

JFS OTTAWA APPOINTS SARAH CASPI AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Caspi holds a Master of Social Work degree from Carleton University and started with the agency as a clinical social worker in 2003. Consistently excelling in her position, she rose to the level of Associate Executive Director in 2012, providing input on all aspects of the agency, as well as managing a large staff. During her tenure, Sarah has built the confidence of coworkers, senior management colleagues, the Board of Directors, as well as municipal, provincial and federal stakeholders that support the work of JFS.

The staff and the Board of Directors look forward to working with Sarah and continuing the excellent work of the agency, building upon its practice in the areas of immigration support, seniors' services, financial assistance for Jewish families and community based counseling.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As I write my first 'From the ED' column, I am bursting with excitement. I have been an employee of JFS for 16 years and I'm very proud to be part of such an amazing agency. As I take on this leadership role, I feel honored to lead a group of hard working, dedicated, professional and loyal staff who always have our clients and volunteers at the center of what they do. We have an extraordinary group of staff here at JFS.

I would like to thank Andrea Gardner and Rebecca Fromowitz for their contributions as Interim Executive Directors. I look forward to my continued work with Andrea as Associate Executive Director. She brings with her a continued commitment and skill to all that she does and we are lucky to have her as part of JFS! I would like to say good bye and thank you to Rebecca Fromowitz who has left JFS to be the ED of Lanark County Mental Health. We are very proud of Rebecca and look forward to working with her as a partner in creating greater accessibility for mental health services. I would also like to thank our Board of Directors for their commitment to the agency, JFS is stronger thanks to volunteers such as them.

Things continue to be busy at JFS this spring as we have many exciting new things happening. This includes new sites for our Walk In Counselling Clinic, exciting new partnerships, a new food pantry (thanks to David Smith and Creative Kosher Catering), an adult day program for Russian speaking seniors, two grocery buses for seniors, an international settlement conference showcasing JFS and an In Touch newsletter refresh. Thank you to all of our incredible staff and volunteers who help us create and support new programs.

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JFS OTTAWA'S IMPACT

TIKVAH PROGRAM

Offers clients direct financial relief, case management, counselling, advocacy and access to food security programs. Last year:

- 97 families received monthly financial assistance, including holiday support
- 114 families accessed fresh produce monthly
- 87 families were referred to the Kosher Food Bank

SHALOM BAYIT

Supports Jewish women experiencing domestic violence and abuse. 25 women were referred to our specialized counsellor last year.

THELMA STEINMAN SENIORS SUPPORT SERVICES

Assists Jewish seniors to live independently and to enhance their quality of life. Last year:

- We assisted 37 clients with 735 drives to/from appointments
- 24 clients benefited from 576 home visits
- We hosted 223 sessions of our Adult Day Program for 13 clients
- 76 Holocaust survivors were connected with 1,266 services
- 2,462 Kosher Meals on Wheels were delivered to 41 clients

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Receive a full range of counselling services including social skills groups, bullying workshops, psycho-educational assessments and Jewish day-school support. We support 19 students every week.

WHAT INFLUENCES OUR PROGRAMS

Cuts to Legal Aid's Critical Services are Devastating.

As an agency we are very concerned about cuts to legal aid services in Ontario. Recently we sent a letter sharing our concerns about how these cuts will affect our clients and demanded that MPP Mulroney consider reversing the decision to make these devastating cuts. Below is part of the letter we sent:

"I am writing today to share with you how critical legal aid services are to our clients and how deeply concerned we are with the proposed cuts to Legal Aid services. At Jewish Family Services we work with vulnerable clients who depend on legal aid services for assistance with legal matters, who could not otherwise have legal representation, something which is core to our values as Canadians. At JFS we work with low income individuals and families, vulnerable refugees and newcomers, women fleeing abuse and other marginalized groups and we are already seeing the effects these cuts are making and ask that you reconsider these devastating cuts to legal aid. Ottawa's legal clinics assist the most vulnerable people in Ottawa to preserve their basic essentials: keeping stable housing and avoiding eviction; maintaining income support benefits so people can support their families with the basics; and resolving complex immigration legal issues. "

This is a community issue. Please contact JFS or Legal Aid Ontario if you would like to find out how you can support this issue.

THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

HELPING ONE SENIOR

Mrs. T, a 76 year old client of our Thelma Steinman Seniors Support Program, joined our Russian-speaking day program in 2017 and described it as “For a long time, I didn’t have a Jewish community but now I have a lot of friends because of this program. I feel more connected and part of the Jewish community.”

For Mrs. T, the day program has encouraged her to try new things, remain active and create a community among her peers.



HELPING ONE FAMILY

Nicolas and Sandy Audrit arrived from Belgium to Canada in July 2018.

After learning about members of his family perishing in the Holocaust, Nicolas reclaimed his Jewish heritage and moved his young family to Canada looking for safety, opportunity and a stronger sense of belonging. Supported by JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services), the family settled in the Ottawa area.

JFS Ottawa helped Nicolas and Sandy to enroll their kids in Jewish school and connect them to a vibrant and inclusive Ottawa Jewish community.

NEW PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT OUR CLIENTS

JFS Community Fridge

JFS Tikvah staff are always developing ways to increase the level of food security and engagement with our clients through a respectful and meaningful lens.

We are very excited to share that we have launched a new Barrier Free Food initiative this spring. Starting with a generous donation of a new commercial glass display fridge from David Smith, we are able to fill the fridge weekly with tasty prepared food fresh from the kitchen of Creative Kosher Catering every Monday. We are delighted to add this partnership with David Smith to our suite of services that include the Miriam's Well program and referrals to the Kosher Food bank as well as programs that encourage engagement with our clients.

