

TAMIR NEWSLETTER

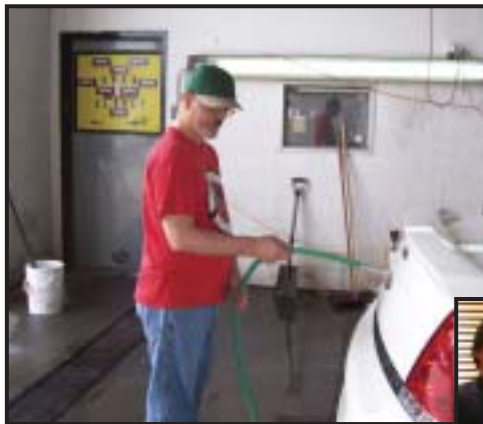
SPRING 2006

Partnerships Keep Tamir Strong



Members of Tamir's Judaic Outreach program receive a volunteer appreciation award from RRC for their involvement in providing Judaic programming to Jewish residents living at the Centre.

Yves Courtemanche and David Rowat, from Tamir's Passages program, detailing cars at Budget Car and Truck Rentals, at Innes Road.



Eric Sevigny, a participant in Tamir's Passages program, at work at Classic Wood Mouldings.



Jay Greenblatt, volunteering at Hillel Lodge, setting tables for the residents.



Tamir invites inter-faith community partners from L'Arche, Christian Horizons and Ottawa Foyers Partages to the 3rd Seder, to build friendships and understanding across agencies.



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Tamir Partners

Thank you to the following businesses for supplying work and volunteer opportunities for Tamir participants:

- Agudath Israel Congregation
- Aids Committee of Ottawa
- Bethany Hope Centre
- Budget Car and Truck Rentals – Innes Road
- Canadian Tire – Merivale
- Classic Wood Moulding
- Computers for Schools
- Dovercourt Community Centre
- Elgin Street YMCA Day Care
- Hillel Lodge
- Jewish Family Services, Meals on Wheels
- Jim Durrell Arena
- OC Transpo
- Overbrooke Day Care and Kindergarten Program
- Parkdale United Church
- Petsmart – Merivale
- Rogers Video – Meadowlands
- Salvation Army
- Snowsuit Fund
- Walkley Bowling Lanes
- Zellers – Bayshore

Judaic Outreach Partners

- Adath Shalom Congregation
- Akiva High School
- Congregation Beth Shalom
- Ottawa Reconstructionist Havurah
- Rideau Regional Centre
- Tamul Torah Afternoon School
- Temple Israel



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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS enhance lives...how can you get involved?

When the staff at the Ottawa division of IBM Canada contribute to their IBM Employees' Charitable Fund, they are also invited to submit names of their favourite charities to be the recipient of the general donations. Susan Weisman-Taylor, IBM Management Analyst, told the gang about Tamir, and they liked what they heard.

this gap and provided funds, as part of their 50th anniversary celebration, for much needed therapeutic services such as speech pathology, occupational therapy and nutritional counseling to individuals in need and unable to wait a year or two for subsidized supports.



Representatives from the IBM Employees' Charitable Fund and Tamir come together.

Tamir relies on individuals too, who want to make a difference. Malcolm and Vera Glube have been regular supporters of Tamir for years. Last year, the couple decided to make a more substantial donation to Tamir and its work. "Our daughter Sharon worked at Tamir years ago. Now she is a teacher at a school for kids with learning disabilities. We've always supported Tamir through the membership drive and other fund-raisers. We think that what Tamir does in this community is important. This year we wanted to do more to show our support."

The Philip Hauptman fund, created by his family and Adath Shalom Congregation, supports a unique need at Tamir. The fund is dedicated to providing print and liturgical resources adapted to the abilities of Tamir participants in the Judaic Outreach program. Philip Hauptman was a Professor of Linguistics at University of Ottawa, with a family connection to Tamir through his daughter's sister-in-law, Meredith Caplan, a resident at Tamir and an ardent participant in the Judaic program. This year the fund is contributing to the publication of a Shabbat Guide, which will serve Tamir participants and those in similar organizations in North America and beyond.

