



Sh'ma Koleinu

שמע קולנו

Hear our voices

Winter 2024-25

Peace, Light and Gratitude

Dear Families and Friends,

As we approach the end of the year, we are filled with gratitude for all of you who make our community so special. December brings with it the joyous celebration of Chanukah, a time to gather together with loved ones, reflect on the light we share, and embrace the spirit of giving. This year, for the first time in nearly 20 years, the first night of Chanukah coincides with Christmas, a beautiful reminder of how our shared values of hope, love, and community connections bring us together in meaningful ways, as we continue to support individuals with developmental disabilities, regardless of religious affiliation, and celebrate the diversity that enriches our community.

In our programming, we are thrilled to see how our children and youth, as well as our adults, continue to shine. Our children and youth have embraced new opportunities for growth, socialization, and learning, while our adult programs have fostered independence, connection, and meaningful experiences. We are constantly inspired by the progress and achievements of all those we support.

This month, as we light the menorah and celebrate the miracles of Chanukah, we are reminded of the power of community and the light each individual brings into our lives. We look forward to another year of shared successes, new challenges, and continued growth as we work together to create a brighter future for all.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We would also like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our front-line staff for their unwavering dedication to the people we serve, and to our leadership team for their thoughtful management. We are grateful to our donors for making it possible to expand our programs and services, tailoring them to the diverse needs and interests of those we support. Last but not least, we thank our dedicated Board of Directors, our head office team—including finance, administration, HR, and communications—whose behind-the-scenes support makes all of this a reality. Together, we are a comprehensive team united by a common purpose.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones this holiday season. Wishing you good health, happiness, peace and prosperity in 2025. Happy New Year!

Warmly,



Joe Brownstein

Joe Brownstein
Chair,
Tamir Board of Directors



Risa Plotnick

Risa Plotnick
Executive Director,
Tamir Foundation

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

Rekindle Care for Tamir Staff

We have extended our 2024 Giving Tuesday Campaign

This giving season we're asking for your help to recognize the incredible dedication of Tamir staff. And thanks to our 2024 matching Giving Tuesday sponsor, **Lacasse Building Solutions**, the impact of your donation is doubled!

Visit tamir.ca/donate or call **613-725-3519 ext. 115** to donate today!

Residential Services

Rocking out with Colin

Chris Frizell, Residential Supervisor



This month we wanted to highlight Colin Dow, who has been a part of the Tamir family for over 20 years! Colin has been connected to Tamir since he started attending Timeshare's Respite Services in 2004. In August of 2006, Colin moved into Tamir's Broadview residence, where he still lives today.

Colin is a lover of all things musical, TV, movies and game shows. He has an impressive CD and DVD collection and is always ready with a request for a song or show he



wants played. You will often hear him repeating the catchy song lyrics that he likes the most.



One of the highlights of Colin's week is going to Bayshore Shopping Centre on the weekend with his mom and his longtime friend Donna. They get lunch and quite often after these excursions he comes home with a new TV series box set, movie or CD.

During the time Colin attends Tamir's day program he can be found perusing YouTube or spending time with the other individuals who attend.

Colin brightens up the program and keeps those around him smiling with his sense of humour and infectious laugh. He is such a pleasure to have around, and we wanted to share a little about what makes Colin so special to those around him!

Community Services

Getting settled in!

Estelle Allen, Community Participation Supervisor



Countless boxes, several moving vans, and a few coats of paint later, we are officially settled into our new 'Open Doors' program space on Campus!

Our participants couldn't be happier with the new space. Not only is it significantly bigger, but it is much closer to the Tamir homes than our previous location in the East End. This means that participants and staff get to spend much less time commuting in the mornings and afternoons, which will certainly be a relief as we get closer to winter!

As for community programming, we have lots of fun things lined up for the coming months. Our guys are getting physical activity in several times a week with bowling every Monday, swimming on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and access to an

on-site gym. New arts initiatives like photography lessons, scrapbook club, drum circles and karaoke are providing great creative outlets and opportunities for learning.

If you wish to check out our new 'Open Doors' program space, we are always happy to welcome visitors! We are located at 31 Nadolny Sachs Private and you can send an email to estelleallen@tamir.ca to schedule a visit. Happy Holidays, and hope to see you in the new year!



