



A collection of legacy stories

Dear Friends,

It has been a long while between messages so I am pleased to check in. During this past difficult year I have thought a great deal about the important work of JF&CS. I am profoundly grateful that our agency is here to ensure the safety and well-being of so many; those who are suffering, who need resources and intervention. We are a community that needs connection, our wellbeing relies on it. This is a truth never as powerful as during the past year of pandemic.

Covid-19 has fostered a different and compelling conversation about life and death. We have struggled to bring meaning to this overwhelming circumstance. It is comforting to know that we are able to give our lives, and indeed our deaths, meaning, by continuing to make a difference. Philanthropy and planned gifts have allowed JF&CS to strive for excellence and to be uncompromising in providing for the safety and security, the mental health and financial sustainability of those in need. We all hope our end comes well into the future, like those whose stories are presented in this material, please consider JF&CS generously in your estate planning and help us plan for the agency's future.



Warmest regards,
Richard Cummings

Gordon S. Wolfe

Those who knew Gordon, speak of him with great admiration and respect. Gordy, as he was fondly called, was a man of passion – passion for his family, camp, JF&CS and for the community in which he lived.

Gordy met his wife Linda at Camp Ogama during the summer of 1956. Little did Linda know at the time, that she would be spending the next 24 summers at camp, the last eleven of which were at Camp Wabikon which they owned and operated from 1969 – 1980. They were married in June of 1959 and were blessed with 3 wonderful children – Deborah, Michael and Carrie. Gordy was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

In 1981, Gordy was hired as Executive Director of Jewish Family & Child Service. It was under his leadership that JF&CS was able to usher in an era of expansion, opening new offices and creating innovative programs across the GTA.

Gordy was a visionary and brought to the agency new and controversial programs that targeted some of the most vulnerable members of the community – abused woman and children. In 1984, JF&CS implemented Woman Abuse Services and in 1985, a Child Abuse Prevention Program. In addition to these programs, JF&CS expanded to York Region and offered a Jewish Hospice Program among other programs.

In the 2001/2002 JF&CS Annual Report, Gordy wrote "Our tradition teaches that the measure of a community is how the community cares for its most needy members, those who are most

vulnerable. We are directed to advocate for those who may be unable to advocate for themselves. When a need is identified, we are compelled to respond. Our tradition does not permit us to stand idly by. These teachings and values are embodied in the services and mission of Jewish Family & Child Service".



What better way to honour Gordy than to establish the Gordon S. Wolfe Legacy Society in his memory.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Lorne & Lorie

Giving back to your community has always been important to Lorne Wolfson and Lorie Shekter-Wolfson, and they have instilled this in their family by leading through example.

Lorie grew up in Hamilton and was fortunate to be the granddaughter of two strong and community minded women. Both were very active in the Hamilton Jewish community and respectively had chapters named after them in Hadassah and Pioneer Women. Lorie was very proud of their legacies and the impact they had on their community. This helped to shape Lorie's ambitions and led her to pursue a career in social work, following in her mother's footsteps.

Lorne, a family lawyer, became acquainted with Jewish Family and Child Service as a result of his clients needing support during tumultuous times. Lorne would often refer clients to the agency so they could receive counselling or any

of the many services JF&CS had to offer.

Lorne joined the Board of Directors in 1980 and saw firsthand the impactful work done by the agency. Subsequently he went on to become President of the Board of Directors from 1989-1991. Lorie joined the Board in 1986 and was an active volunteer on numerous committees for over 30 years.

Lorie and Lorne continue to be involved with the agency. Lorne explains, "the needs of the community, whether they be financial, domestic issues or summer camp subsidies, these needs will continue to grow and JF&CS will have ever more demands on them. Financing the organization will continue to be a challenge and it will rely on those of us

in the community who value what they do to ensure they stay financially viable".

It is for this reason Lorne and Lorie have included JF&CS in their estate planning. It is important to them to show their support by setting up an endowment so funds are available in perpetuity to the agency.



Bernie & Joan

For Bernie and Joan Aaron, helping children in need is ingrained deep within them.

