



Kolreena

Towards a Better Future — integrating people with developmental disabilities into the community

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Reena and the General Assembly

by Arlene Margolese, Manager, Volunteer Services & Judaic Programming

Reena is proud to have played an active volunteer role in the exciting GA which took place November 13 - 16, 2005. The United Jewish Communities General Assembly represented 155 Jewish Federations and 400 independent communities across North America. A very full, informative and exciting

program was planned for the 4,000 delegates who attended. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in plenary sessions, forums, workshops and programs to enhance leadership and awareness with speakers

from realms of government, religion, business, the arts, academia, as well as philanthropy and community service. They networked with other leaders from various facets of the Jewish communal and public sectors and took home vital lessons in education, leadership, and advocacy for Israel, social justice and overseas needs.

For the first time in 20 years, Toronto played host to the GA and a number of Reena staff, board members and supporters volunteered to help make the assembly a success. We donned the red vests provided and welcomed and directed delegates from across Canada and the US to activities, which took place at the



Back row (l to r) Elaine Goldbach, Carolynn Morrison, Brenda Rothenberg and Maxine Sugar. Centre: Minnie Ross. Front row (l to r) Arlene Margolese and Sandy Keshen. Volunteers missing from photo: Betty Bozzo, Rochelle Carrady, Heather Goose and Helen Vale.

Metro Toronto Convention Centre. In addition, Reena welcomed a group of delegates to The Toby & Henry Battle Developmental Centre for a tour. Visitors to Toronto were most impressed with the city - and quite envious upon viewing the model of

"Jewish Toronto Tomorrow" and the proposed Lebovic Campus, which was prominently displayed.

We are proud to have had the opportunity to show our support of the UJA Federation of Toronto and to do our part in ensuring the overwhelming success of this General Assembly.

Report of the Chair of the Reena Board

by Carolyn Morrison



President & CEO

by Sandy Keshen



Over the last thirty years Reena has sought to provide quality service to our clients while encouraging a sense of belonging and community. Our agency constantly evaluates the changing needs of our population and seeks to provide housing and programs to accommodate these concerns.

The Liberal government is committed to the closure of the province's last three facilities by April 2009. Twenty-eight residents were selected to move into the community this fall. Reena was asked to provide for the needs of five clients with a

sixth to join them in December. Government funding allowed us to renovate a house on Northdale Road for this purpose.

Over the summer Reena became aware of a building on Elm Ridge Drive being vacated by another organization. The configuration of this property provides privacy in living accommodation while allowing clients the opportunity to socialize in the common areas. This new home will enable us to use staff more effectively.

We recently moved two additional residents into the Al and Faye Mintz Reena Elder Home, where their specific physical and health needs can better be met.

Gift of Home for respite program

The **Shore Family** has provided the very generous gift of a home which will be designated for respite care for children and adults. Our respite program will offer families an opportunity to get to know Reena and the services and programs that we provide as well as offering staff the time to become acquainted with the individual.

The complexities of our clients and their changing needs create a unique challenge for our staff. Reena's continuing training and development ensures that all staff have the skill-set to serve our clients. We are grateful to each member of our staff for their continued commitment to excellence. Their caring and involvement allows our clients to have a sense of friendship and family in their homes.

New funding

Months of proposal writing, negotiating with sister agencies and program design with our staff have resulted in special provincial funding for innovative solutions to many ongoing concerns in the field of social services. The Ministry for Consumer

and Social Services has announced grants to agencies in Toronto and York which will lead to greater understanding and cooperation and more effective use of government funds. One of the criteria for applying for funding was that of partnership. Agencies were required to design programs with others which would be mutually beneficial.

Reena submitted many proposals and we are happy to report that a number of them have been successful.

Among the proposals for which Reena has received funding are:

Allied Health Sector Student Placements. Sponsorship of this program is shared with York Community Services, COTA Health Services, Surrey Place Centre and Reena.

Building DS Recruitment and Service Delivery Capacity: Sponsor: Reena

Capacity building for strategic partnering with Long-Term Care: Sponsor: Reena and New Leaf. Funding was received from Toronto AND York region.

Exploring Alternative Residential Models: Program sponsors: New Leaf, Montage and Reena.

Transition from School to Life: Program sponsors: Surrey Place Centre and Reena. Funding was received from Toronto AND York region.