Tamir has always relied on individuals in our community to help make Tamir what it is today, a vibrant, growing organization serving individuals with diverse and complex needs. Increasingly, corporations with a social conscience are seeking partnerships with organizations in their communities like Tamir. We look forward to new opportunities to establish partnerships with others who share our vision.

Susan has a strong connection to Tamir: husband Jeff Taylor served as treasurer of the Board, aunt Lily Penso co-founded Tamir over 20 years ago, cousin Michael Penso has been a resident since the beginning.

The IBM staffers were impressed with what Susan told them about Tamir: its steady growth, its personal touch, its credibility and accountability, and its direct service to so many people in need. They agreed to name Tamir as one of the main recipients of their annual fundraising drive. "We are fortunate that the staff of IBM recognize Tamir's need. The IBM story will undoubtedly inspire other companies to do the same," said Mark Palmer, Executive Director of Tamir.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services of Ontario is Tamir's primary funding partner and supports the basics for Tamir participants. Additional costs such as therapeutic services require other means of funding. The Minto Corporation recognized

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TAMIR PARTNERSHIPS

Tamir Partners on Special Education Needs Assessment



Ensuring Jewish children with special needs have opportunities to learn within a Jewish educational environment and maximize their potential poses significant challenges to our community.

Children and teens with special needs are currently being supported within many Jewish schools and other institutions in Ottawa. Families advocate for inclusion and organizations stretch resources and work diligently with these young people and their families to understand their challenges, maximize learning and provide a Jewish educational experience geared to the capability of each individual.

Despite these efforts, our Jewish education system has not been able to include some children at all or have included them without sufficient resources to provide them with the quality of supports they require. Parents have been asking our community to take an in-depth look at the issue.

Through a collaborative effort among ten Jewish schools and community organizations including Tamir, an in-depth community-wide needs assessment is being conducted in May to assess the range and extent of Jewish special education needs in our community.

The project is being funded by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. The JFO recognized that this project addresses two of our communities top priorities; support to Jewish schools and assistance to the vulnerable.

Tal Gilboa, Principal of Talmud Torah Afternoon School, Sheli Braun, Principal of Temple Israel School and Mark Palmer, Executive Director of Tamir, make up the steering committee for the project. The committee has selected

Maryholm Consulting Inc. to develop and implement the assessment. Maryholm's project team consists of three very experienced education consulting professionals all of whom have conducted numerous reviews involving special education. They will conduct the survey and focus groups, look at best practices, make recommendations and produce a report.

Jewish children and teens, from infancy to age 18, having a broad range of special needs are the target population. This includes kids with learning disabilities, pervasive and other developmental disabilities and kids who have been assessed as gifted.

The needs assessment will be conducted through anonymous confidential surveys of families, Jewish schools and other institutions, as well as focus groups with parents, teachers and administrators to obtain information about basic demographic data, types of special needs, educational preferences, and system and support needs. Best practices in other Jewish communities will also be explored.

For the first time, our community will obtain a comprehensive picture, complete with hard data, regarding the nature and extent of special needs among Jewish children and teens here in Ottawa. The needs assessment and focus groups will bring to light the challenges faced by these children and their families, identify some of the key barriers affecting participation in Jewish education and lay the groundwork for a plan to address needs.

Louis Pasteur once said "When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments: tenderness for what he is, and respect for what he may become." Providing the right education opportunities and supports to a Jewish person with special needs during their child and teen years can make the difference between a life of under achievement, frustration and lack of affiliation and a healthy, contributing member of society with a strong sense of identity and attachment to Jewish life (Kehilla).

Addressing the special needs issue through this assessment is important to continuity of Jewish life here in Ottawa.

Do you have a child or teen with special education (including gifted) needs?

If you would like to participate in the survey, you can:

- Visit our website at www.jfospecedsurvey.com
- Contact your school principal
- Contact survey administrative assistant at 862-9750
- Contact Jewish Family Services (722-2225) or Tamir (725-3519)



Tamir's
8th Annual

**BAGELS
AND BEER
GOLF
FUN-RAISER!**

Monday August 21, 2006
Edelweiss Golf and
Country Club

Golf, dinner, drinks and fun!

For more info, call
Jerry Nudelman at 724-5995
or Norm Ferkin at 825-6560

Come Join the Fun!



