

On Tuesday, April 18, we held the second Yom Hashoah commemoration at Hamilton City Hall council chambers.

This was a moving event with opening remarks by Gustavo Rymberg. Among the highlights were candle lighting by six Holocaust survivors or second-generation survivors and their families, prayers from the local rabbis, poetry readings and a touching tribute to Benjamin Ferencz, who died on April 9, 2023. He was the last surviving member of the negotiating delegation that led to the Luxemburg Agreements, providing reparations for Holocaust survivors, and the last surviving prosecutor from the Nuremberg trials. There were songs by the children's choir, remarks from Mayor Andrea Horvath and from the chair of the board for HJF, Howard Eisenberg, and a thought-provoking speech from Jessica Burke, CIJA director of community training and LGBTQ partnerships about why we commemorate Yom Hashoah. The event closed with reflections on Yom Hashoah by Holocaust survivor Nadia Rosa.

Guests were then invited to view the Yad Vashem poster exhibit in the City Hall foyer, titled "Heroism and Resistance."

The year wrapped up with members of the HEC reviewing student submissions from the Catholic and Public School Boards. Students can use any medium to best express their response to the following question: Why is it so important in 2023 for young people to learn the lessons that the Holocaust can teach us? The prizes will be awarded at the Annual Student Seminar at Mohawk College on November 22nd.

Looking ahead, some of the issues that the committee faces revolve around how the dwindling numbers of Holocaust survivors will change the direction of our events in the future. How can we best address our goals to teach about the Holocaust and address antisemitism?

Recruitment of new members continues to be an issue. Timing of meetings is challenging, since some of our members are retirees and prefer not to meet in the evening, but that is the only time that our younger members who have work commitments are available to meet.

The work of the committee continues to be challenging and fulfilling and with the support of the staff at HJF, the quality of the presentations and other events continue to amaze me with their professionalism and in-depth discussion of issues.

SNAP (SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY PROJECT)

SNAP (Special Needs Advisory Project), a committee of the Hamilton Jewish Federation, is committed to supporting individuals with special needs by promoting equity, inclusion, and opportunities within the Hamilton Jewish Community. This committee includes a broad spectrum of professionals from the Hamilton Jewish Community - representatives from religious organizations, recreation, education, social services, the disability sector, Federation and persons with lived experience and advocates.

In 2022- 2023 the committee was able to:

- Provide funding to train a local facilitator to offer Mental Health First Aid courses developed by Mental Health First Aid Canada. This Train-the-Trainer program will ensure a local professional will then train 28-30 individuals in Hamilton's Jewish organizations to develop skills and strategies to identify persons who may benefit from mental health supports and refer them to appropriate services.
- Assist Camp Kadimah in providing training for their counsellors in developing knowledge and skills to encourage inclusion and to support campers with special needs
- Provide gift kits for residents of Beth Tikvah
- Provide a limited number of bursaries for Psycho-Educational Assessments to day-school students within the local Jewish Community.
- Represent Hamilton at the Jewish Disability Awareness Month Community Advocacy day in meetings with government officials to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.

Identified plans and priorities for the coming year:

1. Review past priorities and projects in order to identify and adapt its activities to current community needs
2. Continue to raise disability awareness and support efforts to foster inclusion in the Hamilton Jewish community
3. Continue to provide suggestions for organizing programs, which welcome individuals with special needs such as Tips for an Inclusive Purim and Tips for an Inclusive Passover.
4. Continue to provide a limited number of bursaries for Psycho-Educational Assessments to students within the local Jewish Community. These highly specialized reports developed - through testing - by a registered clinical psychologist provide the formal diagnoses and recommendations needed to develop the IEP (Individualized Education Plan).

Hamilton Jewish Federation
Jewish Community Centre

COMMITTEE
REPORTS

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023
JHAMILTON | 1605 MAIN ST. W. | HAMILTON, ON

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance Committee met twice during the fiscal 2022-2023 year.