All of these new initiatives have been made possible by the partnerships Reena has forged with Government, other agencies and the community. Our vision is to ensure that Reena remains current with the ever-changing issues that we will all face in the future. The partnerships that we have fostered keep our agency on the front-line. We will continue to create innovative housing and programs to ensure that our clients will be able to live in a safe and healthy environment.

A consumer's perspective

As Chair, Carolyn has been invited to join the Toronto Developmental Services Council. Its mandate is to provide a consumer perspective on the design and functioning of the Toronto Developmental Services model for adults with developmental disability and their families. The Council provides an opportunity for the twenty-nine agencies in Toronto and the Ministry of Community and Social Services along with families to develop strategies that will better serve the unique needs of our population. The Council recently submitted a proposal to the Ministry to assist self-advocates in better accessing services and to assist them with their participation and involvement in groups and activities that would best meet their specific needs.

For a full description of these programs, please go to our website at www.reena.org and follow the program buttons.

Reena wishes to thank the following synagogues for generously providing tickets for Reena clients for High Holiday services:

Adath Israel
Beth Emeth
Beth Shalom
Beth Tikvah
B'nai Shalom North
B'nai Torah
Holy Blossom
Pride of Israel
Shaar Shalom
Shaarei Tefilah
Temple Emanu-El
Temple Sinai

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

May you continue to grow from strength to strength in light of your *mitzvot* and *gemelles chassadim*.

Set your radio dial...

For an informative, heart-warming and inspirational half hour, turn your radio dial to 94.3 FM (Faith FM) at 11:00 a.m., on Sunday, January 22nd 2006 when **Barry Shainbaum**, photographer and inspirational speaker will interview **Sandy Keshen** about Reena's 30-year history and her role in its rapid and widespread growth.

Readers of Kolreena will recognize Barry as Reena's photographer of choice for his sensitive and appealing portraits of our clients. He is also a sought after speaker and the author of : HOPE & HEROES: Portraits of Integrity & Inspiration.

Reena client receives prestigious award

by Nazanin Zandieh, Support Worker

On September 11, 2005, **Judy Teper** of 40 Elway Court received the Simon Elbaum Award in recognition of her achievements as a member of Kadima. The award was presented to Judy by the Sons of Jacob Shalom Lodge.

Judy's family, Elway staff and housemates were all present as she proudly accepted the award. It was a wonderful ceremony and to top it off, Rabbi Morrison of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue spoke in honour of Judy and blew the *shofar*.

Congratulations Judy on your accomplishment.



Rabbi Kelman (l) founder of Kadima and Rabbi Emeritus of Beth Emeth Synagogue and **Mark Elbaum** were on hand to present the award to **Judy Teper**.

Reena opens new home on Elm Ridge – Failure is a concept not a person!

by James Sejjengo, Resource Manager

As Reena embarks on another exciting project, the question of “why the change?” plays loud and clear among all players particularly those who are directly involved in a given project. Elm Ridge, Reena’s latest proactive project to respond to clients’ changing needs is no exception. Change causes anxieties and therefore can be viewed in many different ways including negative and positive ways. It sometimes however, appears handsomely handy to resist change citing all the possible negative things that may lead to failure. Quite often then, the person expected to benefit from a new change is believed to be headed for failure even before the change occurs!

In part however, Reena’s mission, philosophy and mandate suggest that individuals with a developmental disability can maximize their potential when accorded dignified, inclusive, sensitive, supportive and responsive environments. Elm

Ridge, which opened its doors to fourteen individuals with various developmental needs at the beginning of November, is poised to provide just that, as well as adding a favourable ambience to the community while responding to the long-term planning needs for these individuals as they traverse the somewhat complicated life cycle. The first few weeks at Elm Ridge have proved to clients, their families and staff that this was a well-conceived project which will go a long way in positively enhancing the lives of its residents. Change can therefore be positive even during times of uncertainty.

Ostensibly Elm Ridge is very spacious and consists of fourteen single elegant bedrooms grouped in quads around several semi-private kitchenettes, plenty of bathrooms, an elevator, a common living room, a common dining room and a number of small lounges to be enjoyed by the residents as they so wish. The home

is situated in a quiet residential area in close proximity to synagogues, TTC, churches, coffee houses, restaurants, stores, the Lawrence shopping mall and a library. To augment and facilitate conducive living environments, Fine Touch Catering caters main meals while opportunities for residents to prepare their favourite snacks exist for those wishing to do so.

