

2025 - 2026 Annual General Meeting

June 23, 2026

Executive Director's Report

Presented by:
Cara Bensimon
Executive Director



To our community:

Thank you for your trust.

To our funders:

Thank you for believing in our mission.

To our volunteers:

Thank you for your compassion, expertise and time.

To our staff:

Thank you for being the heart of all we do - showing up with purpose, care and commitment.



Rooted in Jewish values.

Kavod Habriyot — dignity for all
Chesed — compassion and kindness
Tzedakah — charity and justice
Tikkun Olam — repairing the world

What we did 2025-26



- Launched our clinical Mental Health & Well-Being Program, including counselling and expanded mental health supports
- Brought Café Europa to life for Holocaust Survivors
- Strengthened seniors' supports and connection through our Seniors Living Well programming including food, fitness, technology, and social connection programs
- Expanded newcomer supports through The Giving Room, employment referrals, emergency financial assistance, family navigation, and community integration
- Broadened food security reach beyond the cupboard through garden partnerships, food-based programming, and a new food pantry software platform
- Refreshed our website, digital presence, brand, online access, intake pathways and external communications
- Strengthened internal operations, including HR/payroll processes, grant administration, reporting, service coordination, and governance practices

**MORE PROGRAMS. MORE SUPPORT.
MORE AT [HAMILTONJFS.CA](https://www.hamiltonjfs.ca)**





A More Connected Way to Support People

- People continued to connect with HJFS through many doors
- Programs became increasingly connected through stronger internal communication and follow-up
- Systems improved intake, coordination, reporting and continuity of care





What's ahead 2026-27

The year ahead is about making growth sustainable.

- Build food program capacity through Ontario Trillium-supported planning and implementation
- Strengthen seniors, survivor care, and social connection
- Formalize financial assistance pathways and eligibility criteria
- Keep mental-health access practical and community-informed
- Deepen newcomer, housing, family navigation, and partner referral pathways
- Strengthen communications, community visibility, and donor stewardship
- Improve digital access, intake, reporting, and follow-through
- Begin work on HJFS's next strategic plan

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2025-26 in Numbers

Behind every number is a person, household, or moment of support.



Food Security

500

unique individuals served through Carol's Cupboard

150

households supported through Carol's Cupboard

1,100+

visits to the food bank

48,400 lbs

of food distributed



Seniors & Survivors

150

unique seniors engaged through Seniors Living Well programming

9

regular weekly seniors programs

12

Holocaust Survivors supported

8

participants engaged through Café Europa gatherings



Mental Health & Relief

51

counselling sessions provided through the Mental Health & Well-Being Program

5+

clinical and community support partnerships strengthened

\$120K

in direct financial assistance disbursed to eligible individuals and families



Connecting People to Support

200+

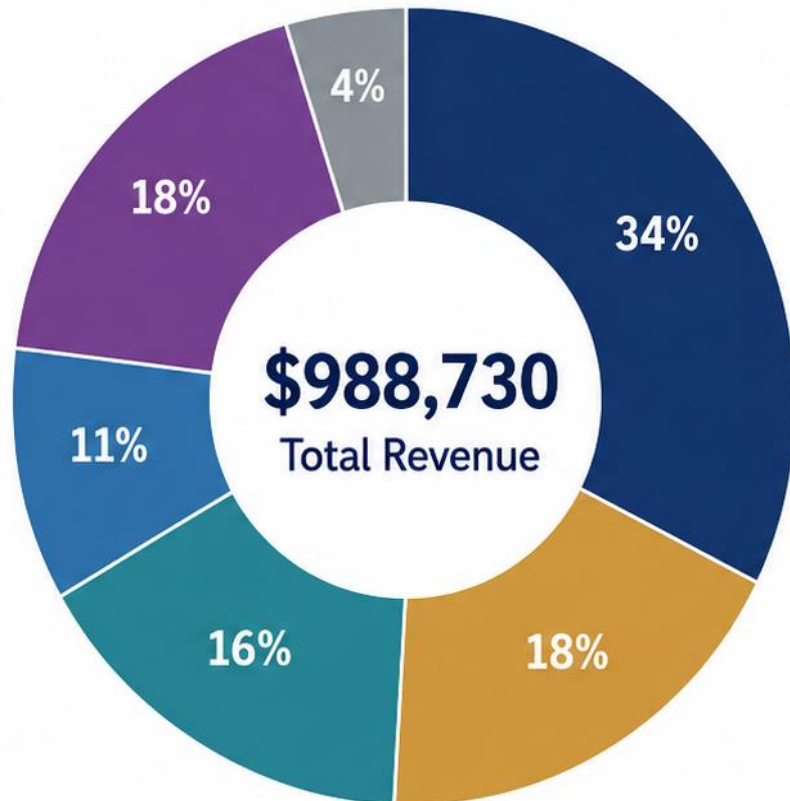
referrals connecting individuals and families to community resources, partner agencies, and HJFS programs

Funding Stayed Diversified

Detailed audited financial statements will follow in the finance presentation.

FYE 2026 revenue was \$988,730, compared with \$950,563 in FYE 2025. Federation remained HJFS's largest single source of support at \$337,195.

FYE 2026 Revenue by Source



Revenue Source	Amount	% of Total
Hamilton Jewish Federation allocation	\$337,195	34%
Food bank donations and grants	\$179,006	18%
Government grants	\$154,536	16%
United Way funding	\$109,000	11%
Other revenue and other grants	\$173,321	18%
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	\$35,672	4%
Total Revenue	\$988,730	100%

The People Behind the Work

Board of Directors

Cindy Mark — Chair

Phil Kriszenfeld — Treasurer

Carol Adler — Secretary

Sherri Bavley

Michelle Daleo

Miriam Farber Wajnberg

Jeff Levy

Daniel Marcus

Iris Rinkoff

Stefanie Waxman

Committee Leadership

Food Security — Michelle Daleo

Financial Assistance — Iris Rinkoff
Governance — Jeff Levy

Finance — Phil Kriszenfeld

Personnel — Cindy Mark

Holiday Campaigns — Josh Salmon

Staff Team

Cara Bensimon — Executive Director

Christine Nusca — Director of Operations

Jane Allen — Case Manager & Holocaust Survivor
Support Services

Rachel Bernholtz — Grants & Food Bank Manager

Lloyd Orson — Food Bank Lead

Oli Meiri — Food Bank Assistant

Erika McMeekin — Seniors Programs Manager

Natalie Sobel — Director, Clinical Services

Anna Yu — Financial Officer



Thank you.

Together, we continue building a stronger, more connected, and more responsive HJFS.