1. The committee met in Dec. 2022 to review the fiscal 2022-2023 budget and compare it to the results to date. Since the onset of the COVID pandemic, it was decided to review the current year budget versus the actual results at the six-month point in the fiscal year to determine if the budget had to be adjusted. If the actual results had differed greatly from the budget, various responses would be considered including adjusting the amounts allocated to our beneficiaries. The budget is an ongoing monitoring tool and is used to foster strategic discussions about the financial condition of the Federation at the board Level.

2. The second meeting was held in February 2023 to develop the fiscal 2023-2024 budget for presentation to the board on March 27, 2023. The budget consisted of the following:

Revenue	\$2,366,000
Expenses	\$2,359,700
Surplus	\$ 6,300

The Federation has no outstanding lines of credit and the CEBA loan will be repaid in Dec. 2023. The budget will be reviewed again after the six-month point in the fiscal year to ascertain if any adjustments are needed, or any changes in the allocations to beneficiaries need to be made. The 2023-2024 budget was passed at the March 2023 board meeting.

ALLYSHIP AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Allyship and Advocacy Committee in Hamilton is committed to fostering strong community relations, promoting mutual understanding, and advocating for allyship with communities facing hate, bias, and discrimination. The committee works to address antisemitism and other forms of hate in Hamilton, understanding that all forms of hate impact both the Jewish community and the community at large.

The Hamilton Police Service Hate Crime Statistic 2022 Report revealed a significant 61 per cent increase in hate/bias incidents and criminal offenses compared to the previous year. There has also been an increase in reported antisemitic incidents in schools in Hamilton. In collaboration with community partners, school boards, the Hamilton Police Service, and organizations like HARRC, the Allyship and Advocacy Committee works to address these issues and highlight the need for ongoing action. The Committee works to promote understanding of the lived experiences of the Jewish community and the intersectionality that exists with other communities such as new Canadians, racialized communities, and the 2S&LGBTQIA community etc. By actively engaging with other community agencies, organizations, and leaders, we encourage an awareness of the threats facing our community and the implication of these experiences on the larger community. Through these collaborations, the committee helps to advocate for legislative changes that tackle systemic racism and its various manifestations.

The Allyship and Advocacy Committee in Hamilton recognizes the importance of raising awareness and fostering dialogue about Jewish people, our history, and an understanding of the historic and current contexts of antisemitism. Using a Jewish

lens, we support other communities in addressing systemic racism, promoting intercultural and interreligious understanding, and working towards an equitable and inclusive Hamilton.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

There have not been regular meetings of the Education Committee. In the past it has been challenging to find times for all members to attend. Therefore, it is recommended that a set monthly meeting time is set for the coming year – much like the Federation Board of Directors. It is furthermore felt that having set goals or an action plan would be beneficial.

This year there were no nominations for the 2023 Award for Excellence in Education. For some years now, we have had to extend the deadline or reach out personally to encourage nominations. It is recommended that we discuss ways or actions to increase visibility and interest in this award.

Other items that should be addressed include getting up-to-date information on the various day and after-school programs. It would be helpful to know the projected enrollment for the future, the current state of bylaws and board of directors (for day schools), especially as the schools look for allocations for the upcoming year.

Finally, a review the success of the last year’s (August 2022) professional development workshop for teachers should be conducted in order to see what programming and support could be implemented for the future.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION COMMITTEE (HEC)

The year began on an optimistic note as the continuing decline in the severity of the pandemic allowed us the freedom to continue to program more in-person events.

With the focus in the fall on the Hamilton Jewish Federation’s #nomoreantisemitism International Conference, November 19 – 21, 2022, it was determined to postpone Holocaust Education Week.

The Kristallnacht commemoration took place at The Westdale with a screening of the Hamilton premiere of “Reckonings,” directed by Roberta Grossman. Dr. Pamela Swett set the stage with an informative overview of Kristallnacht.