Todah chaverim! Thanks to our Tamim

Tamir members, both long standing and new
Contributors to Tamir through our Donation Card program
We thank all members listed, with

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Members are being acknowledged in this newsletter.
Program and fundraising events will be recognized elsewhere.
Apologies for any errors or omissions.

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Provides you with:

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Be a member of the
Directors
Participate in special events

Partnership, Tamir receives:

Additional funds
and support from
the community

Join for 2006 or join today!

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Executive Director

Mark Palmer

*Tamir invites
you to attend our*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING!

Tuesday, June 20th, 2006
Agudath Israel Synagogue
1400 Coldrey Avenue, Ottawa

The format of the meeting has changed!

Business portion to begin at: 6:30 p.m.

Intermission: 7:15 p.m.

Year in Review Presentations: 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for an informative and entertaining evening!



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HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Remember a loved one or recognize a special occasion with Tamir

Donation Cards

— call 725-3519 and place your order.

Want to make a longer-term investment in Tamir?

Consider

Planned Giving

as a cost effective way to help secure Tamir's future **today**. Please call Mark Borts at 792-3385, ext. 107 or e-mail at mborts@rgpafin.com

PARTNERSHIPS

A Message from the President and Executive Director

This newsletter is full of the great happenings and accomplishments of our participants and our organization over the past year. One that deserves special mention is that, last year, Tamir was awarded the first ever Jewish Federation of Ottawa Excellence in Service Award. Congratulations and a sincere thank you to all of our staff and volunteers for the many years of dedicated work underlying this achievement.

Much of our success over the years has been due to partnerships we have forged and this Newsletter is chalk full of examples. One initiative, of which we are particularly proud, is the development of our own comprehensive internal audit system. This audit process has proven so valuable that Tamir has received a provincial Innovations grant to help introduce the system to five other developmental services agencies in Ottawa. See page 6 of this Newsletter to read more about how this system and associated partnerships have had a significant impact on the quality of our services.

Partnerships are key to solving both our present challenges and the fulfillment of our vision for the future. As the needs of our participants become more complex, Tamir is looking, more and more, to potential community partners for assistance. Finding available therapeutic services with the expertise to serve our clientele and obtaining funding to support an aging population with increasing needs continue to pose challenges. Acquiring affordable housing for people waiting for support may require collaboration with new partners.

Currently, the Ministry of Community and Social Services is looking to developmental services agencies across the province to respond to its facility closure project. Three institutions including Rideau Regional Centre (RRC) in Smiths Falls are slated to be



Richard Zuker
President



Mark Palmer
Executive Director

closed by 2009. Tamir has been asked to participate and bring former residents of RRC to the community to live within Tamir, near their families. We are looking for properties as close to the Jewish Community Campus as possible to house these new residents.

Equally important in our vision for the future is supporting families who care for their developmentally disabled sons and daughters in the community. We would like to see housing, including supported independent living apartments, respite and day services, within an integrated living complex in close proximity to the Campus. We will be exploring the possibility of partnering with other service providers. Over the next several years, we plan to work closely with government, the Community, and other interested people to make this vision a reality.

For all of our plans, we are highly cognizant of our fundamental objective of serving Jewish people and their families and maintaining Tamir as a Jewish organization.

Through the loyal support of you, our membership, Tamir will continue to thrive, offer great programs and realize our dreams here in Ottawa in support of individuals with developmental disabilities in a Jewish environment.

Lee Waxman: Partnership in Action!

Lee Waxman, a member of Tamir's Supported Independent Living Program, is a man of strong interests and ideas, and he has recently taken

his love of movies and turned it into a starring role for himself. Two mornings a week, Lee works at Rogers Video at Meadowlands, alphabetizing the movies and then returning them to the shelves. Once Lee



found out Rogers was looking for someone to help out in the mornings, he applied, had an interview, and soon started on-the-job training.

One of the key aspects of this job for Lee is the social interaction with customers, and the feeling of being a part of the community. As Lee says, "I like meeting new people. I look forward to going to work." Lee also rounds out his week volunteering with bingo at Hillel Lodge and being an active member of the Agudath Israel Congregation.

Mazel tov to Lee and Rogers on this successful community partnership!

