

Jessica Jani's Day Program Story

As told by her Mom Catherine Charland

My daughter's life has been changed because of her involvement with Tamir's Passages Day Program. Jessica is an example of how a person can flourish when given the right support.

Prior to joining Passages, Jessica was non-verbal and extremely physically aggressive mainly because she wasn't understood.

During her first year she attended the program on a part time basis. At that time, her oral communication was limited to only a few words. She had no issues with her receptive communication other than the fact that she did not want to follow many of the directions that were given by staff.

Jessica absolutely did not want to participate in any off-site programming. This was a huge challenge given a primary objective of the Passages program is community integration mainly through supported employment and volunteer work. The challenges of this situation were compounded further by the fact that Jessica suffers from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD).

Given Jessica's OCD, order and consistency are very important to her sense of security. However, it is difficult, if not impossible, to keep things the same in a day program such as Passages with so many comings and goings of people involved in a variety of activities with different schedules, changing group members for activities and so on. On top of all of that, Jessica could not tolerate any joking around with her; she would become upset and took everything very literally. Many a time, I was called to arrange early pick up because things were just not working out.

Together, the Passages team, my daughter and I all persevered working through the issues.

Well, it is now 7 years after that initial visit to Passages. Jessica's attendance has progressed to 5 full days. She is in the community every

day at placements such as the Salvation Army and Home Depot. She delivers the local Capital City Newspaper, attends Capital Courts Fitness Center, as well as, Yoga at Jack Purcell Community Center weekly. I am told she is a huge help on site at program doing a variety of tasks such as setting tables for lunch and folding laundry. Jessica's speech has improved to the point that she is speaking in full sentences using pronouns and adjectives and now even initiates jokes!

As a parent of one of the many young adults who have benefited from Tamir's Day Program, I encourage others to support this incredible organization. Tamir offers a very inclusive program that provides adults with developmental disabilities an opportunity to achieve independence, be productive and feel a part of a team through skill development and community partnerships.

Jess is a changed young woman today compared to when she first started in Tamir's program. As her mother, I have seen first-hand how she has become more capable, more flexible and able to face her challenges. She is well-behaved, more articulate and a pleasure to be around. Jessica has turned out in this positive way because of the hard and steadfast efforts of the Tamir staff team. No other organization was able to achieve the same outcomes with Jess. I am so indebted to Tamir for helping my child in this way.



Jessica receiving recognition from Tamir



Vicky Ferkin joined by her parents Norm and Debbie, to read during 3rd Seder celebration

Tamir Endowment Fund Grows

Since its inception in March, 2015, the OJCF – Tamir Endowment Fund continues to grow. The fund which was created to offer donors a long-term vehicle to support the needs of Tamir residents has surpassed \$450,000 in their wills. We are very grateful to the individuals who have committed a gift in their wills to Tamir. If you would like more information on how you can have impact in the future, please call Neil Leslie at 613-725-3519 ext. 104.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, June 29 at 6:30 pm

Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Ave., Ottawa

Please RSVP to Neil before June 24,
by email neilleslie@tamir.ca or 613-725-3519 x104

DAY SERVICES

*Fun
Caring*

Integrated

Purpose

Support

Community

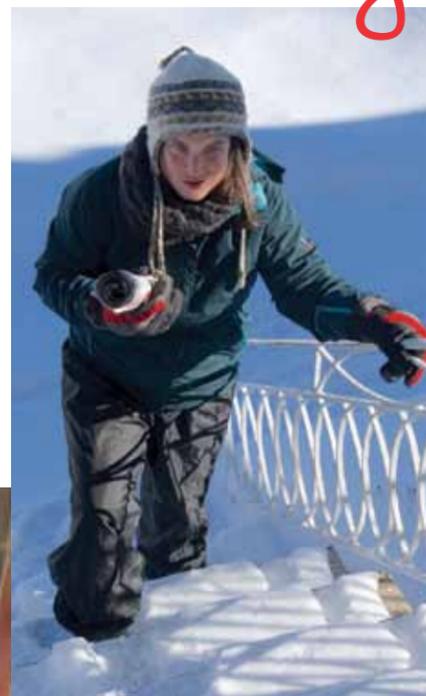
Motivate

Work

New experiences

Learn

Social interaction



A Message from the President and Executive Director

In this issue of Sh'ma Koleinu (Hear Our Voices), you have had the opportunity to read about Jessica Jani's personal growth through her involvement in Tamir. In the photo collage, you have seen the expressions of satisfaction on the faces of Tamir participants at work, engaged in sport, involved in life skills training and enjoying recreation. I am sure you can appreciate how important the various activities are to our participants. At Tamir, we are constantly looking to improve quality of life through better care practices, broader opportunities for community involvement and further development of our Judaic programming. These activities are integral to a healthy, happy and meaningful life for our Tamir participants.

In order to ensure we can continue to provide for and improve upon quality of life for the people in our care, we need your help! Donations are crucially important to Tamir. These dollars enable this organization to make a real difference in the lives of our Tamir participants.

We ask you to think about what's important to you and your philanthropic endeavours. A donation to Tamir is an investment that creates a lasting social return. At Tamir, we value and cherish every charitable dollar we receive. We ensure that we spend your donations to the absolute benefit of our Tamir participants.



Bob Thompson, President



Mark Palmer, Executive Director

And please remember, we value your support through means other than financial contributions. We need your help in so many ways!! Volunteering your time and talents has multiple benefits. By volunteering for Tamir, you will get to know and appreciate this valuable organization even more.

Thank you for your past donations and volunteer time. Thank you for your present and future commitments to Tamir!

Tamir is the only organization in Ottawa dedicated to ensuring people with developmental disabilities live with dignity and respect in a Jewish environment. Your support is critical to ensuring our most vulnerable are able to thrive.

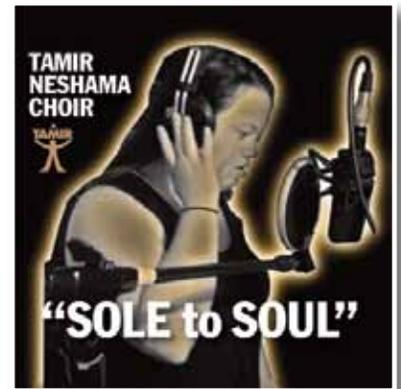
Attached to this newsletter is a membership sign up-card. If you haven't joined or renewed your Tamir membership, please do so now.

Tamir Neshama Choir recently performed at Perley Rideau, Kingston and Hair Donation Ottawa



CDs Still Available!

CDs \$20 by calling Frances at 613-725-3519 x 112



Debbie Waserman singing at Perley Rideau



Jane Tessier singing You Are My Sunshine



Debbie Applebaum singing with organizer Helene Hutchings, Hair Donation Ottawa



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