“Reckonings” is the first documentary feature to chronicle the secret process of negotiating German reparations for the Jewish people, survivors of the largest mass genocide in history. Survivors were in urgent need of help, but how could reparations be determined for the unprecedented destruction and suffering of a people? This impressive film details the negotiations, as well as interviews with Holocaust survivors, scholars and dignitaries and the last surviving member of the negotiating delegations, Benjamin Ferencz. The result was the ground-breaking Luxembourg Agreement of 1952.

The #nomoreantisemitism Conference offered members of the Holocaust Education Committee a wonderful opportunity to learn from world experts on anti-

semitism. Our goal was how to focus our programming on changing behaviour. HEC members were relieved of volunteer tasks so that they could focus on participating in the conference. There were many thought-provoking sessions that offered attendees a wealth of opportunity to engage in discussion and debate.

An important focus of Holocaust education has been to teach what can happen if people do not speak up against antisemitism. The conference taught me that an important way to tackle antisemitism is to increase events that share our culture and celebrations with non-Jews. By taking the strangeness and the otherness out of being a Jew, and creating enjoyable opportunities to share food and culture, people will feel encouraged to question previous assumptions and prejudices and see Jews as more familiar and less of a threat. The #nomoreantisemitism International Conference was a truly outstanding event!

We marked UN International Holocaust Remembrance Day with a Zoom event on January 26, 2023, featuring Holocaust survivor Judy Cohen in conversation with Elin Beaumont, from the Azrieli Foundation. Judy is an active speaker and Holocaust and human rights educator and recently published her own memoir, “A Cry in Unison,” in conjunction with the Azrieli Foundation. In 2001 she founded the website “Women and the Holocaust” regarding the gender-based experiences of women in the Holocaust.

The event began with a short but powerful video by Yad Vashem about what survivors faced when the war ended, and Jews were liberated from the camps or came out of hiding. Judy is a most articulate and knowledgeable speaker and provided our audience with valuable insights into the politics in Hungary during the war and the unimaginable difficulties she encountered at Auschwitz. A teenager at the time, she felt she could not have survived the camp without the support of the women around her. She encountered many more hardships in her life after she came to Canada. Despite this, she pursued her goal to educate people about women and the Holocaust through her website and public speaking.

After the conversation between Judy and Elin, audience members had an opportunity to ask questions. There was an easy warmth between Judy and Elin and Judy’s straightforward style of speaking gave the spark of magic that makes for a successful and well-received event.

This year marks 80 years since the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. To commemorate this important anniversary, we held two Yom Hashoah events. The first event featured the thought-provoking documentary film “The Day I Met Hitler,” conceived and directed by Ronan Israelski. It was presented at the Hamilton Jewish Federation on Sunday, April 16.

The documentary covers the journey that Ronen, the son of a Holocaust survivor, took 78 years after the war to find the last living people in the world who met Hitler. His own father had experienced a life-changing event due to his own encounter with Hitler as a child. Ronen is a documentary filmmaker and has worked in the media industry for over 20 years. He was born in Israel but recently emigrated to Canada. The film was followed by a lively discussion with Ronen about the film and the current political situation in Israel.

ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

The task of the Allocation Committee is to recommend to the Federation Board of Directors how to allocate community funds raised during the Annual Campaign to organizations who have requested financial support. The Allocation Committee bases its deliberations on Federation's three strategic objectives for supporting Jewish life in Hamilton:

- (1) Protecting the vulnerable in Hamilton, Israel and around the world
- (2) Educating, engaging and strengthening our Jewish community
- (3) Supporting and advocating for Jewish and Israel issues

During the current fiscal year, a sub-committee of the Allocations Committee was established to look at the current allocations model and suggest changes. The following new model was developed and ultimately passed by the Federation Board.

- (A) Base Allocations – 75 per cent of available funds for Allocation
- (B) Projects and Grants – 25 per cent of available funds for Allocation

The Base Allocation model will be used for the Day Schools (Hamilton Hebrew Academy, Kehila Heschel School), supplementary schools (Temple Anshe Sholom School, Beth Jacob School, Hamilton Hebrew High) and Hamilton Jewish Family Services (HJFS).

