



Hillel Lodge

LONG-TERM CARE FOUNDATION



Generosity and Caring.

CHARTING A COURSE TOGETHER



▶ **David Baker**
Chair and President

As I step into the role of Chair of the Hillel Lodge Foundation Board, I am filled with deep gratitude and profound humility. My family's longstanding history with Hillel Lodge has shaped my understanding of its vital role in our Jewish community in Ottawa. Having had my father as a resident here, I sincerely appreciate the care and compassion that define this institution.

I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to my predecessor, Adam Cantor. Adam led our board with unwavering dedication during an incredibly challenging time. His leadership throughout the pandemic was invaluable, and his commitment set a standard we aspire to uphold. I am grateful for his continued support as I took on this new role.

Reflecting on our journey over the past year, I want to acknowledge the tireless efforts of my fellow board members. Your wisdom, dedication, and unwavering commitment have been integral to our success. Together, we have navigated challenges and celebrated remarkable milestones, including the opening of the ***Dream Garden*** in 2024. This beautiful sanctuary embodies healing and connection, providing a space for our residents and their families to gather, reflect, and find joy. **THANK YOU!**



This year, we proudly celebrated the success of the ***16th Annual Biking for Bubbies***. The enthusiasm and participation from our community for this event have been truly inspiring, with over \$2.2M raised since its inception to support the programs and services for our residents. I invite others to join us as riders in the coming year. Together, we can continue to raise essential funds that directly enhance the quality of life for our residents.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to our donors, especially those who have made legacy gifts. Your generosity supports ongoing projects and secures a sustainable future for Hillel Lodge. The impact of your commitment resonates throughout our community, allowing us to honour those who came before us while providing comfort and dignity to our residents today.

As we embrace the spirit of giving, let us remember the words of the Talmud: "Whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world." Being a member of the Hillel Lodge Board is not just a responsibility; it is a privilege. It is an opportunity to be part of something larger than ourselves, to foster a vibrant and caring community that touches the lives of countless individuals and families. Working together, we can continue building a remarkable legacy that will benefit future generations.

Thank you to each board member, staff member, volunteer, and supporter. Let us continue to work together, fostering the spirit of care and connection that defines Hillel Lodge.

"Whoever saves a life, it is considered
as if he saved an entire world."

CULTIVATING COMPASSION AND CONNECTION



I am proud to share this message as part of the 2024 Impact Report for the Hillel Lodge LTC Foundation, reflecting a year of remarkable achievements. This report highlights inspiring examples of change, celebration, and connection. New and meaningful relationships were forged, existing ones strengthened, and a beautiful, welcoming garden space was created to enhance lives for decades to come. Please take pride in your role in making all this possible.

The Lodge conducted extensive community consultations to inform its new strategic plan. The Foundation participated in this process and is proud to support the new and emerging strategic plan. Alongside this work, there was a thorough review to identify the Lodge's, residents', and staff's most pressing needs. In harmony with the new strategic plan, this work will serve as our compass as we help advance game-changing initiatives with wide-ranging impacts, support vital improvements to much-needed infrastructure upgrades, and promote innovative programming – all to enhance quality of life, preserve dignity, and foster an empowering caring Jewish environment in which to live, work, and play.

These goals are ambitious. To achieve them, we will need creative solutions, innovative ideas, a willingness to approach things differently, and YOUR continued support. We look forward to driving change alongside you and our partners.

On a personal note, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the 2024 Hillel Lodge LTC Foundation Board of Directors for their unwavering dedication, support and vision. Their passion for the Lodge and its residents is inspiring. I also want to acknowledge everyone who biked, sponsored, volunteered, and supported our riders in the



Leslie Sher ◀

Executive Director

“Together, let us continue
to build a legacy of
compassion and connection” ◀

16th Annual Biking for Bubbies event. You are amazing! No other long-term care home in our city hosts an event like this, uniting our community in such a meaningful way.

You did this - Thank you!

Great things do not simply “happen”; they require hard work, perseverance, and dedication. Thank you to the entire team that championed the Dream Garden and to all who supported it. What a remarkable achievement! I am honoured to have been part of this testament to caring, vision and determination—a reflection of our shared values and love from a caring Jewish community.

I am especially grateful to our new chair, champion, and advocate, David Baker. He stepped up to fill Adam Cantor's big shoes with compassion, dedication, and commitment. As a community, we should be thankful, and as a staff member, I am humbled and confident that the best is yet to come! Thank you, David.

Together, let us continue to build a legacy of compassion and connection, ensuring that our residents live with care, joy, and dignity.

A LEGACY OF CARE AND COMMUNITY



▶ Janet Dollin, MDCM, CCFP, FCFP

President



This year marks the 70th Annual General Meeting of Hillel Lodge, seventy years since its inception. The vision for the Lodge began in 1954 with two wise and determined founders, Dora Lithwick and Judge J.C. Horwitz. They worked tirelessly to educate our community about the need for a Jewish long-term care home and to raise funds for what many then considered a “pie in the sky” idea.

Through sheer determination, they spearheaded a membership drive enlisting over 1,500 members. Thanks to their efforts, and the contributions of countless others too numerous to name, the Ottawa Jewish Home for the Aged opened its doors in 1965. Today, their names, and those of many others, are proudly displayed on the walls of the Lodge. Their legacy lives on not only in our building but in their descendants, many of whom serve on the Boards of the Lodge and Foundation, as Medical Staff, and as participants in Saturday services.

The idea of seniors living together was truly visionary in 1954. That vision became reality when the original Ottawa Jewish Home for the Aged was built and opened in 1965. As community needs grew, the Lodge expanded and ultimately moved to its current location in 2000.

Now, 25 years old, our current building continues to serve the needs of our residents well. Its thoughtful design, proximity to community partners, and strong infrastructure have allowed it to remain a warm and functional home for our residents, staff, and families alike.

In Jewish tradition, the number 70 is deeply symbolic, it represents a full lifetime, seivah, connoting both old age and wisdom. In ancient times, reaching 70 was a dream for most. But today, our residents are often well beyond that milestone, arriving older, sicker, and in need of more continuous care than those who entered the original Lodge in 1965.

As we mark this anniversary, we pause to reflect, celebrating our past while looking ahead. What role must Hillel Lodge play in a future shaped by changing demographics, rising care needs, and a Jewish population whose younger generations increasingly seek opportunities in larger cities?