Human Resources

What drives our amazing Leadership team at Tamir?

Over 145 years of experience in the field

Dale Wyman

Manager of Operations



28 years at Tamir

"My passion for working in this field is driven by the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to live a fulfilling and meaningful life. One of the most rewarding aspects of my work is witnessing the growth and achievements of the individuals we support."

Community Participation Supervisor

Estelle Allen



28 years at Tamir

"From a young age I wanted to work with people that others might find challenging to work with. One of the things that makes me happiest is seeing milestones being reached, from small things like remembering someone's name to building real relationships and camaraderie."

Cheryl Wardell

Riddell



18 years at Tamir

"What motivates me is the positive impact I can make with those I support. This not only extends to the clients, but their families and their staff. I chose this work because I know first-hand how important it is to have a support network while loving someone with special needs."

**SIL,
Townhouse,
Outreach**

"My passion is to support vulnerable individuals to meet their life goals."

Marcel Walsh



1 year at Tamir
25 years in the field

Chris Frizell

Broadview



19 years at Tamir

"I got into this line of work because my Mom worked in this field as well and spent her life devoted to protecting those who are vulnerable and ensuring they have the best life possible. Through her passion and support I wanted to follow in her footsteps to be able to play a part in making a difference in others' lives and I hope that I've achieved that."

Hare

"When I first started working in this field, I wanted to make a difference in someone's life. I was quickly and pleasantly surprised that the individuals I was supporting were making a huge difference in my life."

Sandi McCaw



11 years at Tamir

Wendy Edelson

**Grammercy &
Timeshare**



7 months at Tamir
15 years in the field

"I have always enjoyed being able to help make someone's day a bit brighter and see smiles on their faces. I see smiles, hear laughter and witness kindness every day while working at Tamir."

Killeen

"I love the work I do — it can be challenging but also so rewarding. I'm always learning new things, and there is never a dull moment!"

Nikkie Baweja



2 years at Tamir

A Season of Joy and Tradition

Chani Teitlebaum, Judaic Advisor and Program Specialist



The Jewish High Holidays at Tamir were filled with meaningful moments, activities, and community spirit! Our participants engaged in holiday traditions through art, music and stories, celebrating these holidays in ways that were uniquely their own.

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is a time of reflection and renewal. Our Tamir residences celebrated with tasty holiday meals that featured all the traditional foods like apples with honey, round challah, pomegranates, and more. It was a sweet start to the year, filled with warmth and togetherness.

Sukkot, which celebrates the fall harvest, brought even more fun and excitement. The Tamir kids' program had an unforgettable time at our "Slime Time Sukkot" party, where they created their own slime, visited the SJCC Sukkah, and made fresh lemonade. It was



the perfect blend of hands-on fun and holiday joy!

The Sukkot celebration for residents and families was equally memorable, with a beautiful Sukkah, arts & crafts, live music with Joel Yan, and plenty of delicious treats. Rabbi Mendelsohn joined us once again, offering his wisdom and warmth, making the celebration even more special.

As Chanukkah approaches, we are thrilled to invite you to the annual Tamir Chanukkah party. This year's event will be held on Sunday December 29th from 1pm to 4pm at the SJCC. All are welcome and attendance is free but please email chanateitlebaum@tamir.ca to RSVP. Happy Chanukkah and we hope to see you there!



MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN



YES, I would like to support Tamir today! Please accept my gift of...

- ✓ **\$54** supports Community Cultural Activities
- ✓ **\$180** supports Children and Youth Programs
- ✓ **\$72** supports a community Music Class or Art Class
- ✓ **\$540** helps subsidize Professional Services

ONE TIME: ☐ \$54 ☐ \$72 ☐ \$180 ☐ \$540 ☐ Other: _____

MONTHLY: ☐ \$36 ☐ \$108 ☐ \$180 ☐ \$360 ☐ Other: _____

- ☐ I have enclosed a **cheque** payable to **Tamir**
- ☐ Please charge this gift to my **credit card** using the information provided. ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

CREDIT CARD #

EXPIRY DATE

NAME ON CARD

SIGNATURE

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

ADDRESS

☐ I would like to be a member of Tamir (Minimum donation \$100)

PLEASE VISIT: tamir.ca/donate-now

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