Finally, I would be remiss not to acknowledge with thanks the efficient advance and post preparations that went into ensuring that the fourteen individuals’ packing, mailing address and or service changes/notifications and final moves to Elm Ridge were orderly and flawless amid challenges and competing priorities. These advance and post preparations are thankfully attributed to a team of diligent staff. Their excellent work ethics and belief in their clients’ potential abilities speak to and elevate Reena’s work within our communities.

David & Luba Smuschkowitz Reena ElderHome gets the green light

by Harold Seidel, Vice-Chair, Reena board

If you have ever been involved in building a home or business property, you will know that the planning process can be both lengthy and arduous! And if, during your permit application process, the city decides that your site must be re-zoned, the waiting time seems interminable. Such was our experience when we applied for permission to build Reena’s 2nd ElderHome on Weldrick Road.

Now, at last, we have received the permit to build and we can now go ahead with the project. The home will be known as the **David and Luba**

Smuschkowitz Reena ElderHome in recognition of their generous and ongoing support of the project. The Foundation has raised \$2.3 million to date towards the campaign target of \$2.5 million. The lot is on a lovely treed location adjacent to conservation land managed by the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority. As with the **Al and Faye Mintz** Reena ElderHome, it will be fully wheelchair accessible, and built to ensure the health and safety of the residents as their needs increase with age. The tender for construction closed on October 27th and sixteen

companies expressed an interest in the project. The contract was awarded to **DASD Contracting Inc.** as the lowest bidder. DASD has also constructed Reena’s 1st ElderHome as well as the Yetta Berg Family Home for Children with Autism. We have every confidence that the home will be built to the same high standards that Reena has come to expect. Architects for the project are **Pillon Architect Inc.**

Construction will commence in January and we look forward to welcoming the clients into their new home in the Fall of 2006.

Reena opens house on Northdale

by Rob Scott, Resource Supervisor

We spent the end of summer busily putting the finishing touches to Reena's house on Northdale Road in eager anticipation of five gentlemen coming from the institution in Huronia. They moved into their new home in late September and after just a few days, all the clients and staff were settling well into their new surroundings and routines.

One of the happy outcomes of the move is that many of the clients who previously would only see family infrequently have already had several visits because of their close proximity to Northdale. The feedback from the families has been extremely positive. They love the bright, comfortable new surroundings their family members are now enjoying.

The clients at Northdale have been



Brad Tapely (r), staff, helps Paul Drew blow out his birthday candles.

engaging in lots of community activities – the things we all take for granted – such as grocery shopping, trips to the mall and the Battle Centre and meeting neighbours. These initial steps may seem small to many but to those of us who have grown to know the clients realize that these steps are

immense given their background. In the coming months they will be taking larger and larger steps to fully integrate into the community at large. If the past five weeks is any indication, they have a wondrous journey ahead.

The success of the reopening of Northdale is a testament to the never-ending driving force of Reena to provide the best community based living that is available. Along with this motivation and the dedication and support of all those involved in the planning and execution of this project I want to offer my heart felt thanks! I must however send out special thanks to all the staff at Northdale. Through their dedication and caring they have truly made Northdale into a home for five special individuals. They have truly made a difference!

Dedication to de-institutionalization

by Sigrun Grosman, Supervisor at Northdale Road

It is an awesome responsibility to work in a group home. There are definitely times when it is challenging and you're liable to wonder if you are making any difference at all. If you have experienced this, you know it is a journey of self-discovery to be charged with the welfare of a disabled person. In few other jobs do you have to trust your judgment and values so often. We can all identify with experiences that made us feel we had reached the limit of our problem solving skills but we tend to forget to cherish the positives.

Settling into the community

It took just a few days for the five gentlemen to settle into their new home and begin to explore their neighbourhood. There are many parks

in the area where they have been able to enjoy outdoor activities, and, of course, shopping in the local supermarket is a great thrill.

Experiencing Reena's mandate

I am proud and somewhat in awe to be experiencing Reena's mandate in such a fundamentally positive way. We have all heard the stories of when Reena started, how many of our clients moved into the community from the institutions and how many lives were affected by the agency. But no story can convey the feeling of actually seeing it happen right before your eyes - it truly is magical!

What an honor and sheer pleasure it has been for me to take over the beautiful house and talented team at 74 Northdale Road. Every shift is filled with contagious enthusiasm to

re-define a new standard for a higher quality of life for each of our residents. Resources are shared among team members and there is eagerness, not to be better than your colleague, but to be the best worker you can be! It does not matter whose idea it was in the first place, if it is good, the team will run with it. The success of a shift is measured in the number of smiles and positive feedback one can elicit from the clients. Every day is full of new and exciting experiences, both for the residents and for the team. So far it seems the possibilities are endless. What fun it is to be a part of it all!

