the Jewish Child and Family Service because we wanted to take care of our community first. We see all the great things the Staff at JCFS are doing and we have never stopped giving." H. & E. C. - (Former Winnipeggers)

"I decided to give to Jewish Child and Family Service when I learned that a very close friend was attending programming and counseling for his addiction through the JCFS. I am so proud of him and want to support him and others in our community who are going through the same challenges." K.M. - (First-Time Donor)

FOLLOW JCFS:



To follow JCFS Happenings, please visit us on Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn. We can be found @JCFSWinnipeg. You can also search our hashtag: #jcfscares. By following us, you'll get a sneak peek at our upcoming projects, events, and initiatives.

SHERUT STAFF:

Supervision: Al Benarroch & Alexis Wenzowski | Assistance: Mara Pellettieri | Copy and Editing: Al Benarroch, Alexis Wenzowski, Debra Stern & Adriana Vegh-Levy | Graphic Design: Adriana Vegh-Levy | Printing: Unigraphics

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And the support of people like you! Community for Community. Thank you!



SHERUT

Ben Zoma used to say, "What does a good guest say? 'How much trouble my host goes through for me. How much meat he has offered. How much wine he has set before me. How many cakes he has brought before me. And all this trouble he went through for me.' But an inconsiderate guest, what does he say? 'What trouble has my host gone through? I have eaten one piece of bread and a single piece of meat. I have had but one cup of wine. All the trouble the host has gone to has been only for his family.'" - Brachot 58a

Gratitude, or *hakarat hatov*, literally translated from the Hebrew means, "Recognizing the good." Reflecting on the promise and opportunity presented with each new year, and with 5784, we would like to challenge you to reflect on the goodness we see every single day here at JCFS.

JCFS serves as a reflection of the care our community has for others. The generosity of your *tzedakah* strengthens lives in keeping with Jewish values. Your support, or *chesed*, gives a sense of place and home to the marginalized, the lonely, and those who just need someone to believe in them.

Consider "Miriam": Miriam was a young single mother who came to us for support after her depression and anxiety forced her to take a leave from work. Thanks to the support of a caring therapist, along with the generosity of subsidized counselling sessions, Miriam was able to learn new tools to help her cope – and to thrive. Miriam's hard work enabled her to return to work and gave her back her confidence. This was a beautiful thing.

Consider "Steve": Steve was an older man, who reached out to JCFS when he was evicted from his apartment. He was at a point where he was considering living in his car. Through JCFS, Steve accessed wraparound supports, which included financial assistance, emergency housing, advocacy for subsidized housing, connection to pharmacy supports, and Jewish holiday food

baskets. Steve now has a home, and recently returned to High Holiday services after years of being isolated from his faith.

Consider "Lara": Lara was a widowed Holocaust Survivor, whose children live out of town. Our JCFS staff has worked tirelessly with Lara to ensure she gets the supports she is entitled to. Lara has a JCFS volunteer who calls her weekly to check-in, to schmooze, and to just connect with. Lara also attends our Café Europa program at the Gwen Sectar Creative Living Centre. It's because of all these things, Lara doesn't feel so lonely. She enjoys her life.

Consider JCFS Staff: The minute the news hit about the tragedy in Israel, JCFS staff responded. They reached out to their colleagues, volunteers, and clients in the community. They organized an internal collection of funds for Israel. They provided consultative services to communal Jewish Winnipeg organizations looking for ways to best support families and staff. JCFS staff began to offer drop-in groups, individual counselling services, and more. They know that people are hurting and need support, and so JCFS staff continue to think of how to further support above and beyond.

It's because of generosity, and the good in our community, that those struggling are never alone. We are community for community and committed to strengthening lives through Jewish values.

In the coming weeks and months, we ask you to continue to reflect on goodness. How do you see the goodness in your own actions, in the actions of others, and the world as a whole? We also ask that you think about JCFS when doing this, and remember that we see – and we know every single day – that the world can be a very good place. And for that, we are grateful together. Let's recognize the good so that we can find light in the darkest times.

3,000 INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES RECEIVED ASSISTANCE | MORE THAN \$25,000 IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO STRUGGLING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES | 12,000 LBS OF FOOD TO THOSE FACING CHALLENGES OF FOOD INSECURITY | 140 INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES ACCESSED OUR FEE-FOR-SERVICE GEARED-TO-INCOME JCFS COUNSELING PROGRAM | 150 NEW CLIENT CASES OPENED IN THE SETTLEMENT PROGRAM | 5 FAMILIES HAVE RECEIVED AN INTEREST-FREE ASPER HELPING HAND LOAN

JCFS pivots and responds to changes in our community. We are present and supportive during times of need.