Both Day School and Supplementary school allocations will be based on a subsidy per student basis. Schools are required to submit projected registration numbers by August 31 in order to receive their full base allocation. Schools will also have the opportunity to apply for grants/ projects for extra funding.

Hamilton Jewish Family Services will be allocated their base amount according to the number of clients based on the following categories; Food bank, Programs and Services and Financial Assistance. HJFS will also have the opportunity to apply for grants/projects for extra funding.

The Requirements for all Schools and HJFS are:

- A fully detailed and accurate budget
- A complete list of board members, each of whom must be in good standing with the Annual Campaign
- Last audited financial statement or accountants' comments.
- A list of students registered for the school year including full names, addresses and email contacts
- For Hamilton Jewish Family Services, the number of program participants, recipients of financial assistance and food bank visitors (no personal information will be required)

- A signed Memorandum of Understanding
- The following community programs will write an application for a grant based on the strategic priorities of the Hamilton Jewish Federation.

The Allocation Committee encourages partnerships between organizations and a report at the end of the project will be requested. Applications for projects and grants may be available throughout the year, subject to funds being available.

The organizations eligible for the Project and Grant Allocation are:

1. High School Shuttle
2. McMaster Hillel
3. Va'ad HaKashrut
4. Shalom Village
5. Community Mikvah
6. Beth Tikvah
7. Other local Jewish Organizations including all schools and HJF

The Requirements for Projects and Grants are:

- A fully detailed and accurate budget
- A complete list of Board Members
- Submission of invoices or receipts in order to receive payment
- A completed online grant application which consists of:
 - (i) Name of project, program or service
 - (ii) Amount requested
 - (iii) Desired term length
 - (iv) Describe the need for initiative
 - (v) What would this grant enable organization to do (intended impact) and how would the Gift dollars be specifically spent
 - (vi) List of partners and collaborating organizations (if applicable)
 - (vii) Signed Memorandum of Understanding

In future years, it is the goal of the Committee to decrease the percentage of base allocations and increase the percentage of funds allocated to grants/projects. This increased emphasis on funding programs and requiring receipts before advancing funds will ensure the Committee continues to emphasize its fiscal responsibility to the community.

In all cases, if the organization/recipient is not fully in compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding, a penalty of 25 per cent of their allocated funds will be applied with no exception

The Federation Funded Projects will be approved by the Finance Committee, Allocations Committee and Federation Board of Directors during

the budgeting process. Some of the financial resources come from designated gifts and grants designated specifically for the project/program. These include:

- Holocaust Education (Margaret's Legacy)
- PJ Library
- SNAP
- J-LGBTQ+
- Grow Hamilton/JWelcome Home
- Security and Emergency Fund
- JCentre for Wellbeing
- Kadimah JCamp scholarship program
- Jewish Community Centre
- Women Helping Women (YWCA)
- YMCA Outreach Program
- BBYO Hamilton Chapter

The Allocations Committee held information sessions for all its beneficiaries to explain the new model prior to the submission of the 2023 requests. The Committee then met and deliberated using the new model to examine the goals, programs, plans and finances of the recipients of Community money.

Allocations Committee co-chairs Jacki Levin and Lorne Rochweg want to thank the members of the committee who worked very hard to adopt the new model, using it to strengthen our Jewish community and utilize community funds in a fiscally responsible manner. We also thank our very supportive and wonderful CEO, Gustavo Rymberg, for his continued guidance throughout the allocation process and during the year.