Sharing Quality Through Innovations



Opportunities to receive government funding for support beyond the basics of food, shelter, transportation and staffing are rare. Money is tight and needs in the community are high. So when the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) put forward a request for proposals under the Innovations project, Tamir was quick to respond.

The Ministry was looking for proposals that were responsive to client needs and would help move the quality of developmental services forward in a sustainable way. One particular initiative at Tamir seemed to fit the mandate perfectly.



Tamir had begun to develop program audit and evaluation tools and the effects were starting to be seen. The audit project goals were comprehensive. As demands in developmental services increase, staying on top of day to day management of systems becomes increasingly challenging. Program audit and evaluation tools offer the means to ensure these essential areas remain priorities for all involved.

When Tamir brought the plan for Program Audit and Evaluation forward to the Executive Directors of Ottawa (EDO) group to consider as an Innovations proposal, five other area agencies quickly jumped on the bandwagon.

Each agency had a different reason for wanting to partner with Tamir on this proposal: some were small, with little administrative staff or opportunity to develop their own tools to measure the quality of services: others, although larger, needed a means to monitor more complex systems across diverse programs.

MCSS believed in the concept as well, and approved the proposal. As the leader of the project, Tamir was charged with bringing the audit tools to each of the five partner agencies, helping them adapt the tools to fit their own systems,

conducting audits at each of the agencies and reporting the results. Change management training is the final phase of the project, helping key staff to see change as a positive development in the process.

This partnership offers the tremendous reward of knowing we have shared a good idea with other agencies with the same goal of improving the lives of people with disabilities in our community. The challenge of finding the resources to maintain the project remains. Tamir is proud to have led this project and hopeful of the long-term impact this partnership will have on the quality of developmental services in our area.

Remembering Sam Barnes



1948-2005

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the sudden passing of Sam Barnes on November 29, 2005. Sam had made Tamir his home since 1998, living at 840 Broadview and attending our Day Program since its inception. Previously, Sam lived at the Rideau Regional Centre and with his family in Montreal.

Sam will be fondly remembered for his gentle spirit and calm and quiet presence. During his time at Tamir, Sam developed close bonds with his peers and staff alike. Jill MacLean, Primary Counsellor at Tamir, worked with Sam for several years and remembered him in these words, "I was fortunate to know Sam when I worked at Broadview. He was unselfish and undemanding, yet shared a special bond with his housemates and friends. One of the highlights of my evenings at Broadview was saying goodnight to the guys, as they would go up the elevator together with such a sense of comradeship, waving goodnight to all."

Sam enjoyed a close relationship with his family, and took great pleasure in spending time with them. Jill remembers

accompanying Sam on several trips to Montreal to visit family. "We would put the country music radio station on in the van and off we would go on an adventure! Sam loved to see his niece, his mother who lived in a nursing home and his twin brother Milton, who also has a developmental disability. Seeing Sam and Milton together was seeing what brotherhood is really all about. Sam had such a loving family...After Sam's funeral, another Tamir participant turned to me and asked if any of Sam's family had passed away before him. I answered that both his father and sister had passed away. He then replied, 'Well that means he won't be alone in heaven. They will be there to look after him.'"

Sam will be deeply missed by all of us who had the pleasure of knowing him and who grew to love him as a friend and member of the Tamir family.

Tamir Volunteers

Ilana Belfer
John Dover
Harold Feder
Tess Fischer
Louise Glatt
Barbara Greenberg
Renee Greenberg
Teena Hendelman
Dalia Kimmel
Leo Lightstone
Saeyob Mender
Jerry Nudelman
Lily and Jerry Penso
Allan Sand
Sam Shrier
Justine Sider
Fred Virgin