Executive Director's Message



Dear Friends,

"For not only one (enemy) has risen up against us to destroy us, but in every generation, they rise up to destroy us. But the Holy One delivers us from their hands." (Ye-hi She'amda, Passover Haggadah)

The original theme for this fall's message was about the significance of the High Holidays and Sukkot as a time of renewal, positive affirmation, and commitment to community and *Tikun Olam* (repairing the world).

On Shemini Azeret, the final day of the Festival of Sukkot, the entire world awoke to the greatest loss of Jewish life on any single day since the Holocaust. The savage and inhumane terror attack by Hamas on Israel will be indelibly etched in Jewish history and on the psyche of the Jewish people. It is one of those "where were you on that day?" moments. The grief, pain, and trauma experienced in Israel is being felt by Jews everywhere, including Winnipeg, and cannot be quantified. It is in these trying times when we feel the most vulnerable and lost. In these times our anger screams for justice, our broken souls pine for healing, and our hearts yearn for wholeness. It will take generations for true healing to be recognized.

The Jewish experience of pain and tragedy is not new. Like those many times before, the Jewish people will survive and will thrive. We are a people of *Tikva* (hope), *Kehila* (community), and *Achdut* (unity). When we are faced with adversity, we rise together and persevere. We build, where others seek to destroy. We seek healing rather than languishing in

victimhood. We pursue innovation and to make a difference - to make the world a better place.

The events of October 7, 2023 (21 Tishri, 5784) have mobilized the Jewish world to stand with Israel, to speak out against terror, antisemitism, and evil, and to send support overseas. The assistance sent overseas is much needed, but we also cannot forget those impacted at home.

In addition to all the ongoing support needed by our community's most frail and vulnerable, our community turned to JCFS for leadership, guidance, and emotional support in the face of our communal trauma, anxiety, fear, and grief. Our mandate at JCFS is to insure the emotional and mental wellbeing of our community, individuals, families, and partner agencies alike.

It is in these times that JCFS needs your support more than ever so that we can continue to meet those ongoing needs, but now to also respond to the trauma, pain and grief felt by so many.

Through our deep connection to Israel and as fellow Jews, kol *Yisrael areivim zeh la-zeh* (all of Israel are responsible for one another) has never resonated more deeply than right now.

Please give generously to the JCFS Annual Supporters Campaign, so that we can also make a difference at home.

Am Yisrael Chai!!!!

Al Benarroch
Executive Director

President's Message



On behalf of our Board of Directors, I want to wish all of our clients, donors, funders, volunteers, staff and the overall Jewish community Shana Tovah, and a happy and healthy New Year.

Beginning on a very serious note, this is a difficult time for our JCFS family and for our community. Whether

it is in Israel, Winnipeg or anywhere else in the diaspora, many people are impacted by the terror and hate being inflicted on Jews everywhere. Whether it is the terrorist attacks in Israel, or the increasing prevalence of antisemitism in all corners of our world, it takes a terrible, and very real toll, on all of us. We understand that many people in our community are feeling stressed and anxious for a variety of reasons.

At JCFS, we have taken steps to provide additional resources so we can assist our community. We have invested in more professional staff to work in our mental health and addictions departments.

Secondly, I wanted to welcome our two newest Board members. Reannah Hocken and Abby Morris were elected to our Board of Directors at our June AGM. I am excited to hear their input on the issues that are brought to our Board table. They will bring their extensive experience in both the Jewish and general communities to benefit JCFS and help move us forward. Welcome aboard!

And lastly, the need for more office space has become a major concern for our staff and our Board of Directors.

Like in most businesses, our staff have returned to working out of the office (most of the time), but with growing concerns about close contact, and a growing staff, we need more space. We are investigating a variety of options to alleviate this concern. But it will not be possible without your support, during this Annual Supporters Campaign.

We hope we can count on your support. Together we are here for each other.

Be well, be safe and be kind.
Am Israel Chai,

Al Shpeller, Board Chair

Regardless of whether you are a JCFS client, if someone you know needs to reach out for assistance, please call us. It's why we're here.