As we consider this question, we are guided by a set of enduring Jewish values, values that continue to shape our mission and vision for the future:

- ▶ Respect for our elders and their wisdom
- ▶ Compassionate, holistic, person-centred care
- ▶ L'dor v'dor, honouring our parents, from generation to generation
- ▶ A sense of community and belonging, encouraging visits, volunteerism, and purposeful engagement.
- ▶ Justice and tikkun olam, advocating for the needs of our elders
- ▶ Spiritual nourishment, which includes more than kashrut, holidays, and services, it includes arts, music, learning, and culture

These values are both a reflection of who we are and a roadmap for who we aspire to be. They ground us as we adapt to changing realities and as we now create our next 5-year plan. It will take leadership and vision not unlike our founders had to plan further ahead than that, for Ottawa's changing Jewish community and the needs of its future seniors.

CHARTING A COURSE TOGETHER

This past year at the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge of Ottawa has been a period of meaningful transition and planning for the future. As always, our focus remains on providing high-quality, person-centred care in a safe, respectful, and compassionate environment.

As we celebrate our 70th Annual General Meeting, we reflect on the rich heritage that this milestone represents. Over the decades, Hillel Lodge has become a cornerstone of our community, embodying the values of compassion, respect, and dignity. This legacy inspires us as we embark on new strategic planning, ensuring that the voices of our stakeholders including residents, families, staff, volunteers, board members, donors, and community partners, guide our path forward.

In preparation for a refreshed strategic plan, we engaged in a broad series of stakeholder consultations, gathering invaluable insights that have helped us identify our strengths, our areas for growth and how we can remain responsive to the evolving needs of our community. The resulting strategy will reflect our shared commitment to quality improvement, workforce support, and operational sustainability. It is rooted in the values that have always guided the Lodge and informed by the voices of those who care deeply about our future.

This year also marked an important leadership transition. We extend our sincere thanks to Morag Burch, who retired as Director of Care after more than 35 years of dedicated service. Morag's leadership and compassion made a lasting impact on residents, families, and all who work at Hillel Lodge.

In addition, 2024 marked Hillel Lodge's proud participation in the Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care Plus pilot program. This initiative significantly enhances our residents' quality of life by reducing unnecessary hospital visits and enabling paramedics to provide on-site diagnostic services that support our dedicated nursing staff and promote timely treatments.

Another highlight of 2024 was the official opening of the Dream Garden on June 18th. This vital green space allows residents and family members to connect with nature and each other, fostering a sense of community and enhancing their overall well-being.

To everyone who supports the Lodge, thank you. Your engagement, commitment, and trust make our work possible. Together, we are building on a strong foundation as we thoughtfully plan for the years ahead.



Ted Cohen

CEO



“Our focus remains on providing high-quality, person-centred care in a safe, respectful, and compassionate environment.”

DREAM GARDEN

The beautiful new Dream Garden was constructed in 2023, thanks to generous community donations.

The Dream Garden is a place where residents and family members can gather and socialize while interacting with nature, participate in our horticultural program, or just be alone and experience the sounds, scents, and feelings of the garden.

To some of the residents, the garden is the only outdoor space they have access to, making this green space crucial for healthy living.

This project is a testament to our community's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for our cherished residents.

Health Benefits of Outdoor Spaces

Evidence continues to mount of the significant health benefits associated with spending time regularly in gardens and other green spaces, particularly for residents of long-term care facilities. Gardens can alleviate isolation, for instance, as they often become social centres enjoyed by residents, families, and staff alike. Gardening activities can decrease anxiety and inspire a sense of purpose.



DREAM GARDEN DONORS

The Dream Garden stands as a powerful symbol of hope and renewal for our community, embodying our commitment to exceptional care in a welcoming Jewish environment. This serene space will provide our residents with a beautiful outdoor sanctuary, enhancing their connection to nature and each other. Thanks to the dedication of our donors and volunteers, this dream has become a reality, enriching the lives of all who call Hillel Lodge home. Below is a list of some of the people who made this dream a reality.

Elissa & Avraham Iny and Family
In Honour of our Parents

The Auxiliary of Hillel Lodge

In Memory of Barry Baker
From your Loving Wife, Children, Grandchildren,
Brother and Family

Irving & Beverly Swedko and Family
Stephen & Jocelyne Greenberg Family Foundation

Trinity Development Foundation

The Viner Family: Gary & Debra, Robert & Jenny Freeman,
Norman & Margo, Susan & Gillie Vered

In Loving Memory of: Evelyn & Norman Potechin,
Sally & Max Taller, Miriam & Harold Gordon
from the Potechin & Gordon Families

Claire Bercovitch & Family in Memory of Irving
Gillie & Susan Vered and Elie & Sonya Vered

Joan & Russell Kronick

In Loving Memory of Max & Dorothy Lief

Maria & John Bassi and Family

In Memory of Polly Cohen & Cila Farber

Andrew & Joany Katz and Family

Pat & Morris Neuman

Hillel Lodge LTC Home of Ottawa 2023/24 Board of Directors

The Shabinsky Family

Malcolm & Vera Glube and Family

Levinson Family Foundation

McGahan Family

Philip & Lynn Zunder and Family

Dr Howard & Evelyn Silverman, in Loving Memory of Bill Silverman

Julian And Elizabeth Szirtes
For Their Love of Life and Each Other
THE SZIRTES FAMILY

In Loving Memory of Judge Jacie & Jeanne Horwitz
by Betsy Horwitz

In Loving Memory of our Parents Jack & Tania Firestone
and Irving Bercovitch
By Sam & Susan Firestone and Family

Alan, Robert, Roger Greenberg & Families

Lawrence Soloway and Family

Urbandale Corporation

In Memory of Sara & Hugh Shabsove
and Rochelle Greenberg
Loving Son and Brother... Chuck Shabsove

Stephen & Gail Victor and Family

Barbara & Len Farber and Family

Sol & Zelaine Shinder

In Memory of Gladys "Gital" Greenberg
by her Loving Husband John Greenberg and Family

Zinati Realty

Philip Firestone & Susan Caplan-Firestone

Bob & Lindsay Firestone and Family

Ida Firestone in Memory of Jack & Tania Firestone

In Memory of Bill & Phyllis Leith
from the Arnold Kimmel & Larry Hartman Families

Barbara & Steve Levinson

Tani & Gregory Sanders

Debbie & David Weinstein and Family

The Hymes Family

BIKING FOR BUBBIES



Biking for Bubbies, sponsored by MediSystem: A Heartfelt Journey of Community and Care

Biking for Bubbies isn't just an event; it's a heartfelt celebration of our community's unwavering spirit and compassion. Each year, bikers, walkers, sponsors, cheerleaders, and volunteers, come together to support the residents of Hillel Lodge.