My thanks to Reena for giving me the opportunity of having this experience. My thanks to all my co-workers who set it up so nicely and to my team I say: "Keep that fire burning".

Fall programs off to a running start

by Tom Petersen, Activities Coordinator

This year the fall program has a few unique changes. The first change being that we now offer after school programs that run right through the week. In the past, there would be a kids group two days per week, and a teen group the other two days per week. Now both programs run Monday-Thursday. The other rather unique change is that we now offer a Sunday Friends program that is run out of the Miles Nadal J.C.C. which is located at Bloor and Spadina, (see below)

It is business as usual in the sense that our participants are again getting the opportunity to make new friends as well as enjoy all the exciting programming that Outreach offers. So far our participants have visited the Science Centre, enjoyed touring various community farms, taken in a puppet show, and braved the wilds of the Eaton Centre. (Okay it was not that wild, but still fun) The transition

from summer programming to the fall programs has been relatively smooth. This is due in large part to the Outreach staff. They are all extremely dedicated to our participants, and are always looking for new and exciting programming ideas. A special thanks again to senior staff **Leora Kaizer** and **Rudy Barell**, their hard work and

dedication ensure that our participants are getting as much as possible out the programs that we offer.

Reena's Outreach programs are fully funded by donations from the community. If you would like to help us continue to offer first class outreach programs please call the Foundation at 905-763-8254 ext. 3034.



Aaron Waldman (left) and Jenna Russo (2nd from right) enjoy the summer programs with the help of volunteers.

New outreach program at the Miles Nadal JCC

by Tom Petersen, Activities Coordinator

Residents in the downtown Toronto area have long been waiting for Reena to create programs for their special-needs family member close to home. The much anticipated Reena outreach program has now begun! Our Sunday Friends program takes place at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre located at Bloor and Spadina. This is a very exciting program not only because the J.C.C. has many resources at our disposal, but also because the downtown area is rich with programming possibilities.

Currently the program is made up of a children's group and a teen group. The facilitator for the program is none other than former Cottage Coordinator, **Rudy Barell**. Since the program began in September, the participants have already visited the ROM, explored Castle Loma, and cheered on our Toronto Raptors. As the year rolls on, I look forward to seeing this program continue to grow. Participants have the opportunity to make new friends as well as enjoy all the exciting activities that Outreach offers and their parents have

expressed their appreciation of the respite and relaxation they enjoy knowing that their children are in a safe and nurturing environment 'just around the corner.'

For information on Reena's Outreach program at the Miles Nadal J.C.C., please call me at (905) 889-2690 ext. 2116.

This expansion was made possible because of an extraordinary gift from The Ontario Grocery Industry Charitable Foundation. If you would like to support its continuation please call the Foundation at 905-763-8254 ext. 3034.

Long Term Care and Developmental Services: Working Together



by Ron W. Coristine, M.P.A., Project Manager

The Ontario Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities has found that collaboration between the sectors results in positive outcomes for people with developmental disabilities who are aging. However, the pattern of partnering varies across the province. Some areas are enjoying established working relationships. Others are exploring the potential for mutual support. In some quarters there is a continuing reluctance to partner.

This reluctance seems to be related to three factors. First, unwillingness to partner may be fuelled by an ideological position that views the other sector as serving people who

are devalued by society. Partnering is perceived as a move that will lead to further devaluation. The idea that older adults and people with developmental disabilities are devalued by society is not without some merit. However, the basic rationale behind human service agencies is to enhance the value of all human beings in society, not to give into uninformed prejudice. The logic of keeping the two sectors apart because of the devaluation issue is based on a sense of victimization rather than social development.

Second, some believe that people with developmental disabilities should be served only within the developmental services sector. This

belief is highly contradictory to the community living movement's professed philosophy of inclusion. Adherence to such thinking is a setback to several decades of opening society to people with developmental disabilities and ignores the rights of all Ontario seniors to access services they need.

Third, there is a fear that partnering will lead to re-institutionalization of people with developmental disabilities. This fear is understandable given the work to take people out of institutions where their lives were lived in separation from society. However, the vast majority of seniors benefit from appropriate support services such as day programs, foot care, meals on wheels, visiting programs and supportive seniors apartments. Less than 5% of people over the age of 65 move to a long term care home. The partnership seeks equitable access to all seniors' services.

