

Leadership

Generosity

financial security

Commitment

intelligent choices

Uncommon Thinking

possibilities

Vision

common values

Results

community

tzedakah

Creating

Philanthropic Partnerships

JEWISH FOUNDATION OF GREATER TORONTO

The Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto is a shining example of how a personalized approach to Jewish philanthropy adds meaning to the lives of our donors and their families through the art of giving. The following examples of funds at work demonstrate people caring for people, giving and making a difference:

enrich

Friendly Buildings : Warm Houses

As our population ages, there are more senior citizens than ever before. Poverty, reduced mobility and increasing frailty frequently make our most prized community members veritable prisoners in their own homes. *Circle of Care* and the *Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living* are helping isolated seniors reconnect with the community through recreational, educational and social events. Personal care workers are brought in to assist those residents in need; kosher meals, friendly visits and home services are also provided so that these seniors can enjoy this time of their lives with the self-respect and dignity they so richly deserve.



“With the support of the Foundation we are able to enhance the lives of people in our community in such a positive and meaningful fashion.”

*Etta Ginsberg McEwan, Coordinator
The Toronto Jewish Healing Project*

encourage

The demands of life in the fast-paced and frenetic 21st century can often leave one feeling overwhelmed. **The Toronto Jewish Healing Project**, funded in part by the *Toronto Hebrew Memorial Park Philanthropic Fund* and stewarded by *Jewish Family and Child Service*, recognizes the need to bring Jewish healing to those experiencing spiritual or physical distress. Available to people from all denominations of Judaism, the Healing Project offers a variety of coping skills and techniques. Through singing, psalms, meditation, the studying of sacred texts and other methods, many have found comfort and tranquility in the Project and attend activities on a regular basis. Through this program, participants also often gain a better understanding of all that Judaism has to offer.

“This funding opportunity has allowed Circle of Care and Bernard Betel to join together to ensure that Jewish elderly who are isolated and on low incomes have access to community support services and opportunities of socialization.”

*Lorraine Blass, Esta Wall, Mara Koven and Naomi Cornfield
Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living and Circle of Care*

empower

Partnering with purpose and supported by the *Sherry Simcha Menashy Memorial Fund*, the **Allied Health Professionals** program trains Ethiopian women from Kiryat Moshe as health professionals... an industry of increasing need in Israel today. This invaluable program's goals are to enable Ethiopian-Israeli women to fulfill their personal potential and allow them to serve as role models for other members of their community in Israel.

“As an X-Ray technician I will be providing an essential service to people in need who have come to live in Israel from every part of the world. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for awarding me this opportunity through the generosity of your scholarship.”

Biyoush (Yaftit in Hebrew) Dasa



The *Adam Albright Memorial Camp Scholarship Fund*, a perpetual endowment, was created to ensure that children, regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds, have the opportunity to enjoy summer as all children should – by going to camp. Through this visionary fund, these children are provided with subsidies to attend day camp at the *Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre* each summer.

“We miss him dearly but we take comfort in knowing Adam left a powerful and loving legacy. His passion, goodness, zest for life, love and generosity have left an indelible mark on anyone who knew him. It is in that spirit that we established an endowment in Adam's name that will give those less fortunate children a chance to go to summer camp each year.

Adam would want them to experience the joys and lessons that come with play, athletics, teamwork, Jewish life, friendships... and more.”

Dr. Scarlet and Shirley Albright

embrace

enlighten

No More Raisins, No More Almonds: Children's Ghetto Songs

Through song, laughter and tears, 40 Montreal high school students performed at the Leah Posluns Theatre in February 2007. The play about youth during the Holocaust, speaks to racism and anti-semitism in today's world. Director Bryna Wasserman, "By doing this we can create dialogue and bring communities together." Supported by the *Mary Berman Fund for Yiddish Education*, the play was attended by 1,100 Jewish and non-Jewish students and adults.



“This project has had the greatest impact of any grant that the Fund has made.”

Saul Berman, Mary Berman Fund for Yiddish Education



“The festival attracted dancers from as far away as Los Angeles. Your funding helped bring Israeli choreographers to the event, as well as provided scholarships to promote excellence. The voices of our community thank you.”

Yossi Strauch, Toronto IsReal Dance Festival

An annual event in July, the **Toronto IsReal Dance Festival** provides the perfect stage upon which to showcase Israeli culture at its finest... not only to Jewish Torontonians, but to the community-at-large. Including delightful and inspiring performances by local dance groups, the Festival also offers myriad workshops in which Israeli choreographers teach new and old Israeli Folk dances, as well as workshops for people who work with youth.

Dancer extraordinaire Martha Graham once proclaimed; “*Dance is the hidden language of the soul!*”; with the success of this event, it's hard to argue with that assertion.

engage

“Seeing those happy kids in the playground made it all worthwhile.”
Norman Yallen



Norman Yallen Playground in Kiryat Shmonah

A few months before heading to Israel with his family and friends for his bar mitzvah at the Beit Yisrael Synagogue in Jerusalem's Yemin Moshe, *Norman Yallen* learned of the perfect project for a boy so enthusiastic about sports – a playground in a disadvantaged area of Kiryat Shmonah, a part of the city in northern Israel that had been hard hit by Hezbollah missiles in the summer of 2006.

After his bar mitzvah in April 2007, Norman visited the playground bearing his name, a place that was already brightening the faces of a group of Israeli youngsters. Everybody at the opening ceremony wanted to shake the hand of this young hero from Toronto. Norman didn't want to be 'the hero'; the only payoff he wanted was to see those happy faces.

enhance

B'nai Tzedek Youth Philanthropy Program: young people who recognize the need to do something, believe in their ability to get it done, and then take action.

enable

Andrew Ezer, another avid sports fan, celebrated his bar mitzvah in May. He chose to support a project that provides scholarships for tuition at the Wingate Institute for Physical Fitness and Sports. With Andrew's gift, two 16-year old boys from Kiryat Moshe were given vital extra-curricular programming beyond their family's means. The boys were chosen to participate in a month-long training program for young basketball coaches because they demonstrated excellence in sports, high motivation, diligence in their studies, and the ability to take on leadership roles both in the area of sports and community development.



Embracing Excellence: Strengthening Kiryat Moshe Youth with Education and Personal Development through Sports

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