In 2024, we proudly celebrated 16 transformative years of this cherished initiative.

Biking for Bubbies supports our Mealtime Assistance Program (MAP) and Companionship Connection Program, vital lifelines that combat loneliness and isolation among our residents. With every pedal and every cheer, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring no one feels alone.

We also honoured Joel Diener with a special Mensch award for his 16 years of leadership and championship of Biking for Bubbies. Thank you, Joel you are a Mensch and we couldn't have done it without you!

Since its inception, this powerful event has raised over \$2 million, a testament to the extraordinary dedication of our community. Together, we are not just raising funds; we are nurturing connections, creating joy, and enriching lives. Let's continue this incredible journey, hand in hand, heart to heart, as we make every pedal count for those we cherish.



Joel Diener receiving a Mensch award for his 16 years of work as a leader and champion of Biking for Bubbies.





Thank you to everyone who helped make the 16th Annual Biking for Bubbies, sponsored by MediSystem, such a success!

Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, and bikers. Without you, Biking for Bubbies would not exist. You're helping to make the lives of the people living at the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge vibrant and fulfilling. **THANK YOU!**

2024

Brody Appotive
and Michelle
Kuhnreich's Wedding

Team Appotive
Ryan Armitage

David Baker
Martin Black

Glenda Blacker

Mark Borts

Adam Cantor

David Clarke

Michael Cohen

James Robin Conway

Doron Danan
Grant DeSouza

Joel Diener

Janet Dollin

Lorne Duke

James Farrow

Paul Finn

Alejandro Fiszman

Jonathan Freedman

Dale Fyman

Ben Gailor

Laurie Goldmann

Gustave Goldmann

Peter Greenberg

Roger Greenberg

Sam Greenspon

Deborah Hanson-Finger

Irv Hoffman

Marlene Hoffman

Irwin Kreisman

Michael Landau

Steve Lesh

Lewis Levin

Stan and Cathy Levine

Karen Marcus

Susan Marcus

Patrick McGarry

Joy Mender and Family

Sye Mincoff

Adam Moscoe

Ken Ostrega

Simon Page

Karen Palayew

Jeff Pleet

Micah Potechin

Oren Potechin

Harry Prizant

Diana Rachlis

Lewis Retik

Eytan Rip

Margo and Frank Rosen

Dr. Arlene Rosenbloom

Sharon Rosentzveig

Charles Schachnow

Adam Schacter

Harold Schwartz

Peter Stelcner

Rabbi Teitlebaum

Dr. Gary Viner

Toby Yan

Sandra Zagon

Erin Zipes

Philip Zunder



THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

AT THE BESS AND MOE GREENBERG FAMILY HILLEL LODGE

Stories of Dignity, Joy, and Jewish Continuity

Each gift to the Hillel Lodge Long-Term Care Foundation's endowed funds is an act of compassion that echoes through our home. It brings warmth to meals, melody to memory, purpose to programs, and peace of mind to families. What follows are real stories made possible through your generosity, stories of dignity regained, traditions rekindled, and lives meaningfully enriched.

REKINDLING SPIRIT: RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMING

Your generosity keeps our residents rooted in tradition and lifted in spirit.

What You Made Possible:

- ▶ Weekly Shabbat dinners, Torah readings, and candle lighting rituals
- ▶ Full-cycle Jewish holiday observances, from Yom Kippur reflections to joyful Simchat Torah dancing
- ▶ A dedicated rabbinic presence who leads blessings, study, and spiritual support

When one resident arrived at The Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge, she was **quiet and withdrawn, unsure if she would ever feel at home again**. At her first Shabbat dinner, she heard the blessing over the wine and caught the familiar aroma of challah and chicken soup. Her eyes lit up. She softly recited the motzi, almost instinctively. Two months later, she lit the Shabbat candles with steady hands and a full heart. Afterward, she said, ***"I didn't expect to find this again. You brought it all back to me."***



MEALTIMES WITH DIGNITY: FEEDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Your support turns meals into moments of connection and care.

What You Made Possible:

- ▶ Specially trained feeding assistants who provide one-on-one support
- ▶ Meal environments that prioritize dignity, comfort, and social engagement

A resident living with Parkinson's disease was once an enthusiastic home cook. **Eating had become frustrating**, until a trained assistant began sitting with him daily, offering encouragement and tailored support. **Over time, he began to feed himself again**. During a family visit, his daughter said, ***"I hadn't seen Dad enjoy a meal in years. You've given that joy back to him, and to us."***





MOMENTS OF MEANING: RECREATION & CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Philanthropy transforms ordinary days into extraordinary ones.

What You Made Possible:

- ▶ Therapeutic arts programming, live concerts, film nights, and gardening clubs
- ▶ Engagement programs tailored to cognitive and physical ability

One resident, a retired music teacher with early-stage dementia, was **mostly nonverbal during his early days at the Lodge**. But at a violin performance, he began to hum along softly. **By the next concert, he was clapping and singing.** His daughter, who had grown used to silence during visits, said, *"For the first time in months, I saw the spark in his eyes again. Music brought him back to us."*



A TASTE OF MEMORY: FRESH KOSHER MEALS

You make it possible for food to nourish body and soul.

What You Made Possible:

- ▶ Daily access to freshly cooked kosher meals prepared in-house
- ▶ Celebratory menus for holidays and life milestones

One Friday, a resident **became tearful while eating lunch**. When asked why, she said, *"The smell of the brisket, it's like walking into my mother's kitchen after school."* Later, she told the kitchen team, *"I never thought I'd taste that again. It's more than food. It's home."*

GROWING EXCELLENCE: STAFF EDUCATION

You equip our team with knowledge, confidence, and care.