Partnering allows for the free trade of knowledge about aging and developmental disabilities so all caregivers are equipped to support the transition of people with developmental disabilities to older adulthood. There will be no large influx of new funds and family caregivers are themselves aging. However, effective transition planning supports quality of life and allows people with developmental disabilities to grow older with grace. A reasoned approach to collaboration will ensure that people with developmental disabilities have access to the richness of programs and services available to all Ontario seniors.

Volunteering at Reena

by Arlene Margolese, Manager, Volunteer Services & Judaic Programming

Reena is very proud of the many wonderful volunteers who add to our success daily, and we are truly grateful for their generous gift of time, energy and enthusiasm. Our clients benefit both directly and indirectly from their help through the many programs listed below:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| ADMINISTRATION | - Assist in Reena's offices |
| DAY PROGRAM | - Volunteer at the Battle Centre Day Program |
| HOME-BUDDY | - Group Home Volunteer |
| FAMILY FRIENDS | - Share Holidays and Family Festivities |
| GIFT SHOP | - Assist in the Running of the Reena Gift Shop |
| OUTREACH | - Assist in a variety of afternoon, Evening and Sunday Programs for Children, Teens and Adults |
| PALUNTEER | - Direct Service Volunteer |
| SPECIAL EVENTS | - Assist in Planning and Implementing Fundraising Events |
| SUMMER/WINTER/MARCH BREAK | - Help with Day Camp Programs |

Although volunteers are always needed in the above-mentioned programs, currently there is a greater need for volunteers in the following areas:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| ADMINISTRATION: | Administrative volunteer with office skills |
| VOLREENA EDITOR: | To edit the volunteer newsletter |
| SUNDAY FRIENDS CLUB: | Recreational volunteer Sunday afternoons at the Miles Nadel JCC |

Please call (905) 889-2690 ext. 2111 if you can become one of Reena's special volunteers.

Report from the Reena Foundation

by Murray Klein, Chair



Every time I speak to a parent whose child attends one of Reena's respite programs for children with a developmental disability, I am more convinced at how important our fund raising endeavours really are. Every time a

parent refers to these programs as "life-lines", I know we cannot let up for one moment in our campaign efforts.

Whether it's the After School Cool Club, the Sunday Friends Program or any one of the other nine programs that Reena runs, the feedback is always the same – families desperately need the respite and their children thrive on the environment and the special care given by Reena professionals.

This year our goal is to raise \$350,000 to fund these respite programs. The programs served over 650 children in 2004 and the numbers are up again this year. Unfortunately, there remains a waiting list for each of our respite programs.

To date the government has not seen respite as a priority and

provides no funding for Reena's respite programs. If not for the generous support of our donors, there would be no help for these families who depend on Reena. If not for Reena these families could end up in crisis.

That's why it is so important that when you receive your mailing or your telephone call from Reena asking for your support, you give as generously as you can. Your donation goes directly into the care and development of children with a special need who are living at home.

If you would like a copy of our annual report on Reena's respite programs, call our office at 905-763-8254 ext 3034. While you are at it why not make an extra special donation in support of these programs, or perhaps even consider opening your own family endowment fund.

Chairman's Circle Donations

by Gary E. Sim, President, Reena Foundation

We welcome the following donors to the Chairman's Circle of Donors over the past quarter. Thank you to **Michael and Libby Gold** and for their very generous support of the new David and Luba Smuschkowitz ElderHome. **Gordon and Ruth Berger, ScotiaBank** and **The RBC Foundation** also

supported this important project at the leadership level. **Syd and Florence Cooper, Frank and Elfriede Stronach** and **Barrday Inc.** each provided leadership level donations to the Magna Dinner event. We also thank **Leon and Fran Kieselstein** and **Marshall and Rosalie Gottlieb** for their leadership level support of their

endowment funds. **The Ontario Grocery Industry Charitable Foundation** underwrote the first year cost of running the new Sunday Friends Program at the Miles Nadal JCC with a generous leadership gift. We thank them all for their extraordinary gifts.

Foundation welcomes a new member to the board

The Reena Foundation is proud to announce that **Judy Nathan Bronfman** has joined our Board of Directors. Ms. Bronfman has been actively involved in both business and philanthropic endeavors for over 25 years. As a graduate of McGill University she holds an honors degree in Commerce and English.

In 1980, Ms. Bronfman began her career at Vickers and Benson

Advertising Agency. She currently works in real estate with Paul Slavens Real Estate, a career that she began in the early 1980's. In addition she is Vice President for Comweb Corporation, a company involved in motion picture and television production.

