

#### Rosh HaShanah 2013 Tishrei 5774

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#### Mission & Guiding Principles

- Jewish Family Service Calgary strengthens communities by providing social services to individuals and families based on the Jewish values of compassion, social justice and improving the world.
- We treat each individual with dignity and respect.
- We are accessible to people of all faiths and cultures
- We work together to strengthen all communities recognizing the value of participation and collaboration.
- We are accountable to our clients and stakeholders.
- We empower individuals and families by promoting self-sufficiency.
- We respond to new ideas and emerging needs.

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# L'Olam of JFSC





Dear JFSC Friends,

As I write, I have been professionally involved with JFSC for just over a month. I am most fortunate to have the opportunity to take over an organization that shines at everything we do. The staff at JFSC is fabulous and take on all of the social problems that present themselves on a daily basis. We are compassionate and caring and do fabulous work with minimal resources. Social problems present themselves in all shapes and sizes. From seniors living in isolation to children living in abusive environments, we see it all.

During the recent UJA PAC allocation process, the UJA insisted that JFSC try to put our services and supports into a priority list. In our business this was not possible. Is the starving child more important than the abused senior? Is a person with mental health issues less or more important than Grandparents trying to raise three young children? Is the new immigrant living in their car with their family more important than the child whose family cannot afford a lunch for them to have in school? At JFSC, our priority is all of these people. It is ridiculous to think that we would take some situations as more important than others.

For 2013/2014, JFSC has been allocated \$30,000 less than the 2012/2013 allocation from UJA. The amount that JFSC is receiving from Federation is almost \$100,000 less than what was requested of UJA in order to be a more complete social safety net for our community. We need to meet the social needs of everyone who comes to our door. The priority is to be all that we can be for those in need, those living in social isolation, those living in abusive situations and those living in underprivileged situations.

Those who know me will know me as an honest "straight shooter" and you will be asked, more than once, for your support. Over the next few months you will be hearing from us with respect to our success and where we need your support to be able to meet the vast variety of needs and challenges that face us on a daily basis. Be it a financial contribution and/or as a volunteer, we need your support and assistance. Everyone deserves the opportunity to live their lives with

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dignity and respect and everyone is entitled to strive for their own personal measures of success and community participation. We could not and cannot do this without the support of our community and those living outside our community. When you hear from us, please remember that everyone has value and everyone has the potential to be

successful. Every child deserves to have a childhood twinkle in their eyes and the ability to have friends and fun in their lives. Anyone who reaches out for support should get that support.

I am most thankful to Bev Sheckter for her fabulous success in building an agency that can positively respond to the social needs of our community and the general community. The staff members of JFSC have been fabulous and are a great team that provides the best resources and supports to everyone who comes knocking at our door. Thank you to all of our staff and the Board of Directors for being so warm and welcoming to me. Thank you to all of you in the community and to our stakeholders for their words of confidence and support in me as JFSC moves forward towards making the world a better place for all of us.



Marty Hornstein Executive Director



**Ben Grintuch**President, Board of Directors

#### **OUR SERVICES**

- Seniors Outreach
- Counselling
- Shalom Bayit (Domestic Violence)
- Immigrant Support

- Miriam's Well & Kosher Food Pantry
- Housing Assistance
- Educational Workshops
- "Voices" Jewish Community Choir

CALL US: (403) 287-3510



Jewish Family Service Calgary is a partner of United Jewish Appeal.

We encourage all of our supporters to make a gift to UJA.

#### The Goodman Gward Our Agency is So Proud

The Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies (AJFCA) accepted nominations from across North America for "Innovative Programming" with the presentation of the Goodman Award to take place at the AJFCA Conference in May 2013 held in Phoenix, Arizona.

We were all so very proud that our Andrea Silverstone, coordinator of the "Turn Off the Violence" project, which is part of our Shalom Bayit Program, was the recipient of such important recognition.

School aged children are faced with a variety of complex and difficult situations including bullying, childhood sexual abuse and conflict at home. It is the role of teachers and parents to support children to know how to navigate these situations



Andrea Silverstone

either as a victim or bystander, and if possible, to prevent them. "Turn Off the Violence" offers a comprehensive community development approach to addressing violence targeted toward school aged children and Andrea continues to take this project to all who can benefit.

#### a Great Volunteer Of JFSC

Don Rigby has been volunteering for JFSC for nine years, assisting seniors living at the Bertha Gold Jewish Seniors Residence with the completion of their income tax forms. Over the years he has not only contributed with his expert knowledge, but he has shown compassion and understanding to our clients. He is very kind, soft spoken and he reaches out to each individual in a very special way.

"What will we do if Don Rigby is not going to assist us next year?" That is the frequently asked question when the satisfied customers leave the room. Happily, with a smile, he reassures them that he will see them again next year.



Don Rigby, Our Seniors' Tax Superhero!

Of course it is very important for each individual's tax forms to be completed every year. Don helps eliminate the anxiety and frustration felt by most people as he advocates for this most vulnerable population. This year he prepared over 160 income tax forms free of charge for our clients and the number of individuals helped keeps growing year to year.

We can't thank you enough, Don!

# JPSC Gets Involved...

Jewish Family Service Calgary has been selected as one of four cities across Canada to participate in a project called "Pan-Canadian Elder Abuse Awareness and Education Program for Ethnocultural Communities".

The goal of this project is to decrease the number of incidents of abuse through increasing awareness for multicultural seniors, their families and their caregivers. Along with guidance from our Community Support Services Coordinator, Inessa Kessel, a "Senior Advisory Committee" has been formed to bring this project to life.