What You Made Possible:

- ▶ Specialized training in palliative care, dementia, trauma-informed practice, and elder communication
- ▶ Funding for professional development courses and certifications

After completing a workshop on dementia-sensitive communication, a **Personal Support Worker changed how she approached a resident with advanced cognitive decline**. She used visual cues and storytelling instead of instructions. The resident, **usually agitated**, calmly took her hand and said, *"You remind me of my daughter."* **The PSW later shared, "It was one of the most meaningful moments of my career."**

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

AT THE BESS AND MOE GREENBERG FAMILY HILLEL LODGE

COMPASSION IN ACTION: NURSING ENHANCEMENTS

Philanthropy gives us the people and tools to deepen the quality of care and create more time for meaningful connections.

What You Made Possible:

- ▶ Additional nursing hours that allow for more personal, unrushed interactions
- ▶ Continued investment in clinical best practices, comfort-focused care, and mentoring

One resident, known for her **sense of humour and sharp memory**, always looked forward to a daily chat with her favourite nurse. With added nursing support funded through donor generosity, the nurse was **able to linger just a few extra minutes each visit, reminiscing about the resident's days as a teacher and laughing over shared stories.** The nurse later said, *"Because we weren't rushed, I had time to care in the way that brought her dignity, and joy."*

HEALING THROUGH MOVEMENT: THERAPEUTICS DEPARTMENT

Donors help residents regain not only strength, but confidence.

What You Made Possible:

- ▶ Personalized physical and occupational therapy
- ▶ Access to equipment like parallel bars, walkers, and mobility aids

After surgery, one resident **didn't believe she'd ever walk again.** "I'm too old to heal," she said. But through weeks of therapy and encouragement, she walked down the hallway with her walker. **Staff and fellow residents clapped and cheered.** Smiling, she said, *"Well, I guess I was wrong."*

YOUR LEGACY LIVES HERE

*These are not just stories,
they are daily acts of
restoration, joy, and love made
possible through your generosity.*

*Your gifts help Hillel Lodge do more
than provide care. They create a
community where every resident is
known, valued, and honoured.*

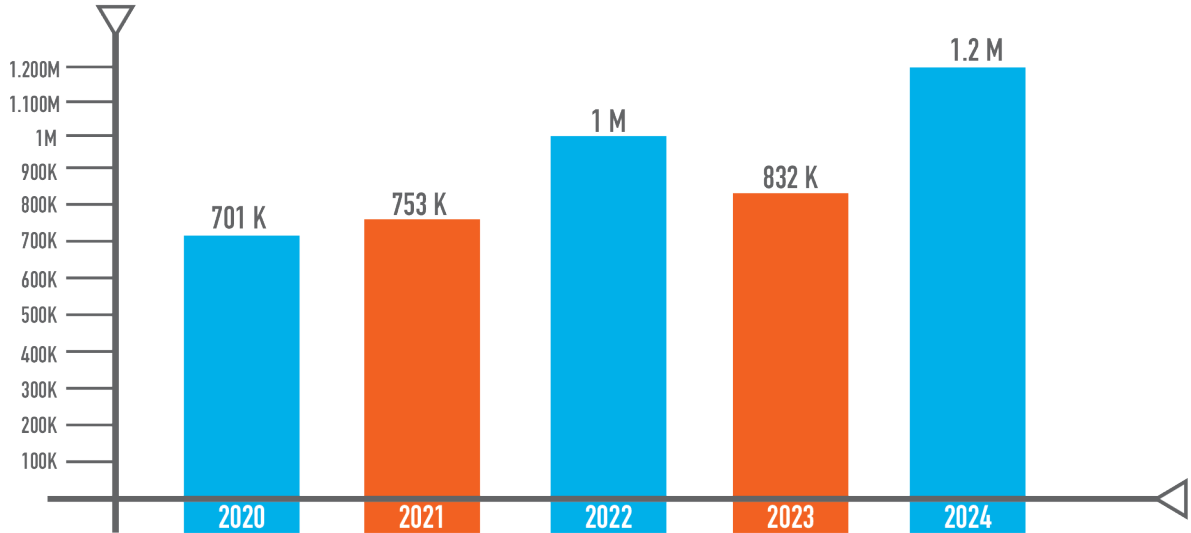
*Because of you, our residents
live not just safely, but richly.*

**Todah rabbah.
Thank you.**

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT 2024

Thanks to the generosity of caring individuals, corporations, foundations, and community groups, the Board of Directors of the Hillel Lodge Foundation has transferred more than \$1.2 million in 2024 to support the residents of Hillel Lodge. We are immensely grateful for your support and value your contributions. Thank you! It is needed and appreciated.

Funds transferred from Hillel Lodge LTC Foundation to Hillel Lodge in the last 5 years:



SOURCES OF REVENUE*

GOVERNMENT

\$10.7 M

COMMUNITY
FUNDING

\$2M

RESIDENT FEES

\$3.4 M

OPERATING EXPENSES

NURSING &
PERSONAL CARE

52%

PROGRAM
SUPPORT

5%

ACCOMODATION

42%

Thank you to our Donors and Endowment Fund holders.

* Includes capital contributions

OUTGOING DIRECTOR OF CARE, MORAG BURCH



▶ **Morag Burch**

Outgoing Director of Care

Morag Burch's remarkable 36-year journey at Hillel Lodge has profoundly impacted both residents and staff, creating a lasting legacy of compassion and dedication. We extend our deepest gratitude to Morag for her unwavering care. Morag shares her heartfelt farewell as she embarks on this exciting new chapter.

"As I close this chapter of my life I am filled with mixed emotions. There's a sense of nostalgia for the years gone by, pride in what we have accomplished and excitement for what the future holds for Hillel Lodge. However, the true highlight of my 36-year journey has been the residents, families and staff, past and present. You have all played a critical role in my life, career and for that I am forever grateful.

To my colleagues past and present, thank you for your support and camaraderie over the years.

To Hillel Lodge's Leadership and the Board of Directors, thank you for giving me the opportunities to grow. Your trust and support have steered us through challenges and towards success. I am proud to have been part of Hillel's growth and continued evolution.

To my family, thank you for your unwavering support, with calls on weekends and holidays, missed sports events, you stood by me every step of the way and for that I am truly thankful.

I will carry with me fond memories and valuable lessons. Here's to new beginnings."