ALLOCATIONS 2023 | 2024

Beneficiary	#children	\$per child/ind.	Base amount	Penalties	Net base amount	Grants total	Allocation total
HHA	117	1,483	173,511	(17,351)	156,160	68,050	224,210
Kehilah	23	1,483	34,109	-	34,109	85,500	119,609
TAS	51	300	15,300	-	15,300	8,600	23,900
BJ	5	300	1,500	-	1,500	1,850	3,350
HHH	23	300	6,900	-	6,900	-	6,900
HJFS	Seniors 142 Food Bank 111 Financial 43		381,000	-	381,000	8,638	389,638
Shuttle	15	200	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
Vaad Hakashrut			-	-	-	16,825	16,825
BT Foundation			-	-	-	9,000	9,000
Shalom Village			-	-	-	30,000	30,000
Community Mikvah			-	-	-	3,000	3,000
Hillel McMaster						6,585	6,585
			612,320	(17,351)	594,969	241,048	836,017

HJF’S COMMUNITY INITIATIVES & PROGRAMS EXPENSES

• Holocaust Education	100,000
• Margaret’s Legacy Holocaust Learning Centre	300,000
• SNAP	3,000
• J-LGBTQ+	6,000
• Grow Hamilton/JWelcome Home	50,000
• JCentre for Wellbeing	50,000
• Kadimah JCamp scholarship program	50,000
• Jewish Community Centre	443,500 (Kadimah JCamp, PJ Library, Jewish Book Festival, Jewish Film Festival, Yom Ha’atzmaut)
• BBYO Hamilton Chapter	20,000
• Over and Above gifts	60,000
• Jewish Federations of Canada CIJA JAFI JDC	100,000

GRANTS \$

HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY 68,050

Lunch program	20,250
English support	12,600
Hebrew support	9,600
Creative Jewish	9,900
Leadership	2,700
Friendship circle	13,000

KEHILAH HESCHEL JEWISH SCHOOL 85,500

Grant writing	6,000
Marketing	35,000
Newcomers	19,500
Staff development	10,000
Special needs	15,000

BETH JACOB RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 1,850

Purim project	250
Mishpacha	1,000
Joint programs	600

TEMPLE ANSHE SHOLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 8,600

Leadership trip	4,000
Madrichim program	3,000
Family engagement	1,000
Joint programs	600

HAMILTON JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES 8,638

Holocaust survivors	8,638
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HILLEL MCMASTER 6,585

Grad network	2,195
Israel week	2,195
Professional dev.	2,195

JWELCOME HOME HAMILTON

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS GROW HAMILTON)

STATISTICS

In 2022, a total of Jewish 13 families AND 3 individual adults moved to Hamilton. This included:

- Total # of adults: 29
- Total # of children: 29
- Total # who affiliated with a synagogue: 8 families
- Total # who are sending their children to one of our Jewish schools: 7 families
- Total # who attended the Sept 18/22 Welcome Party for Newcomers: 8 families
- Total # who attended at least one Jewish community program or event: 11 families

Where they came from:

Israel, Argentina, U.S., and other cities in Canada

All of the newly arrived families have been added to Hamilton Jewish Federation's e-mail list.

In addition, JWelcome Home provided assistance to two non-Jewish Ukrainian families. One of these families was referred by the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society in Toronto, and the other was referred by a local Jewish family. Both of these Ukrainian families were assisted with finding apartments, furniture, and purchasing vehicles, as well as with other tasks such as applications for their health cards and opening Canadian bank accounts.

Between January 1st and May 1st 2023, a total of 2 new families have already moved to Hamilton. We are also assisting 12 new families who have already confirmed their plans to move to Hamilton between May and August 2023, and who are in the process of securing the necessary documents, and looking for homes, employment, and school arrangements. These 14 families consist of a total of 24 adults and 15 children.

We have also been contacted by a family of 2 adults and 3 children who confirmed that they are moving to Hamilton in 2024 from Israel, and have assisted them with information about the community.

OUTREACH

Detailed plans are being developed for a webinar in July 2023 that will be hosted by JWelcome Home Hamilton. This webinar will focus on answering questions specifically about opportunities in Hamilton and will feature 1-2 recently arrived families who will share their immigration experience of arrival in Hamilton and the support that they received from JWelcome Home, as well as an immigration lawyer who will speak about the immigration process and what to expect.