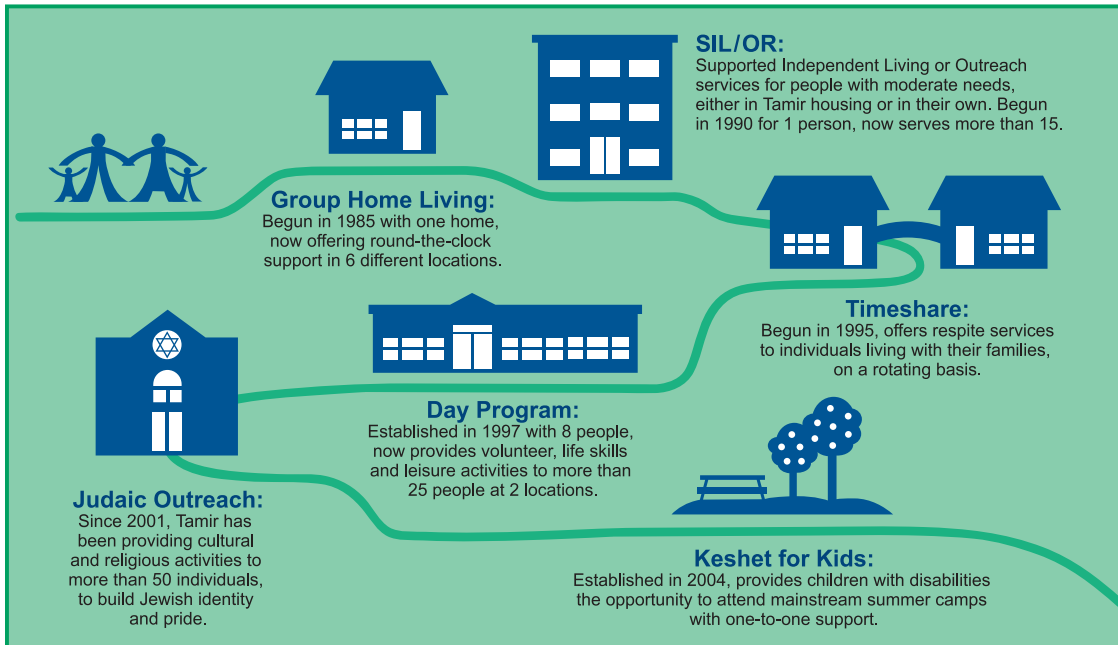
Participant Volunteers

Debbie Applebaum
Meredith Caplan
Yves Courtemanche
Vicky Ferkin
Edith Garman
Jay Greenblatt
Shirley Harris
Jason Kershman
Brenda Liff
Julie Mintz
Jodi Saikali
Lul Samater
Lee Waxman
Claire Zloten

Tamir Services: Building on Our Strengths



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Yad Beyad — Hand in Hand

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Introducing our newest venture in partnerships at Tamir! Yad Beyad is an innovative student volunteer program intended to bring Jewish youth into Tamir to share their enthusiasm and ideas. At the same time, volunteers can fulfill the community service hours required by their schools.

Opportunities for volunteering abound! Volunteers can join our Judaic Outreach Program, work directly with participants at programs, or assist with community outings and special events at Tamir.

"Volunteering at Tamir has given me a great sense of pride and accomplishment."
— Daniel Krantzberg

Join our current partners — students from Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School and Akiva High School in this exciting new opportunity.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Leah Smith Judaic Program Supervisor
725-3519 leahsmith@tamir.ca www.tamir.ca

Introducing Tamir's Shabbat Guide!

Over the past several years Leah Smith, Tamir's Judaic Program Supervisor, and Cantor Daniel Benlolo, the Judaic Advisor, have developed a series of Judaic resource materials, including a Shabbat Guide, a Passover Haggadah, and a Yizkor Memorial Booklet, to help participants understand and better appreciate customs involved in these rituals.

These resources have had a tremendous impact on Tamir participants. Over the next several years, Tamir plans to make these books available to Jewish participants in other agencies, as well as to families. The project will serve as a fundraiser for Tamir's Judaic Outreach Program.

The project has begun with the Shabbat Guide. The Guide is beautifully illustrated with artwork, including drawings by Tamir participants, and photographs. It is fully laminated for long term use. An accompanying CD of the text and music

showcasing the talents of the participants of the Judaic Outreach Program is also available.

To allow greater access to the Hebrew and understanding of the prayers, transliteration and English translations are included. Picture symbols help to serve individuals with a wide range of communication needs.

The Guide and the CD are each priced at \$18. Purchase them for your own home or as loving gifts.



For more information on purchasing Shabbat Guides, please contact Leah at 725-3519 or visit our website at www.tamir.ca