# JEWISH FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK (JFRN) PROGRAM



# Engaging Families in Communal Life

Through the generous support of the Jewish Community Foundation, the Jewish Family Resource Network (JFRN) Program provides outreach services to Jewish families living in the Tri-Cities, including Burnaby, Coquitlam, and Port Moody. The primary goal of the program is to connect Jewish individuals and families to Jewish community resources and Jewish life, and by doing so, effectively supporting

the development of the Jewish community in the Tri-cities.

Since January 2013, the JFRN Outreach Worker, Yossi Dagan, has organized various programs and events including: summer camps at the JCC and Camp Miriam, Jewish holiday celebrations, and afternoon programs for children. The JFRN Program is an important source of peer support for group members by offering opportunities for engagement through social and life events.

The program continues to grow through JFSA referrals, word-of-mouth, and the group's Facebook page. Yossi lives in the Tri-cities area and is able to make personal contact with each new member. The program ensures that those who need resources from the Vancouver Jewish Community receive the support that they need.



SUMMER CAMP SHALOM



PURIM WITH THE KOLLEL



TU B'SHEVAT AT LYNN CANYON

#### **Summer and Winter Camps**

helped to connect Jewish families and their children living in the Tri-cities area with the Jewish community in Vancouver. Last Summer, JFRN, in collaboration with the JCC, and with the support of JCF, provided a bus for transportation and brought children every day to Camp Shalom at the JCC. The program was a huge success and additional opportunities were created for families to participate in camps during Winter and Spring break.

These opportunities provided a memorable experience for participant children, helping them to celebrate their Jewish heritage, and keeping their connection to our community, and to Israel.

### PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS 70 CHILDREN, 80 ADULTS 195 FACEBOOK MEMBERS

Other engagement activities were offered during Jewish Holidays throughout the year. Each event collaborated with community partners, and helped families connect to the wider Jewish community.

JFRN was also fortunate to be able to offer activities to engage participants in social and cultural life.

#### Additional highlights included:

- An end of summer party
- Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat at the Studio
- Succah in the Tri-Cities
- Simchat Torah Celebration
- Teatime Party
- Show time Mary Poppins
- Show time Disney's Little Mermaid & Fiddler on the Roof
- Complimentary tickets to Cavalia
- Throughout the year, free and/or discounted tickets to hockey and baseball games, to the BC Lions and other sports events



# CONNECTING FAMILIES

SUMMER CAMP SHALOM - JULY 2013: 21 CHILDREN, 13 FAMILIES

WINTER CAMP - DEC. 2013: 11 CHILDREN, 10 FAMILIES

SPRING BREAK CAMP SHALOM -MAR 2014: 10 CHILDREN, 9 FAMILIES



## CELEBRATING JEWISH IDENTITY

HANUKKAH WITH THE KOLLEL - NOV 2013: 110 PARTICIPANTS

PURIM CELEBRATION WITH THE KOLLEL - MAR 2014: 16 FAMILIES, 26 CHILDREN, 22 ADULTS

TU B'SHEVAT AT LYNN CANYON -MAR 2014: 4 FAMILIES, 9 ADULTS, 5 CHILDREN

YOM HA'ATZMAUT AT THE CHAN CENTRE - APRIL 2014: 12 PARTICIPANTS



## SUPPORTING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE

**CURLING GAME NIGHT** - DEC 2013: 46 PARTICIPANTS, 18 CHILDREN

VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTEND PERFORMING ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS: 150 PARTICIPANTS

# MAKING THE CONNECTION

#### **GIVING BACK**

At each program event, JFRN families were encouraged to provide donations to the Jewish Food Bank in support of our community, and those in need. An estimated value of over \$1,500 of food was collected!

In addition, for performing arts events that offered free tickets, families were encouraged to make a donation to support JFRN programming.

78 donations have been collected to date and \$9,600 has been raised, which will go towards future activities. Todah Rabah to our families!



#### **PROVIDING SUPPORT**

Through networking, 3 JFRN families have been helped by others in the group to find meaningful employment; 2 were able to find housing

4 families have been recipients of furniture donations from IFSA donors

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER VANCOUVER

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

KOLLEL

CAMP MIRIAM

PJ LIBRARY

MUNICIPALITY OF COQUITLAM

BURNABY WILDLIFE **ASSOCIATION** 

LYNN CANYON ECOLOGIC **CENTER** 

BEST MARTIAL ARTS CLUB -COQUITLAM

CAPOEIRA CLUB - NEW WESTMINSTER

INDIAN ARM ECO BOAT CRUISE - PORT MOODY

CSI CAMP - VANCOUVER POLICE MUSEUM

KIDS UP FRONT VANCOUVER

PORT MOODY RECREATION

TERRY FOX THEATRE - BURNABY

CAVALIA

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

## In Appreciation...

"While we don't attend every event, we have certainly tried to get to as many as possible and we have felt a sense of connection to the greater lewish community-at-large child could make new as a result. Additionally, my husband who is an Israeli has also gained a greater feeling and sense of community as many of the people that attend these events are also immigrants from Israel. It | Jewish lessons with other is wonderful to be brought Jewish kids." together with others; and to gather for holidays, social activities, and just for that sense of comfort you gain from being around people from your country of origin - truly appreciated!"

-JFRN Program **Participant** 

"I have to say, we sent Tori last year because the price was incredible and I liked the fact that it was a lewish organization running the camp and my Jewish friends. This is important because the lewish children in the Tricities are all over the place and it would be nice for them to get to play together and experience

-JFRN Parent