The response of those that have accessed the fridge is heartwarming. In the first few weeks of this initiative we have already provided meals to 25+ families in need. Due to incredible demand, JFS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS to support this program. Call us if interested.

This is just one of the ways we can support our vulnerable clients in the Jewish community. We are always looking for partners who would like to join us in our goal to leave no vulnerable Jewish person behind.

STAFF MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

JFS has so many remarkable staff that impact so many lives. Today, we spotlight Nimo Abubakar. Nimo has worked at JFS since 2009, and is seconded to the Somali Centre for Family Services where she is the Case Manager and Volunteer Coordinator for the Diverse Seniors Support Services Unit.

In 2003, Nimo went to visit her mother in Borama, in the Awadal Region of Somaliland. When she visited the Regional Hospital, she was saddened by the conditions of the hospital. The infrastructure needed considerable work. For example; the dark green walls and poor lighting in the operating room made surgeries difficult and dangerous to perform. The infant mortality rate was high, and many citizens were unable to receive adequate care.

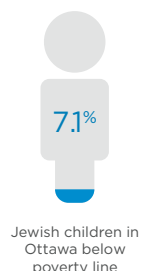
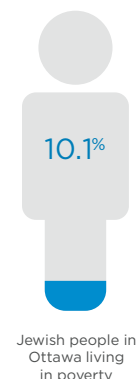
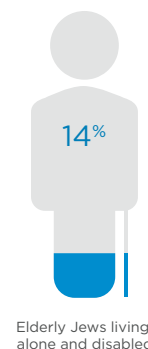
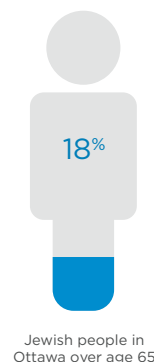
Through her compassion, strength and dedication to helping others, Nimo spearheaded efforts to improve the conditions of the hospital. It took three years, but through hard work, the hospital was completely made over. Borama Regional Hospital became a teaching hospital for Amoud University with an outpatient department, a female and male surgical ward, a pediatric ward, a fully functioning laboratory, an x-ray department and an emergency department.

Nimo's commitment to accessible and quality healthcare for those in her home country has also led her to help open the Borama National Fistula Hospital (offering free surgery and support to women with obstetric fistulas) and the Al Hayatt Medical Centre (providing safe, culturally competent and comprehensive health care services).

Nimo is currently on a one year leave of absence from JFS to return to Somalia with the goal of ensuring that those who need medical care and cannot afford it do, in fact, receive the care they need. We wish her luck and are proud to have her on our team.



JEWS IN OTTAWA



DONOR TESTIMONIAL

I am proud to shout out a “Kol Hakovod” to Jewish Family Services on its 40th anniversary.

This organization, its staff, Board of Directors and supporters, have kept the vision of its founders not only alive but flourishing, as it provides vital tangible services to the countless people who need it most. And, by the way, it could be you or me at some point in our lives. We need it to thrive.

And that is why I count Jewish Family Services as one of the most important Ottawa organizations that I support.

Is there a better model of OR LAGOYIM to follow? In Isaiah we read that we are called to be a model and example for all people. In TIKKUN OLAM we must work to provide any activity that improves the world. Sounds exactly like Jewish Family Services to me.

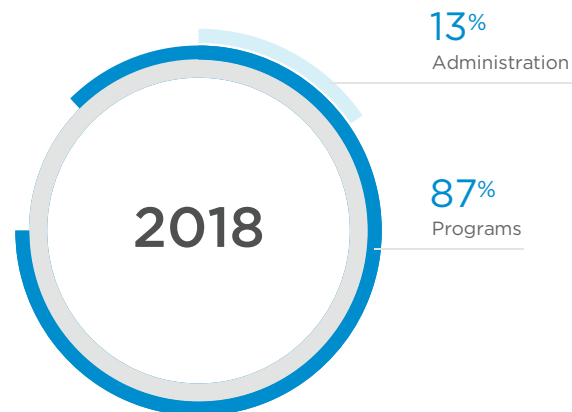


When Amelia Loeb was inspired to see where we could improve the lives of those in need in our community, she founded the organization that became JFS. She called upon Jackie Holzman who took up the task with her, hired Elaine Rabin as the first staff, and the rest is history. These founders deserve our everlasting gratitude as they have put Ottawa on the map as a caring community. And JFS spreads goodwill throughout Ottawa in addition to our own Jewish community. Its 65 programs enhance the lives of countless citizens, from newcomers, families in abusive situations, seniors, and the list goes on.

As a longtime member of our community, I remember what life was like before Amelia and Jackie planted the seeds of Tikkun Olam through JFS. The benefits have been a source of pride for Ottawa. I urge everyone to keep the inspiration growing. We need Jewish Family Services. When we donate to JFS, we reap the benefits multifold.

- Evelyn Greenberg

HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE USED



DONOR RECOGNITION

We would like to welcome District Realty as our newest Gold Mezuzah level sponsor! They've made a 3-year commitment to the Agency.

DISTRICT REALTY



We also want to welcome back AMBICO Limited as a Silver Menorah level sponsor and TRUEdotDESIGN as our newest Silver Menorah sponsor.

AMBICO



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- Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services
- Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)/Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
- Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation
- United Way/Centraide Ottawa

JFS Annual General Meeting

SAVE THE DATE: OCT. 30

Join us on October 30 to help us celebrate 40 years of nurturing a stronger, more diverse and more inclusive Ottawa! This special occasion will include our Annual General Meeting, entertainment and a donor/supporter reception to thank all those who've made our success possible over the years. Location and time will be announced closer to the date.

If you plan on attending, please RSVP to:
info@jfsottawa.com or by phone: 613-722-2225 x300