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

An endowment is a permanent fund that provides financial support to Hillel Lodge, allowing us to sustain and enhance our programs and services year after year. By investing the principal amount, we generate ongoing income, ensuring that your gift continues to make a difference for generations. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors who have established named endowments, creating a lasting legacy of care.

Abe and Bea Dubinsky Endowment Fund	Evelyn and Irving Greenberg Fund	Monica and Alvin Stein Family Fund
Abe and Bertha Palmer Endowment Fund	Evelyn and Isadore Hoffman Family Fund	Morris and Lillian Kimmel Family Fund
Abe and Etta Morris Memorial Fund	Farrand and Joyce Miller Endowment Fund	Morton and Sylvia Pleet Family Fund
Advanced Business Imaging Fund	Festinger/Kelman Family Fund	Nell Gluck Memorial Fund
Alan Freed Family Fund	Fradel and Simon Sternic Memorial Fund	Nordau and Roslyn
Anna and Samuel Wex Family Fund	Frank and Lily Hoffenberg Family Fund	Kanigsberg Family Fund
Anne and Arthur Silverman Family Fund	Fred and Esther Ballon Family Fund	Norman and Gert Leyton Family Fund
Archie and Lillian Taller Memorial Fund	Friedberg and Dale Families Fund	Pearl and Samuel Lepofsky Memorial Fund
Auxiliary of Hillel Lodge Fund	George Joseph Cooper Memorial Fund	Pencer Family Fund
Barbara and Joel Diener Family Fund	Ghita and Frank Wolff Endowment Fund	Ratner/Levine Family Fund
Barry Hobin and Associates Architects Fund	Gina and Howard Grant Family Fund	Remy Albagli Memorial Fund
Bella Altman Leikin Memorial Fund	Gowlings Fund	Renah (Gertchuck) Davies Fund
Ben and Glee Shapiro Fund	Gunner Family Fund	Rhoda and Marvin Shabinsky Fund
Bill and Leona Adler Memorial Fund	Hanoch and Felicia Sharon Family Fund	Rosenthal/McCormack Family Fund
Bill and Phyllis Leith Family Fund	Harold and Lillian Shoihet Memorial Fund	Roslyn and Lee Raskin Family Fund
Boris and Dolly Blacher Family Fund	Harry Torontow Family Fund	Roslyn and Myles Taller Family Fund
CAPCORP Financial Fund	Ida and Sidney Lithwick Fund	Ruth and Irving Aaron Family Fund
Carole and Norman Zagerman Family Fund	Irma and Harold Sachs Family Fund	Sally and Morton Taller Family Fund
Chaim and Raja Miller Memorial Fund	Jack and Betty Ballon Family Fund	Salvatore Nessim and Marie
Chuck and Malca Polowin Fund	Jacob and Abiga Kingson Family Fund	(Catran) Albagli Memorial Fund
Cindy Feingold and Roger Greenberg Fund	Jane Ellens and Dan Pearlman Fund	Sam and Dora Litwack Family Fund
Cohen and Lord Insurance Fund	Jean and Samuel Akerman Memorial Fund	Sam and Ruth Rothman Memorial Fund
David and Debi Shore Family Fund	Jeannette and Alden Hallett Family Fund	Sarah and Arnie Swedler Family Fund
David and Ethel Malek Family Fund	Jeffrey B Isenberg Memorial Fund	Sarah Lithwick Green and
David and Jutta (Netta)	Jenny and Murray Citron Fund	Murray Sidney Green Family Fund
Silverman Family Fund	Joan and Russell Kronick Family Fund	Sarah Lithwick Green Service Award Fund
David, Harvey, Victor Kardish Family Fund	Joel and Sharon Edelson Family Fund	Scarowsky Family Fund
Dennis Newton Memorial Fund	Joseph and Inez Zelikovitz	Schachter/Ingber Family Fund
Donald, Elaine and Amanda	Endowment Fund	Schacter Fund
Whittemore Fam Fund	Joseph Ginsberg Family Endowment Fund	Shelley and Sidney Rothman Family Fund
Dorothy and Maurie Karp	Kassirer Fund	Shirley and Al Cohen Family Fund
Endowment Fund	Ken and Leah Miller Family Fund	Shirley and Maurice Rose Memorial Fund
Dr. Hyman and Dr. Sylvia Van	Label and Leona Silver Family Fund	Shmuel and Malka Feig Family Fund
Straten Kaufman Fund	Leon and Ann Gluzman Family Fund	Sid and Barbara Cohen Family Fund
Dr. Joseph and Devora	Levin Family Fund	Skulsky Family Memorial Fund
Caytak Family Fund	Linda and Stanley Shiff Family Fund	Sonia Rawicki Agulnik Music Therapy Fund
Dr. Mark and Nina Dover Family Fund	Lipsky Cracower Family Fund	Stella and Norman Beck Family Fund
Edith Goldschmidt-Oko Memorial Fund	Lithwick Chapel Fund	Stella and Norman Torontow Family Fund
Edith Teitelbaum and	Louis and Diane Tannenbaum Family Fund	Stephen and Debra
Eddie Zinman Memorial Fund	Malcolm and Vera Glube Fund	Schneiderman Family Fund
Elliot and Helen Marshall Family	Marcia and Stephen Aronson Family Fund	Sternberg/Jacobsen Family Fund
Endowment Fund	Martin and Thea Ginsburg Memorial Fund	Sydney and Ethel Hartman Fund
Elsie Baker Endowment Fund	Max and Dorothy Lieff Endowment Fund	Sylvia and Ben Wiesenfeld Fund
Eric Weiner and Arlene	Medico-Dental Pharmacy of Ottawa Ltd Fund	Sylvia Goldblatt Memorial Fund
Godfrey Family Fund	Milton and Mary (Terry) Viner Family Fund	Tania Firestone Family Fund
Esther Ages Memorial Fund	Moe Greenberg and Elissa Greenberg Iny	Toby and Joel Yan Family Fund
Ethel and Irving Taylor Family Fund	Family Fund	Vera and Leslie Klein Family Fund
Eudice Garmaise Endowment Fund		
Evacucheck By Encore Safety Inc. Fund		

CELEBRATING MORAG BURCH'S

Before her retirement, we sat down with Morag Burch for a reflective conversation about her incredible 36-year journey at Hillel Lodge. Throughout her remarkable career, Morag has profoundly impacted the lives of residents, families, and staff. Here's a heartfelt Q&A that highlights her warmth, dedication, and invaluable insights.