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY



WAYS TO SUPPORT JCFS:

Support our Annual Support Campaign. Donations can be one-time or can be ongoing. We accept cheque, VISA, MasterCard, or cash. You can also donate through our website (www.jcfswinnipeg.org) or by QR code.



Say it with a Tribute Card! Let your friends and family know that you care about them by sending a tribute card from JCFS (Note: a minimum \$10 donation is required). To send one, call 204-477-7430, jcfs@jcfswinnipeg.org, or visit www.jcfswinnipeg.org.

Volunteer with JCFS. We are always looking for new helpers - from friendly visiting, helping at the front desk, food drives and more - we are happy to have you on board. To learn more, contact our Manager of Volunteer Services, Einat Paz (epaz@jcfswinnipeg.org) or call 204-477-7430).

Leave a legacy gift in your estate or insurance planning. To learn more about this, please contact Al Benarroch, Executive Director (abenarroch@jcfswinnipeg.org, 204-477-7430).

Drop off Kosher non-perishable food items, including cereal, tea, coffee, canned goods, and more, to our JCFS Food Pantry.

Do a social media birthday fundraiser! We are one of the charities you can choose from on Facebook!

DONATIONS OVER \$10 MADE IN THE CALENDAR YEAR WILL RECEIVE A CHARITABLE TAX RECEIPT

THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERING



UPCOMING EVENTS

There is always something exciting at JCFS that will help and to connect you with our vibrant community.

TOGETHER - Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada, The Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, The Jewish Community Centre of Winnipeg, and Westwood Collective
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND A SCREENING OF THE CLAIMS CONFERENCE FILM

RECKONINGS
The First Reparations

A FREE Community Wide Event
Kristallnacht
Commemoration
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12TH
2 - 4 PM
Westwood Collective Theatre
360 ROUGE RD.

Scan to Register

In Partnership between JCFS Settlement Services and NCJWC

2023 Employment & Labour Laws in Manitoba

Thursday, November 23rd
6:30 - 8:30 PM
Asper Jewish Community Centre
122 Devonshire Street

CINDY LAZAR
Lawyer
GUEST SPEAKER

All interested individuals are invited to attend. Should an attendee require accommodations or assistance, please connect with JCFS.

Register by November 17th
Contact Carina Blumgrund
cblumgrund@jcfswinnipeg.org

Scan to Register

JCFS invites YOU to a FREE night out!

SURVIVING TO THRIVING
A Guide to Self Health

Wednesday **JAN 31st**
7PM - 9PM
BERNEY THEATRE
Asper Jewish Community Centre
122 Devonshire St.

RE-SCHEDULED
SAVE THE NEW DATE
JANUARY 23, 2024

Scan to Register



Serenity Shabbat

In partnership with Synagogues in Winnipeg, participate in a unique Service that provides a safe and compassionate space for those who have been touched by addiction.

NOV
24-25
2023

Scan to Register



Navigating Interfaith Relationships

Interfaith relationships within a Jewish context can be complex and meaningful. Join us for an online panel discussion filled with wisdom and guidance.

NOV
30
2023

Scan to Register

"You were of course instrumental in carrying me through the critical times and have been a lifeline to myself and my family." - JCFS CLIENT

JCFS STANDS WITH ISRAEL

We, like so many others, were shocked and horrified by the events that began on Saturday, October 7th.

On that day, more Jews were killed and injured than any other day since the Holocaust. It was a day that saw families torn apart, the innocent kidnapped, and destruction beyond belief. It was a day that kicked off a brutal war between Israel and Hamas.

Our lives have been forever changed.

The JCFS community pivoted to meet the needs of the community during this dark time.

Our staff-led initiatives included:

- Staff and Board orchestrated an internal fundraiser for Magen David Adom, raising nearly \$700.00
- Staff members made and printed off signs to be shared at the Israel Solidarity Gathering
- Staff members volunteered for the Rady JCC Challah Bake

Our agency response included:

- Creating safe debrief spaces for staff to be supported through the emotional impact
- Offering weekly free drop-in counselling sessions for community members impacted
- Offering twice-weekly supportive group spaces for community members to come together for strategies, compassion, and connection
- Providing consultation to other Jewish agencies that were looking for ways to support their clients and staff
- Ongoing outreach to clients struggling with these events

As Josephus, an early Jewish philosopher said, "We are born for community".

Our response is **Community for Community**, and Israel is always part of our community.

