



Hamilton Jewish Family Services Program Report – June 13, 2023

Strengthening individual, family and communal life in keeping with Jewish values and traditions. HJFS has a full range of program supports. We offer poverty reduction, life navigation, Holocaust Survivor program and senior supports.



POVERTY REDUCTION

- **Financial Assistance Program** – is a holistic service for those who just need a hand-up (thanks to the Hamilton Jewish Federation for their generous funding). Since June 2022, we served approx. 312 participants. Monthly spending approx. \$8,227.00 not including Purim payment in March @ \$125.00 per client. Additionally, we provided emergency one-time funding to 23 clients in need. Once a month, a Financial Assistance Program Committee meets to discuss goals and support for the program. When required, special circumstances are brought forward to the committee for approval.
- **Income Tax Clinic** – In April 2023, two volunteers prepared 8 income tax applications for low-income clients at the HJFS office. Going forward, we would like to provide this service next year.



LIFE NAVIGATION

- **Educational Workshops** – workshops are coordinated and facilitated monthly i.e., Hamilton Housing Summit, Debt Reduction, GIG Economy Panel, Addressing Financial Concerns for seniors and How to Propagate Plants for your next year's garden to mention a few.
- **Employment Counselling** – Dina our Career Counsellor provided 250 hours this past fiscal year of direct career counselling; including developing and disseminating career resources to

clients. Career and job search workshops/ webinars were provided once-a month including job search, resume writing/online interviews.



HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR PROGRAM

- **HJFS staff works cooperatively with the Claims Conference to provide support to Holocaust Survivors. This includes homecare, monthly gift cards and emergency funds. We have 17 survivors registered with the Claims Conference and 14 of them receive monthly gift cards. The number of survivor's who receive homecare support is 6 and receive 381.75 hours a week i.e., personal support and cleaning.**



SENIOR SUPPORTS

- **Advocacy and referrals – In the last fiscal year, we provided 316 referrals in the community or in-house through the senior supports program. Many of the referrals were for housing (Hamilton Help Centre, Hamilton Housing Division, Access to Housing; Homecare agencies; Hamilton Special Supports program; ADP – Assistive Devices programs; Hamilton Community Legal Aid, and Ontario Works/ODSP. Individual advocacy is available for those who find it challenging to make decisions about their health, financial situation or shelter. We are here to help!**