Ms. Bronfman is a past board member with Israel Bonds, and Chairperson of Canadian Friends of The Hebrew University New

Leadership Division. Presently, she is involved with United Jewish Appeal Atara Division, was a founding member of The Lion of Judah Endowment, is a member of Board of Governors of Mount Sinai Hospital and recently co-chaired a major film fundraising presentation for The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal. Currently, she is the Executive Director of the Judy and Paul Bronfman Charitable Foundation.

Endowment Funds – Securing Reena’s Future

Establishing a family endowment fund is a wonderful way of creating your own legacy at Reena and a wonderful way of encouraging future generations to follow in your philanthropic footsteps. The whole family can donate to your fund and watch it grow over the years and generations. To find out how you can create your own fund, call Gary Sim at the Foundation, (905) 763-8254, extension 3029.

There are a number of areas you can support. Funds can begin as Developing Funds, and once they accumulate \$5,000 they become Granting Funds.

Education Funds

Binder-Peckman Fund
 Jolene and Morris Carrady Fund*
 Lipa Fleising Fund
 Kenny Freeman Fund
 Pearl Goldstein Cont. Fund
 Rose & Max Goldenberg Fund
 Trevor Rosenberg Fund

Norman & Fay Bacher Fund
 Morris & Beverly Baker Fund
 Barrington Family Fund
 Michael and Tillie Blidner Fund
 Catalano Family Fund
 Paul Cantlie Fund
 Ted B. Chester Family Fund
 Roslyn & Norman Climans Fund
 Laura Cohen Fund*

Morris Henechowitz Fund
 Angela Iannuzziello Fund
 Kekes Family Fund
 Kiestelstein Family Fund
 Helen Levin Fund
 Donald Lipman Fund
 Rose and Manny Lipman Fund
 Liss Family Fund
 Joshua, Zachary & Catherine

Jon Sherkin Fund
 Frank & Elaine Simkevitz Family Fund
 Jordan & Sandi Soll & Family Fund
 Judy Teper Fund
 Helen Unger Fund
 Morris & Fay Vanek Fund
 Weizenberg Family Fund
 Whyne / Karp Family Fund*
 Wilson Family Fund

Quality of Life Funds

Mayda & Max Beck Fund*
 David Esplin Fund
 Harry Edelstein Fund
 Martin Goodman Fund
 Jenny Hammond Fund
 Jesion Family Fund
 David Kelman Memorial Fund
 Weisman Family Fund

Durigon Family Fund
 Eiley Family Fund
 Alex, Olga and Marvin Eisen Fund*
 Epelbaum Family Fund
 Ethel & Hirsch Erdle Fund
 Rebecca Farb Fund
 Alex Flomen Memorial Fund
 Sybil Goldberg Fund
 Stevie Gottlieb Fund
 Bernice Guziker Fund
 Diane Harris Fund
 Hanigsberg/Sossin Fund

Machado Fund
 Mayers Family Fund
 Morrison Family Fund
 David J. Nizic Fund
 Peake Family Fund
 Rayman Family Fund
 John and Fanni Rev Fund
 Ed Richmond Fund
 Ross Family Fund
 Stu & Fay Rotman Fund
 Fred Samuels Fund
 Schwartz Family Fund

Special Purpose Funds

Fern Aronoff Fund
 E.B. Esplin Fund
 Aaron Murray Keshen Music Fund
 Michaels Family Fund
 Bert and Marilyn Raphael
 Advocacy Fund
 Reena General Fund
 Irving and Sylvia Ungerman Fund
 The Occupational Therapy Fund

Respite and Enrichment Funds

Les Agasee Fund
 Bacal Family Fund

* New Fund

Endowment Campaign Surpasses Goal

by Fay Rotman, Chair – Annual Endowment Campaign

When we set our goals back in April 2005, we could not have imagined the phenomenal response we would have from the Reena family; **91% of our new endowment fund goal has been achieved!**

We set a reasonable goal for the number of new funds established over the fiscal year at one new endowment fund per month. I am extremely pleased to report that after just eight months, 11 new funds have been established. This is amazing and

beyond all our expectations! At the time of my report Reena Foundation now has 72 endowment funds.

Already reached 123% of fund raising goal!

The news is even better on fund raising. We targeted to raise \$90,000 by March 31, 2006. To date, we have raised \$111,000 and are still going strong. Over 72% of endowment funds have been active this year (someone has made a donation to their fund). While we would like this

number to be 100%, it is important that families continue to grow their fund through donations so that more and more can be achieved in the future.