Q: What initially drew you to the field of long-term care?

Morag: My journey into long-term care began during my nursing studies. During my first placement at a city home, I realized how much I loved working with the elderly. It was a transformative experience; I felt a strong connection with the residents and was captivated by their stories and histories. I found it incredibly rewarding to engage with them, listen to their life experiences, and learn from their wisdom. I realized I just had a passion for being around seniors. They were often less complex in terms of health needs back then, which allowed for deeper conversations. That initial spark led me to apply for a position at Island Lodge after graduation, and the rest is history.

Q: Can you tell us about your experience at Hillel Lodge?

Morag: After several years of working in various homes, I became disillusioned with the profit-driven models of care. I was searching for a more fulfilling environment when I spotted a small ad in the newspaper for a part-time nurse at Hillel Lodge, then known as the Ottawa Jewish Home for the Aged. The moment I stepped through the doors, I felt an overwhelming sense of belonging. It was a small, intimate setting with only 48 beds, where everyone truly knew each other. I loved that homey feeling. I started part-time and quickly transitioned to full-time work. By 1994, I was honored to become the Director of Care. Over the years, I've witnessed many changes, but the heart of our community has remained strong.

Q: What significant changes have you witnessed in long-term care over the years?

Morag: The landscape of long-term care has changed dramatically. One of the most significant shifts is the complexity of residents' needs. When I began, many of our residents were around 65 years old. Now, we frequently admit individuals in their 90s who often have multiple health issues. This evolution has required us to adapt our care models significantly. Staff training has also become more specialized; for example, Personal Support Workers (PSWs) now receive targeted training in geriatric care. The expectations from families have changed too. They are more informed and involved, which is great because it helps us create more personalized care plans. It's about meeting the unique needs of each resident while ensuring they feel at home.

36 YEARS JOURNEY AT HILLEL LODGE

Q: How important is teamwork in providing quality care?

Morag: Teamwork is essential in our field. When I started at Hillel Lodge, we had just nine staff members, creating a collaborative environment where we all supported each other. Although we've grown, staff are still assigned to specific neighborhoods, allowing them to build familiarity with residents. This continuity fosters trust and rapport. I've always fostered an open-door policy, encouraging team members to seek support from one another. It's a culture of mutual respect and teamwork that I believe enhances the quality of care we provide.

Q: What are your hopes for the future of Hillel Lodge?

Morag: As I prepare to retire, my hopes for Hillel Lodge center around continuing to embrace a person-centred approach to care. I hope to see us continue to adapt and innovate in response to the evolving needs of residents. Hillel Lodge has always been a place where every individual matters, and I know that will remain at the core of our mission.

Q: What does your retirement after 36 years mean in the context of Jewish culture?

Morag: The number 36 is significant in Jewish culture, symbolizing "life" or "living." In gematria, "chai," which means life, equals 18, making 36 "double life," representing blessings and continuity. Retiring after 36 years at a Jewish long-term care home feels meaningful to me, as I conclude this chapter with a sense of purpose, having dedicated my career to enhancing the lives of our residents in a place that values Jewish traditions.



“The number 36 is significant in Jewish culture, symbolizing “life” or “living.” In gematria, “chai,” which means life, equals 18, making 36 “double life,” representing blessings and continuity. Retiring after 36 years at a Jewish long-term care home feels meaningful to me”

ELEVATING EXCELLENCE: 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

ENRICHING PERSON-CENTRED DINING WITH MEALSUITE

MealSuite person-centred dining solution was implemented in all neighborhoods of Hillel Lodge in 2024 to enhance the dining experience for residents. MealSuite features integrated People Profiles that record residents' likes, dislikes, allergens, and dietary needs, ensuring the right meal is delivered every time. Linked to the Point Click Care system, it allows dietitians to input individualized dietary information, which staff can easily access during table-side ordering. This streamlines the process, reducing verbal requests to the kitchen and creating a more enjoyable atmosphere. Additionally, MealSuite imports menus and recipes for efficient kitchen production, making it a practical tool that requires minimal training for staff. Overall, MealSuite is a key ingredient for personalized care at mealtime.

ENHANCING RESIDENTS' LIVES THROUGH COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Dream Garden officially opened its doors with a Grand Opening Celebration on June 18, 2024. Members of the community gathered for this joyous event to honor the generosity of the donors and the volunteers who made this vision a reality. The stunning Dream Garden was made possible through generous contributions from the community via the Hillel Lodge LTC Foundation, along with the support of the Auxiliary of Hillel Lodge. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved. It is truly remarkable that our residents can now enjoy this beautiful garden area in the company of friends, family, and fellow residents. This dream would not have been achievable without the dedicated efforts and contributions of countless community members.

The 2024 philanthropic donations of \$1.2 M from Hillel Lodge Long-Term Care Foundation have profoundly impacted our residents' lives, enabling us to provide care and services that uphold their dignity and well-being. These contributions support vital programs, including religious services that foster community connection, a Mealtime Assistance Program that ensures dignified dining experiences, and recreational activities such as art, music and horticultural programs, that enhance emotional well-being. For instance, a resident shared how attending Shabbat services helped them reconnect with cherished traditions, while another found joy in painting classes that reduced anxiety. Additionally, funds ensured ongoing staff education, enhanced nursing care through increased staffing and resource, and support for the therapeutics department allowing residents to regain independence through personalized therapy. Overall, these generous donations ensured our residents live with dignity, comfort, and joy, reinforcing our commitment to exceptional care and fostering a thriving community at Hillel Lodge.



2024/25 SPECIAL AWARDS

SHALOM PEREL PRESIDENT'S AWARD OF MERIT

The Shalom Perel President's Award of Merit is given annually to recognize an individual who works diligently, often behind the scenes, to benefit the Lodge and its residents. The recipient is someone who makes an outstanding contribution to Hillel Lodge.

This president's award of merit is named in honour of Shalom Perel, of blessed memory.