In the early 70s, the Aarons started a group home for Jewish children in need of a place to stay. For periods of three weeks to six months, the Aarons housed up to six children at a time. They ran the home under the supervision of Jewish Family and Child Service, who provided both financial support and assessments to the children. This passion for helping children is understandable. Joan Aaron was a social worker by profession and used these skills to support those who came into their home, while Bernie focused on planning activities for the children and keeping them organized. Their group home proved so impressive and unique that a student pursuing their Master's Degree in Social Work wrote his thesis on the Aaron's home and had his findings published.

Since closing the home, Bernie and Joan have stayed involved with JF&CS, with Bernie serving as President of the JF&CS

Board of Directors from 1978-1980. They are active donors and through their legacy planning, have chosen to support JF&CS, becoming members of the Gordon S. Wolfe Legacy Society. The couple has always found JF&CS to be a forward thinking agency, with the ability to meet the needs and challenges of an ever changing population. This is one of the reasons why the Aarons have chosen to support JF&CS through their estate planning.

The Jerome D. Diamond Adolescent Centre has always held a special place in their hearts, and it is during their lifetime that they have made the decision to support the school by providing funding to refurbish the backyard. Jerry Diamond was a personal friend and hero to Bernie and Joan; the school named after their late friend means a great deal to them.

The desire to give back and help to ensure that JF&CS can continue to expand services and meet the needs of everyone in the community is what motivated Bernie and Joan to include



JF&CS in their estate planning. It is their firm belief that JF&CS is essential to our community and what we do is incredibly inspiring. We thank the Aarons for their continued support and dedication and for their passion and generosity towards our organization.

Bonnie

Bonnie Lawrence Shear first became involved with Jewish Family and Child Service in the early 60s as an employee of the agency. Bonnie could speak French - her job as a case worker was to help settle Moroccan and Algerian French/Spanish speaking immigrants in Toronto.

Bonnie left the agency after a short time to raise her three sons, but reconnected a few years later when JF&CS helped her adopt her daughter.

In the 1990s, Bonnie and her sons Bob and Josh Cooper discovered that there was a significant segment of the Jewish population that could not afford to purchase Chanukah gifts for their children, including Jewish children in foster care. It was with the help of JF&CS that *Drive for Dreidels* was founded.

Drive for Dreidels continues today and through the donation of toys and gift cards, helps families celebrate Chanukah.

Bonnie, through her own family challenges, understands the importance of having the support of JF&CS and wants to ensure that there will be funds available to help families needing a hand when they are in crisis. It is for this reason that Bonnie has chosen to leave a legacy gift to JF&CS.

"As the Jewish population grows, there will be such an increase in family problems and more complex dynamics, which I believe JF&CS has the mandate to help solve. This is an enormous task, and JF&CS will need a lot of help, both financially and through volunteers".



Photo by Debra Friedman

Remembering Irene

Irene Borins Ash led a life that many would hope to emulate; one of compassion and passion which lifted those around her. From her artistic creations and photography, to the impact she provided as a social worker, Irene took in every aspect of the world around her in her almost 68 years of life.

For Irene, it was important to leave a legacy at Jewish Family and Child Service because the agency reflected her values of *tikkun olam* (Hebrew: repair of the world) and of helping people in need. By profession, Irene was a social worker (as was one of her brothers), and the work done by JF&CS spoke to her professional experience. Irene started her career through a practicum at JF&CS in the 80s, where she was supervised by Simon Kalkstein, who also supervised her at the Wurzweiler School of Social

Work at Yeshiva University when Irene was a student.

Irene was married to Irv Ash. Irv's family immigrated to Canada from Europe at the end of the 1940s, bringing his parents and brother to Toronto and shortly after arriving, Irv was born. As with many early Jewish immigrants in Canada, the Ash family was supported by the agency for a few years. Irv is now a lawyer and a professor and credits JF&CS for helping his family overcome a difficult time.

Irene was proud that her legacy would be recognized through the Gordon S. Wolfe Legacy Society, where her name will live on in perpetuity, supporting and strengthening individuals and families in need for years to come.

For more about Irene and to see her work, please visit <http://ireneborinsash.com/>



Your gift will be your legacy

[Click here](#) to learn about the ways to give.

For further information about planned giving please contact Brenda Gurvey at 416-638-7800 x 6226 or bgurvey@jfandcs.com

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