Heading into the final months of the fiscal year we will be going all out to establish more funds and have all endowment fund holders contributing to their funds. I believe that a strong endowment fund program is extremely important to a strong Reena for future generations.

A Magna-fificent Time!

On October 22, eighty friends of Reena gathered at the exclusive Magna Golf Club for an amazing evening of dining, socializing and entertainment. Guests paid \$2500 per person to experience first hand the exquisite dining



(l to r) Florence and Syd Cooper, Minister Sandra Papatello and Carolynn Morrison, Chair of the Reena board who presented a framed collage of photos taken during the Outreach Summer programs to the Coopers.

facilities and the soothing voice of Irish tenor **John McDermott**. Of course, the main reason they were there was to assist Reena's respite programs. More than \$130,000 was raised as a result of this evening.

The evening is held annually in tribute to two giants of industry, philanthropy and horseracing. **Syd Cooper** and **Frank Stronach** are also the primary benefactors of the evening. Between these two gentlemen, everything from food to entertainment was donated. Every cent raised this evening went straight to the benefit of kids with developmental disabilities. This year ten percent of the funds raised were also donated to an organization in New Orleans that cares for children with developmental disabilities in tribute to the well known efforts by

Frank Stronach to aid in the post hurricane relief efforts.

A special guest at the event was **The Hon. Sandra Papatello, MPP**, Minister of Community and Social Services.

We thank **Tobie Bekhor** and **Lorne Weiss** for chairing the event as well as their entire committee who put so much work into ensuring that not a single detail was overlooked.



(l to r) Syd Cooper, John McDermott and Frank Stronach smile for the camera!

Hand in Hand

by Stephen J. Adler, Senior Development Officer

Kathy Laszlo is an energetic fundraiser and a passionate parent. When Kathy, whose son Danny is a participant in Reena's After School Program, learned that there were children on a waiting list for this important program she decided to take action.

Kathy and her collection of volunteers decided that an evening of entertainment featuring children helping children would be the ideal way to raise the necessary funds to expand the programs. Their target is to sell out the concert and raise \$10,000 to help provide the program four days per week.

Please read her letter:

My son, Danny is fortunate enough to be part of the "Reena Family". After school the bus takes him to the Reena Foundation where he meets his friends. They are all very special. Some of them, because they have a special need, the others, because they dedicate 4 hours of their afternoon to be the kind of friends Danny and the others need. These are teenagers from high schools and universities and they do lots of fun things together. They go bowling and swimming, to the movies and hang out in the mall like any other teenager would do. The program is called "After School Club". After a successful session the program was cut back to two days a week only, due to lack of funds. The parents cover some of the cost and the rest is raised through fund raising. Reena doesn't get government

funding for that social program.

I realized that one way to get help reduce the waiting list and bring more children into the program is if we parents would start fundraising. I always wanted to do a benefit concert, so I asked a few very dedicated friends to help me. The plans are great, the people are amazing, the parents are enthusiastic, but we will need more help. We need help to find items for the silent auction, to advertise in the event journal, to be a volunteer at the concert and of course to buy tickets. I believe that together as a community we can make miracles happen!

For more info or to donate to this program please call the Reena Foundation donation hotline at 905-763-8254 ext. 3034.

Ring ... Ring...

by Stephen J. Adler, Senior Development Officer

The Reena Foundation held its annual Fall Phone-a-Thon from November 7 – 10 in the Michaels Family Wellness Centre at the Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre and on November 13th at the offices of Datacom Marketing. All proceeds from the week-long event are directed to Reena's fall/winter respite and enrichment programs.

We thank our many volunteers and board members who took the time to come out and help us raise in excess of \$40,000 to help ensure the continued availability of Reena's respite and enrichment programs to the families who need it the most

As we head into the winter months, the demand for two of these programs, Reena's important After School Cool Club and Winter Break programs has grown dramatically. That is why we are raising funds now. Our waiting list is long and new spaces need to be created immediately. These programs allow elementary school aged children, from age seven and up, to learn important life skills that will help them reach their potential.

If you missed our call or would like to contribute to this campaign please call the Foundation office at (905) 763-8254 ext. 3034.

A special thank you to our Annual

Campaign Chair **Frank A. Wilson** and volunteer committee members **Elaine Ross, Mona Sherkin, Tom Ungar** and our Telethon Chair **Robert Ziner**.



