Jewish Free Loan Toronto

FREE LOAN MATTERS

PASSOVER 2016

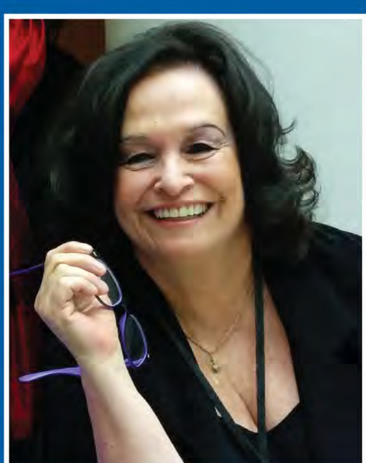
GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Free Loan Family:
It is truly an honour for me to be the person writing you these Passover greetings. My first involvement with Free Loan began around the year 2000. In my almost 16 years of volunteering, I am continuously amazed at how straightforward and effective our organization is. The total amount lent each month is usually around $100,000. The recycled component keeps on rolling along. Loans get repaid; new loans get created and so on. Simply amazing.

Part of the reason why we are able to lend out this money and pay operational costs each month is because of our funding partnerships and donations from members and friends like you. At this time, I want you to know that your support is crucial. One of our key funding partners - The United Way of Greater Toronto and York Region - has informed us that as of the 2018 fiscal year, we will most likely lose our annual grant of $75,000. The reason given was that our loan program does not fit within their new strategic plan of funding priorities. Although our current situation is not dire and we do not have to take out an interest-free loan for ourselves, we do need to increase donations. This holiday, we ask that you be particularly generous and, if you can, introduce us to others who might be interested in helping out.

With that in mind, I will close this note by saying I'm looking forward to my next two years as president. I promise to update you on our progress to find a new major sponsor and to keep you in the loop about any new developments.

Chag Sameach,
Rob Tick, President



UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This holiday, don't let the needy in our community get "passed over". JFLT is soliciting your help in order to soldier on with its work. While we are extremely proud of what we have accomplished over the past year, we are humbled by the stories and the experiences shared by our borrowers. These stories give us insight into the growing rate of poverty within our community and the importance of the work we do.

During this holiday season, we ask that you also think about: "why a donation to Jewish Free Loan is different from all other donations?" And then to reflect upon the multiplying factor that occurs when every dollar that comes in is loaned out, repaid and then loaned out again. Where else can you find a place where an $1,800 donation becomes $4,050 when it is recycled for five years and $10,800 when it is recycled for 20 years?

JFLT consistently provides you with the opportunity to give the highest form of tzedakah. Take advantage of this and give a gift that puts a person on the path to self-sufficiency.

Chag Pesach Sameach,
Marra Messinger, Executive Director

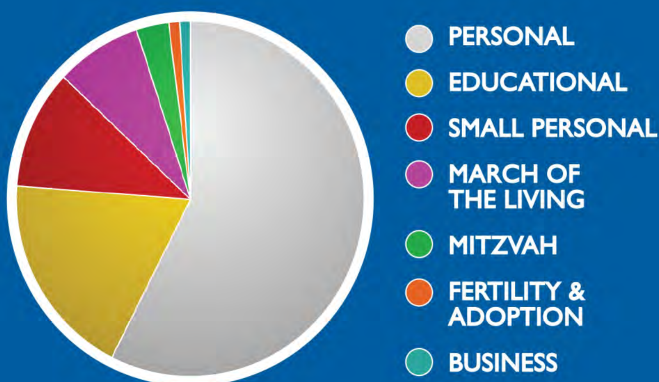
HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

YOUR DONATION DOLLARS AT WORK

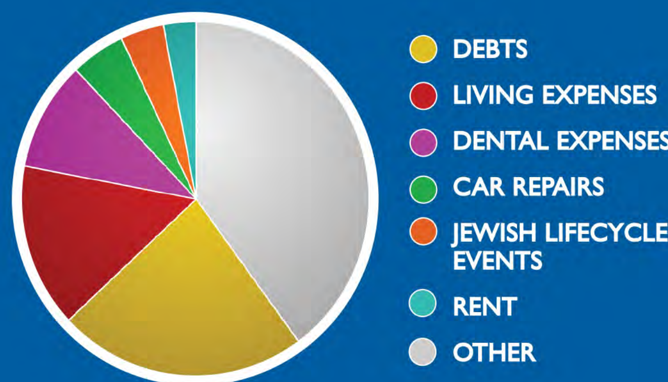
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total Loans	147	149	173	209	238
Personal Loans	101	98	95	149	188