Mr. Perel was born in Russia and when he was 8 years old, he along with his parents and 3 siblings immigrated to Montreal. In his 20's he moved to Ottawa and attended the University of Ottawa. Subsequently, he found employment in the federal government as a statistician where he worked until his retirement. He was a quiet unassuming gentleman who enjoyed reading as well as classical music. Mr. Perel moved to Hillel lodge in October 1997. He passed away in July 1998. To show his appreciation for the care and attention he received at the lodge, he endowed the Lodge with almost the entirety of his considerable estate.

This magnificent gift was accompanied by Shalom Perel's desire to make things better for the residents who lived at Hillel Lodge.



RECIPIENT OF THE SHALOM PEREL PRESIDENT'S AWARD OF MERIT: JAMES FARROW

Hillel Lodge Board of Directors proudly awards James Farrow the Shalom Perel President's Award of Merit for 2024/25. Jim served as the President of the Lodge from 2020 to 2022 and remained actively engaged as a Board member and Immediate Past President for two additional years.

After retiring as a distinguished architect, Jim joined the Board in 2016, quickly making a significant impact. He rose from Second Vice President to First Vice President and began his presidency during the challenging COVID-19 pandemic, exemplifying calm, steady, and compassionate leadership. His presence was reassuring as he provided clear guidance and unwavering support, attending urgent virtual meetings and volunteering on-site to demonstrate the Board's commitment to staff and residents. In the later stages of the pandemic, he valued the opportunity to volunteer by serving snacks to residents, deepening his understanding of their needs and the challenges faced by the staff.

Beyond crisis management, Jim's leadership has profoundly influenced Hillel Lodge's physical and strategic infrastructure, particularly through his pivotal role in the HVAC replacement project, ensuring safety and comfort for all. His efforts in implementing crucial infrastructure improvements, including upgrades to heating and air conditioning systems, have ensured the ongoing safety and health of residents.

He was instrumental in recruiting the current CEO, Ted Cohen, whose leadership has been vital. Additionally, Jim contributed to strategic planning efforts that clarified the governance roles of Board members, preparing future boards for their responsibilities.

James Farrow is a leader who acts not for recognition, but from a profound sense of responsibility and care for others. His legacy at Hillel Lodge is characterized by compassion, integrity, and dedicated service.

2024/25 SPECIAL AWARDS

THELMA STEINMAN DIRECT SERVICE AWARD

This award is named after Thelma Steinman, of blessed memory, who was held in the highest esteem by our residents, staff and board members for her ability to give of herself and do the utmost to help others. As everyone who knew her can attest, she was a woman who exhibited tremendous warmth, energy, compassion and a marvellous sense of humour. Her ability to relate to people and to make them seem so special was especially evidenced in her interaction with the residents of Hillel Lodge. The Thelma Steinman Direct Service Award is given in honour of an individual who interacts directly with the residents in order to improve their quality of life — a person who as a result of his/her direct efforts makes a significant difference.

JOINT RECIPIENTS OF THE THELMA STEINMAN DIRECT SERVICE AWARD: WESLEY AND ELAYNE SCHACTER



Hillel Lodge Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Wesley and Elayne Schacter are the joint recipients of the Thelma Steinman Direct Service Award for 2024/25. Elayne began her involvement with the Lodge 15 years ago by assisting her friend Mark Spergel with the Monday Evening Bingo. After Mark moved away, Elayne and Wes

took on the responsibility of running the Bingo program, a role they have maintained ever since, with volunteers Joel Diener and Barbara Levinson participating on alternating weeks.

Elayne and Wes have consistently expressed how much joy they find in running Bingo, recognizing its importance for residents' socialization and engagement. Their commitment has fostered continuity and provided enjoyable evening programs, allowing them to build meaningful relationships with the residents who regularly attend.

In recognition of their long-standing and steadfast dedication to the Lodge, we proudly award Elayne and Wesley Schacter this honor.

THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

The Outstanding Service Award is presented periodically to a group for outstanding service to Hillel Lodge. Recipients have included community groups, non-profit and for-profit companies and organizations that have made a significant contribution to Hillel Lodge and its residents.

RECIPIENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD: THE POIRIER GROUP



The Poirier Group (TPG), under the expert guidance of Dale Schattenkirk, has played a transformative role in establishing

Hillel Lodge as a center of excellence for Lean Six Sigma quality in Ontario's long-term care sector. Lean Six Sigma combines principles focused on identifying and solving problems in business processes, leading to significant improvements in efficiency, quality, and customer satisfaction.

Dale has generously dedicated his time, expertise, and TPG's resources to enhance the Lodge's internal capacity for continuous improvement. His commitment extends beyond a traditional consulting relationship; he has become a trusted advisor and partner, empowering the leadership team to drive change from within. His efforts have laid a solid foundation for a quality program that is both rigorous and data-driven, aligning seamlessly with Hillel Lodge's mission to provide exceptional care to its residents.

Through TPG's involvement, Hillel Lodge has launched a comprehensive Lean Six Sigma training initiative, equipping the management team with the tools and mindset necessary to identify inefficiencies, eliminate waste, and drive sustainable improvements across the organization. This cultural shift encourages curiosity, fosters accountability, and supports innovation at every level.

For these reasons, Hillel Lodge Board of Directors proudly honors The Poirier Group with this recognition. Their generosity, leadership, and unwavering belief in our potential have already made a lasting impact on the Lodge over the past year. By investing in our people and fostering a culture of continuous improvement, TPG and Dale Schattenkirk have positioned Hillel Lodge on a path to becoming a model of quality and innovation in long-term care. It is only fitting that we celebrate their exceptional contributions as recipients of the Outstanding Service Award.

2024/25 SPECIAL AWARDS

SARAH LITHWICK GREEN AWARD

Sarah Lithwick Green was a true pioneer whose legacy of compassion, advocacy, and service continues to inspire us all. The Sarah Lithwick Green Award honors her remarkable contributions by recognizing a young individual who embodies her spirit of leadership and civic engagement. The recipient of this annual award reflects the values that Sarah Lithwick Green instilled in her community, serving as a testament to her enduring influence.

RECIPIENT OF THE SARAH LITHWICK GREEN AWARD: TEHILA SHAPIRO

Tehila Shapiro has been selected as the recipient of the 2024/25 Sarah Lithwick Green Award for her heartfelt essay, which beautifully illustrates the profound and lasting impact of intergenerational relationships on both young people and the elderly. Through her early visits to Hillel Lodge, her close bond with her Bubby, and her participation in the L'dor Vador intergenerational program, Tehila has demonstrated deep empathy, compassion, and a commitment to kindness. She exemplifies the values of respect, leadership, and care for others—especially our elders—making a meaningful difference in the lives of those around her.