Their first accomplishment has been creating a pamphlet to aid in awareness which has been distributed throughout the Calgary community. It includes an Elder Abuse Resource Phone Line so people have a place to turn for help. That number is: **(403) 705 – 3250**.

The committee is also working on a play to perform for seniors in the future, as well as to various groups who are in contact with seniors on a regular basis, through interactive workshops.

This issue is such a significant concern and JFSC is pleased to be chosen to help get the word out. JFSC would also like to thank the Jewish Community Centre for their participation and kindly providing the venue for this project.



The members of the Senior Advisory Committee. Standing left to right: Arthur Peal, Nessie Hollander, Inessa Kessel, Norma Karlinsky & Anna Peal.

## an Afternoon of Tun For the Kids

JFSC collaborated with the PJ Library and held an event in honour of Mother's Day to support women in need. "Selina the Storyteller" (Selina Eisenberg from Montreal) kept the children entertained with Jewish folktales, brownies and coffee cakes were devoured and it was a great afternoon.

We thank Kathie Wainer, the PJ Library Coordinator, for her hard work not only for our Mother's Day event, but for all she does to promote Jewish content in the reading materials for our children by way of free books being mailed out and free local events such as ours.

If you'd like to know more, please contact Kathie at *kwainer@jewishcalgary.org* or phone **(403) 612 – 6604**.

"Selina the Storyteller" kept the children entertained with Jewish folktales, brownies and coffee cakes were devoured and it was a great afternoon."



Cheryl Shore & Grandson, Charlie, join in the fun!

As advertised in our Chanukah Newsletter last year,

### Jewish community is in need of nurturing Jewish foster families

to support and care for Jewish children.

If you have thought about performing this mitzvah or are curious about what is involved, please attend an information session with a representative from the Foster Parents' Association:

Thursday, October 10, 2013
7:00 PM
Location: Jewish Family Service Calgary

For more information, please contact Megan at JFSC, (403) 692 – 6384

#### **DIVORCING?**

If you are contemplating, or in the midst of divorce proceedings contact

The Coalition of Jewish Women for the Get

This 2-step approach is prevention against the lamentable status of AGUNAH\*

STEP 1 - Obtain your Jewish divorce (GET).

STEP 2 - Finalize your civil divorce only after the GET document is in your hands.

For more information, leave a message at our confidential help lines:

Montreal (514) 343-8706 Winnipeg (204) 992-2762 Toronto (416) 849-3135 Calgary (403) 444-3164

\*AGUNAH - A Jewish woman whose husband refuses to give her a Get.

According to Jewish law, without the Get, she is unable to remarry religiously and start a new family. She is a chained woman.

# JOSC Staff



ANNETA MANFUL, *MA* 

As a new member of the clinical counselling team, I'm delighted to be part of the JFSC family

and look forward to working with the diverse clientele the organization serves. I have an MA in Counselling Psychology and recently obtained my provisional status with the College of Alberta Psychologists. Prior to joining JFSC, I worked with children diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum and their families and completed my counselling internship at Calgary Counselling Centre where I had the opportunity to work with clients with various presenting concerns. I believe a strong therapeutic alliance and collaboration are important components in helping clients make positive changes to improve their lives.



TANYA MUSCHANOV, *MC* 

Tanya joined our agency in June 2013 to become a welcome addition to the Shalom Bayit Program. She joins us with experience

working with youth and adults with complex needs. In her role as Shalom Bayit Coordinator, she supports, advocates and raises awareness about domestic violence and bullying in the Jewish community.



HAZEL ORPEN, SW DIP, BSW, RSW

Hazel is a longtime Calgarian and active member of Temple B'nai Tikyah. She has

worked as a registered social worker for over 15 years after graduating from the Social Work Program at Mount Royal University in 1999. Throughout her career, she has been passionate about serving those most marginalized, stigmatized and at risk of homelessness including immigrants, refugees, First Nations peoples and adults involved in the sex trade. As a lifelong learner, Hazel earned a certificate in conflict resolution and mediation at MRU and returned to the University of Calgary full-time, completing her Bachelor of Social Work with a Minor in Indigenous Studies in 2012. She joined JFSC as the Basic Needs Coordinator in April where she brings her experience in advocacy and systems' navigation. In her spare time, Hazel volunteers with the Women's Centre and is actively involved in the "Idle No More" movement addressing systemic poverty, environmental concerns and human rights issues.



#### SHIRLEY ROSEN

Shirley Rosen is a communications specialist, a mother of two, and joined JFSC in April 2013 as the Volunteer/ Project Coordinator.

She was born in Israel where she spent her earlier years becoming a communications expert in Hebrew and English. Shirley arrived in Canada in 1994 determined to uncover the secrets of how successful people and companies communicate. She found her passion early in her life and began working and volunteering in her local Jewish community. Shirley has dedicated the past 15 years teaching special needs, early Jewish education and coordinating exciting new Jewish Programs. She believes the road to success is trying and accomplishing goals through Tikkun Olam. Shirley is known for her vivacious personality and tenacious attitude; heart of gold, tough as nails! When she is not working, she loves to cook and can be seen in several local shops getting the best deal in town.

#### **Sonors** January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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We are a partner agency of the Calgary Jewish Federation and UJA.

# Thank You to Our Volunteer Receptionists!

Along with Eleanor Mintz who has been, and continues to be, such a valuable volunteer at reception since 2009, we are very pleased to introduce 3 more volunteer receptionists who look after the front desk at different times during the week.



Marla Maitman



Jennie Drinkwater



Cheryl Lopez



Please help us cut down our costs and help the environment by signing up to receive this newsletter and other correspondence from JFSC via email. This information is confidential and will not be shared with any other organization. Please contact Ronalda at ronalda@ifsc.org to be part of this growing trend.