JFLT • JANUARY 1, 2015 - DECEMBER 31, 2015

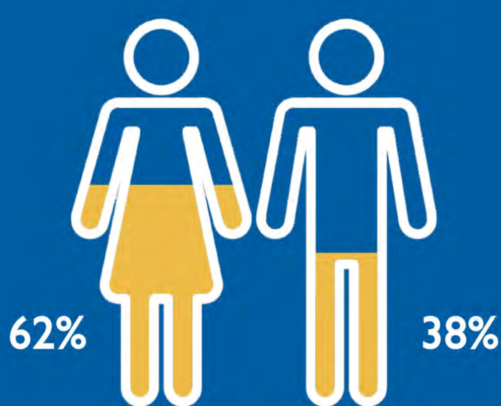
LOAN TYPES



PERSONAL LOANS BY NEEDS

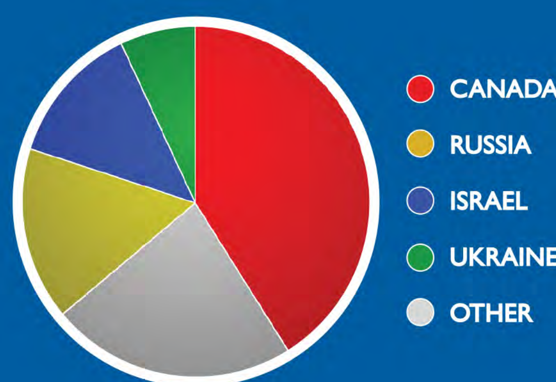


DEMOGRAPHICS



AVERAGE AGE: 44

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

651 active loans

$2.5 million outstanding in loans

$1,287,000 lent out in 2015 alone

SPOTLIGHT ON LOANS

PERSONAL LOANS | SMALL PERSONAL LOANS | J-SAP STUDENT LOANS | FERTILITY & ADOPTION LOANS | BUSINESS LOANS

SAM • NO MORE BLACK CLOUD

When Sam came to see us, he was sick, unemployed and about to be evicted from his home. He used his interest-free loan to cover first and last month's rent for a new subsidized apartment and to pay for diabetic medication and supplies.

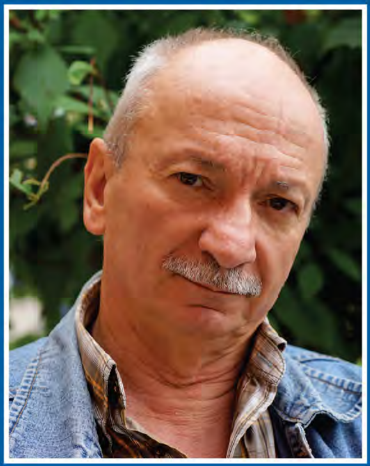
"I don't own anything other than my car, so I couldn't get any money from the bank. And I wasn't taking my medication because of my debts. Jewish Free Loan Toronto has shown me the values of our community, and I am so grateful for the support. Now I am near family and friends, and I feel like I've gotten away from a black cloud. I've got less stress and more support, so my lifestyle and my health have both improved. I've got a new white kippah and I dream of visiting Israel in the future. Without Free Loan's help, there is no way I could have made these positive changes in my life."

AARON • HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

Aaron is a 41 year old new immigrant from Ukraine who lost his mother a year after arriving in Toronto. Unable to cover the costs of the funeral and the headstone, Aaron turned to JFLT for help.

"I can't tell you how important your mission is for many Jewish people, including myself. The application process couldn't have been easier. All I had to do was fill in the form, find guarantors, and come to an interview. I want to thank Irina for being so welcoming and guiding me through the whole process in Russian. She and Jewish Free Loan Toronto helped me at a time when I needed help the most."