TEHILA SHAPIRO'S HEARTFELT ESSAY ON THE IMPACT OF INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS

From the early age of 5, after the loss of my Zaidy Mark, Alav Hashalom, my mom used to take me and my sisters to Hillel Lodge so that she could recite Kaddish. After services, we would take the opportunity to visit my cousin Morris Shapiro, Alav Hashalom, as well as other residents. This experience has had a deep impact on me. In this essay, I hope to share how my experiences have taught me the importance of forging relationships with the elderly. I will demonstrate how intergenerational relationships provide benefits. In addition to reduced loneliness, the benefits include improved well-being, mental and physical health, and opportunities for connection and learning.

Let's begin by exploring the evidence for these benefits. I learned through a study that "caring for grandchildren reduced loneliness for grandparents. "Grandchild care was associated with lower loneliness for both grandmothers and grandfathers." (Bünning 1) When grandparents are with their grandchildren, their happiness increases. Having my Bubby live with me has shown me this benefit of intergenerational relationships. Living together, we have strengthened our relationship and learned so much about and from each other. I look forward to walking everywhere with my Bubby and listening to her jokes and wisdom. I believe that her constant proximity to her grandchildren improves her mental health because she is surrounded by the people she loves and who love her. Another study I saw shows that visiting the elderly makes them feel loved, wanted, and more positive, giving them a sense of purpose and fulfillment. "[C]aring for grandchildren is a vital activity for older people that helps them develop positive aging attitudes and strengthens intergenerational support, thereby improving their quality of life." (Cheng 1) I've learned this firsthand during my weekly visits to Hillel Lodge. Morris would share his artwork with pride. I loved seeing his big smile when my sisters and I would run up to him and give him a big hug. I looked forward to hearing stories about his life, and sharing

what I was up to with him. I secretly feel as though my passion for the arts was born through these cherished visits. I know that Morris looked forward to our weekly visits, and I hope he knows that I loved them, too. Now that I'm older and can reflect on my experiences, I know that our visits didn't just benefit Morris, but rather, they were mutually beneficial. This experience has shaped who I am today, and I believe that I am a better listener and more empathetic because of him, and maybe a little more artsy, too.

Forming relationships with the elderly offers valuable opportunities for intergenerational connection and learning. Recently, I was accepted into the intergenerational program L'dor Vador, which is part of the Rabbi Bulka Kindness Project initiative. It provided me with the opportunity to meet and get to know Vera Gara, a holocaust survivor and a wonderful human being. During our monthly meetups at Hillel Lodge, we discuss our Jewish beliefs, customs, and core values and collaborate to form intellectual conversations. I continue to enjoy our visits while learning about her traditions, history, and values, like her ideology that the future generation should learn respect at a young age and never forget our past. She has taught me a lot through our discussions, strengthening our connection. Overall, my visits to Hillel Lodge, my bond with Morris, living with my Bubby, and my participation in the L'dor Vador program have shown me and helped me demonstrate the significance of developing intergenerational connections. These experiences have shown me the power of human connection. How a hug, a story, or even a simple conversation can brighten someone's day and leave a lasting impact. Forging relationships with the elderly teaches us empathy, patience, and wisdom and gives seniors a sense of purpose and belonging, improving everyone's physical and mental state. I will continue to carry these lessons with me and build bridges between generations, L'dor vador—from generation to generation.

THE AUXILIARY OF HILLEL LODGE: ENRICHING THE QUALITY OF LIFE



Bottom row from left to right: Shelley Goldenberg, Fran Ross, Carolyn Katz, Elissa Iny, Roz Fremeth. Top row from left to right: Aliza Gauzas, Corinne Rothman-Taylor, Shelley Arron-Cohen, Helen Alvo, Ruth Tal, Julie Fine, Gloria Hanff, Monica Stein, Naomi Lipsky Cracower, Shelley Rothman, Rhoda Zaitlin, Marcia Cantor, Gina Grant, Marion Silver. Missing members: Sara Breiner, Rena Cohen, Telethon Chair, Donna Hicks, Julie Kanter, Sonja Kesten, Deborah Sussman-Silverman.

The Auxiliary started when Hillel Lodge opened its doors in 1965, and its founding president, the late Helen Beiles set out to establish a group of women who would (and still do) donate their time to improve the quality of life for Lodge residents.

Functioning autonomously, the Auxiliary provides services and raises the money required to help bring the many important extras that bring comfort and enjoyment to residents. Extras, such as the purchase and maintenance of several fish tanks, monthly birthday parties, musical entertainment, and prizes at the regular bingo games.

Through its two biggest fundraisers, the Telethon and the Great Games Event, the Auxiliary contributed 2024 funds for the new Dream Garden, refurbishing two lounges, and helped celebrate holidays such as Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim and Pesach with residents. The Auxiliary raised \$100,000 in 2024 helping to make those extras become a reality.

The Auxiliary appoints representatives to the Hillel Lodge Board and Foundation meetings to facilitate communication and keep all parties informed of each other's activities.

"I am proud to say that we have an amazing group of dedicated women for whom the Lodge is a priority. We put a lot of effort into our annual Telethon and the Great Games Event, in addition to visiting the Lodge and assisting during holidays and other resident entertainment. We have been involved in many important projects. Our efforts cover areas not funded by the provincial government and residents benefit as does the Lodge's ambiance. We work closely with Lodge staff to ensure that our impact is as effective as possible." commented President Fran Ross who guides the hard-working committee members.

Great Games Event 2024 in KBI Social Hall



Sincere gratitude is extended to the 2024 Board Members
and the 2024 Auxiliary Members for steadfast dedication and support.
Your commitment and compassion are the driving forces behind our success.

Thank you for making a meaningful difference in the lives of residents
and the community. Together, we will continue to uphold
the values of care and excellence at Hillel Lodge.



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70 YEARS STRONG: A LEGACY OF CARE AND COMPASSION



A journey fueled by community
support and shared values.



THE BESS AND MOE GREENBERG FAMILY

Hillel Lodge

LONG-TERM CARE HOME OF OTTAWA