Another JWelcome Home information webinar will take place in the fall of 2023.

The JWELCOME HOME Coordinator's Activities have included:

- Coordination with Windsor and London re: our shared social media platforms
- Pursuing additional marketing options (direct advertising in Argentina, for example)
- Zoom meetings with prospective newcomers - 2 to 3 per month
- Organizing and hosting exploratory visits to Hamilton
- Welcome visits after each family has arrived
- Sign newcomers up for HJN, weekly upcoming events emails
- Introductions to schools and shuls, Kadimah J Camp, and other Jewish organizations
- Introductions to other Jewish families
- Invitations to Jewish community events (free or discounted admission offered in first year) - ongoing through the year
- Offer free week of Camp Kadimah in first year, free school tuition and shul membership in first year
- Coordinate volunteers to deliver welcome gift and provide assistance such as airport pickup and city tours
- Coordinate volunteers to assist with employment search, housing search
- Website - keeping information up to date
- Ongoing communication with new individuals and families to facilitate engagement with the community - being the primary contact
- Planning annual Welcome Party for Newcomers - coordination of volunteers
- Collaboration with Hamilton Jewish News, keeping the community informed and inviting support for this initiative
- Coordinating community donations for newcomers (items for children, furniture, gift of PJ Library books)
- Annual Campaign phone calls to newcomers who arrived 2+ years ago
- Facilitating invitations to Passover seders for all newcomer families who needed a place to go

J-LGBTQ+ PRIDE

The J-LGBTQ+ Pride Committee was established to serve the needs of LGBTQ+ members of the Jewish community in Hamilton and area.

In the past year, the committee planned and held 3 successful social events for queer Jews, along with their friends and family. All of the events were advertised "For Queer Jews of all ages. Friends and Allies are welcome." Each event was attended by between 30 and 50 people.