RON • $1,000 LOAN BREAKS CYCLE OF POVERTY



An unemployed construction worker by the name of Ron came to JFLT in a panic. He had just received a call from his former supervisor telling him that work was suddenly available. The only problem was that during his six months of unemployment, Ron had let his union dues lapse. He could not get the new job until he paid up. Ron recently sent JFLT this note:

"Dear Free Loan: I could not have started my new job without your loan. I immediately paid my union fees and got back to work. It feels wonderful to be a productive member of society again. You have made my life worth living."

SPOTLIGHT ON LOANS

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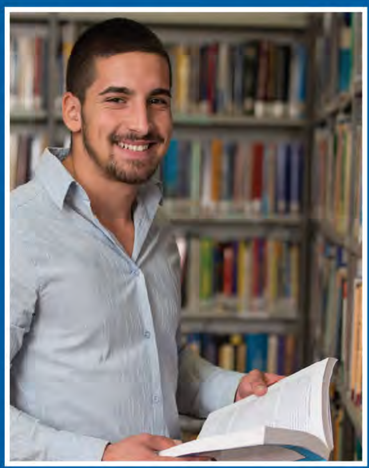

DAVID • BUILDING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF TOMORROW

David is an honours student who was accepted into an MBA program at an ivy league school. Not able to finance his degree with scholarships and OSAP alone, David came to us for help. Here is what he wrote:

"I wanted to thank Jewish Free Loan Toronto for the generous loan granted to me for my MBA. Jewish Free Loan is an incredible service and we are blessed to have donors and professionals who are helping students finance their education. Your investment will pay off, for my contemporaries and I will be the ones building the Jewish community of tomorrow."

ZARA • STUDENT BORROWER TURNED DONOR

"JFLT helped my parents make ends meet when we immigrated to Canada, and gave me an interest-free loan to help pay for university. My family is now doing very well and I have graduated.

I truly appreciate what your organization has done for my family, and now would like to help you continue to do the same for others. It is not much, but please, accept this donation as a thank you for everything!"

JESSICA • WHERE THERE IS HOPE, THERE IS A WAY

Jessica came to JFLT in tears. She had undergone two IVF treatments unsuccessfully and was desperate to have a child. As she explained:

"My husband is the son of Holocaust survivors. It is very important for us to have a child who will continue on the family name."

JFLT granted Jessica and her husband a Fertility Loan in order to undergo a new, very promising procedure. We hope we can soon report back on some exciting news!

All names have been changed at the request of the clients.

SPOTLIGHT ON DONORS

In the last newsletter, you read about the creation of these funds:

The Aminadav Fund - set up by an anonymous gentile donor to help those in need.

The Borer Family Education Fund - set up by the Borer Family in order to help students actualize their educational aspirations.

The Kora Fund - set up by the Zukerman Family Foundation in order to cover first and last month's rent and help with the purchase of basic furniture.

The Minatan Fund - set up by Moti Jungreis in order to help individuals help themselves.

We are now thrilled to announce the establishment of three more exciting new funds:

Glina-Tessler Fund for Education in Israel - JFLT is extremely grateful to Debbie Tessler and Ed Glina for establishing the Glina-Tessler Fund for Education in Israel. Thanks to them, many deserving students will have the opportunity to have an educational experience in Israel. On behalf of these students and the students who will benefit from the fund in the future, we thank and salute you, Debbie and Ed.

Friedman and Smith Fund for 60+ - As past presidents of Jewish Free Loan Toronto both Steven Friedman and Cathie Smith-Friedman understand how vulnerable the 60+ sector can be. JFLT applauds and thanks them for having had the foresight to set up a fund that will serve the needs of the aging and elderly now and in years to come.

The Tikva Fund - Set up by a past volunteer who wishes to remain anonymous, The Tikva Fund will provide hope to many of JFLT's clients. We thank the donor for her generosity and for her deep understanding of JFLT's mission and role within the Community.

A named fund is a one-time or cumulative donation of $18,000 or more. If you would like to create a fund in your own name or in honour of someone else, please contact Marra Messinger at mmessinger@jewishfreeloan.ca or call 416.635.1217 ext 5269

DONATE TO JFLT

DONATE TODAY AND WATCH YOUR DONATION GROW!
EVERY DOLLAR LENT OUT IS REPAID AND THEN LENT OUT AGAIN.

Donate online at: www.canadahelps.org/dn/8698
By phone at: 416.635.1217 or
by mailing the enclosed pamphlet to the JFLT offices.

Jewish Free Loan Toronto
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