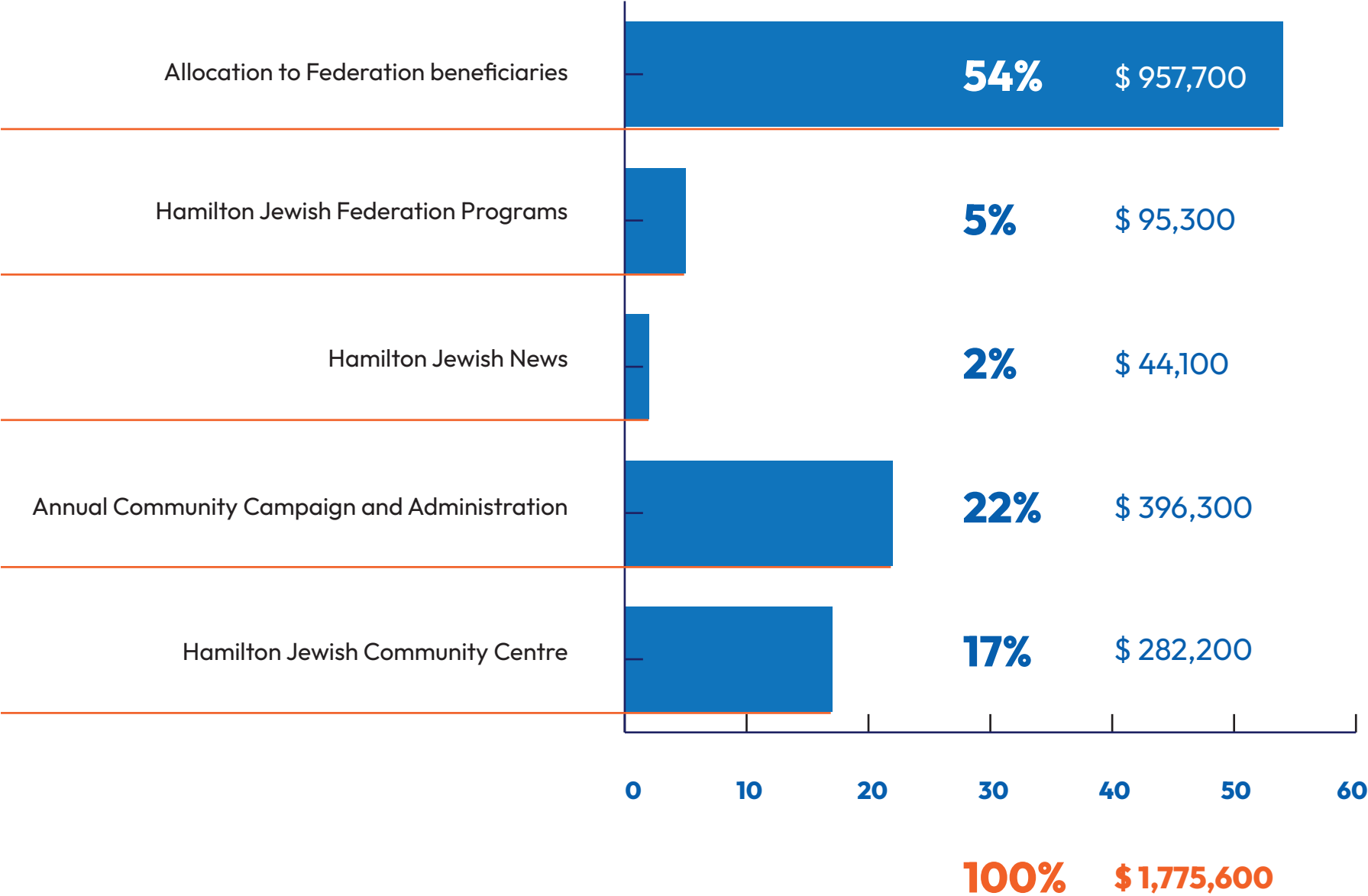
- 1) Pride Shabbat consisted of a brief service, catered kosher Shabbat dinner with a guest speaker from CIJA, and Shabbat singing led by 2 young song leaders. It took place at JHamilton. This was a very successful evening, that drew members of all 3 synagogues, as well as members of the community at large.
- 2) A Chanukah party held at JHamilton. This was a combination Board Games night (for the older crowd) and Drag Make-Up Demonstration (for the younger crowd). This party drew some new people who had not attended past events planned by this committee.
- 3) A Lag BaOmer Campfire & Storytelling Night held at Valens Conservation Area. Although the distance was a deterrent for some people, the event drew about 35 people and was enjoyed by all.

The Committee has discussed the possibility of holding separate events next year for LGBTQ+ Jewish youth, since there seems to be a critical mass of youth coming to these events.

Plans for this year's Pride Shabbat are underway. It will be catered by Planted, and we are working to secure funding support from CIJA, community sponsorship, and a prominent guest speaker.

The Pride Committee is very grateful to Hamilton Jewish Federation for supporting and promoting events for the LGBTQ+ members of the Jewish community.

HAMILTON JEWISH FEDERATION DISBURSEMENTS IN 2022



ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN REPORT



Campaign Cabinet

David Loewith
Harvey Katz
Jay State
Judy Rochweg
Lorraine Cohen
Luba Apel
Sandy Fuss
Sandy Morris
Helen Metz

Professional Staff

Elaine Levine
Christine Nusca
Gustavo Rymberg

Year

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

Amount

1,025,949

1,114,595

1,202,810

1,273,993

1,541,831

1,738,410

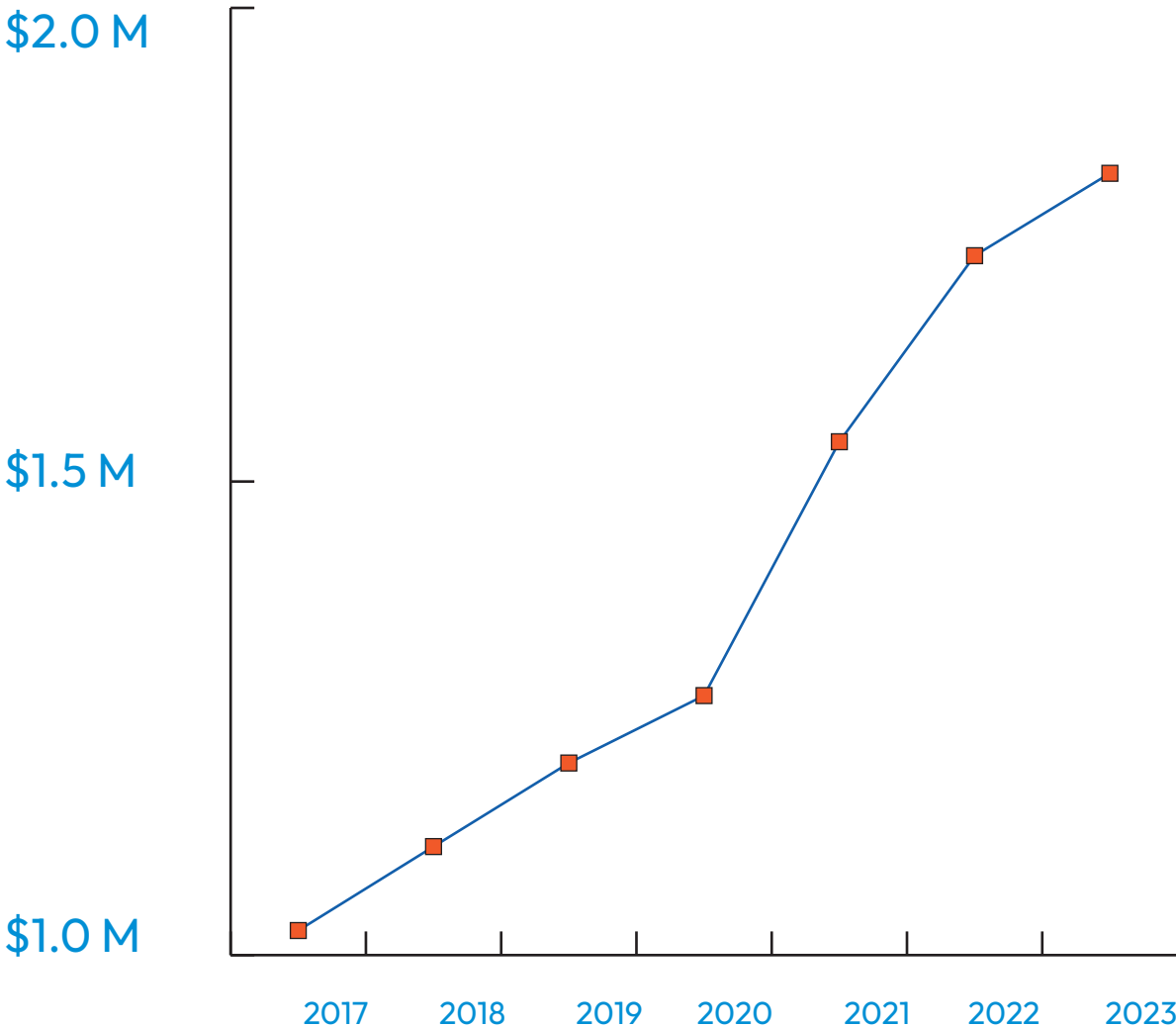
1,825,394

\$2.0 M

\$1.5 M

\$1.0 M

THANK YOU



MARGARET'S LEGACY HOLOCAUST LEARNING CENTRE



MARGARET'S LEGACY

HOLOCAUST LEARNING CENTRE
Opening Spring 2024 | JHamilton



ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN 2024



Join us for the Hamilton Jewish Federation's
Annual Community Campaign Launch
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 | 12 pm

BBQ and fun for the entire family at the Loewith Farm!