Phone-a-thon committee members (l.to r.) Herb Greenwood, Dr. George Cantlie, Wilf Teper, Robert Ziner, Seymour Schwartz, Jennifer Jackson, Brendan Rayman, Jeff Rayman, Tom Ungar and Gary Sim.



Manning the 'phones at the Phone-a-thon are (l. to r.) Robyn Deverett, Shauna Lichtblau, Elana Teitelbaum, Ziv Tzimerman, Ilana Tobe and Zachary Cohen.

Lord of the Rings

by Stephen J. Adler, Senior Development Officer

Going ... Going ... almost gone! With Chanukah just around the corner what could be better than to give someone special a gift to attend the world theatrical premiere of *Lord of the Rings* musical. But you had better hurry to make your reservations because Reena's tickets for the show are over 85% sold.

Tickets are \$270 each and include

the show, a VIP reception courtesy of our gold sponsor **Bank of Montreal**, a gift bag featuring gifts from **Apollo Health and Beauty Care, Bank of Montreal, GANZ Brothers** and **Warner Music** and of course a generous tax receipt.

How better to show your family and friends that you care than by sending them to see middle earth

courtesy of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic novel? Don't miss the chance to be amongst the first to see Tony Award winning actor Brent Carver as Gandolf February 8th, 2006.

To order your tickets please call Carla at (905) 763-8254 x3034 or visit www.reena.org to purchase your tickets online.

New Leadership

by Stephen J. Adler, Senior Development Officer

A Royal Flush will again be what guests strive for at Not Just Another Saturday Night on March 18, 2006 at the prestigious Canoe restaurant and bar. The evening will feature Reena's 2nd Annual Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament.

This high profile party attracts over 400 professionals and entrepreneurs between the ages of 25 – 50. Proceeds raised from the event will benefit Reena's respite programs.

A special thank you to our media sponsors the **National Post** and **DOSE** along with patron sponsors

McCarthy Tétrault, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts and The Rose Corporation for their support.

For more information on the event call the Foundation Office at 905-763-8254 ext. 3034.

Respite momentum building

by Seymour Schwartz, Chair, Annual Respite Campaign

This is the first year of our Annual Respite Campaign. This campaign's target is to raise all the funds required to operate Reena's twelve respite programs for one full year. This year's target is \$350,000!!

We have attracted a wonderful committee of fund-raisers who are working diligently to attract donors. Our efforts range from direct solicitations of companies, foundations and friends to running special events.

To date we have raised \$71,000 towards the goal but we are picking up momentum as we head into the end of the calendar year. Our fund raising efforts will extend to the end of our fiscal year March 31st, in line with the timing of our respite programs.

I would like to thank committee members, **Howard and Heddy Borden, Steven Stein, Mona Sherkin, Ruth Berger, Marshall Gottlieb, Kathy Laszlo, Richard Lewin, Jeff Rayman, George Krieser, Shari**

Krieser, and Julia Hanigsberg for their participation in this campaign. If you would like to join our efforts or learn more about how you can help, please call the office at 905-763-8254 ext 3034.

I would also like to thank the following donors who have made very significant gifts to the campaign: **The Ontario Grocery Industry Charitable Foundation** who fully underwrote the cost of the expansion of the Sunday Friends Club to the Miles Nadal JCC.

A Toast!

by Stephen J. Adler, Senior Development Officer

More than 60 people gathered at Reena's Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre on September 28 to celebrate the success of Reena's Endowment Program. Launched less than three years ago, over 70 families have now established endowment funds.

Guests were treated to a cocktail reception including an ice vodka martini lounge. The evening was co-sponsored by **Iceberg Vodka** and **HealthSource Plus**.

Fay Rotman, Chair of the Endowment Campaign for 2005

hosted the event and along with **Murray Klein**, Chair of the Reena Foundation presented plaques to those families whose fund had reached full granting status. Funds are started oftentimes as Development Funds. Once a fund reaches the \$5,000 level they become full Granting Funds.

Carolynn Morrison, Chair of the Reena board, addressed the group, informing attendees of the important work that endowment funds help achieve, including supporting respite

and enrichment programs, educational programs and other quality of life pursuits.



Henry and Burtha Liss receive their plaque from Murray Klein, Chair, Reena Foundation.

Thank you to our donors

The Donor recognition List below reflects cumulative gifts of \$36 or more received between August 16, 2005 to November 15, 2005. We thank all donors for their generous contributions including those requesting anonymity. Our Honorial and Memorial card program at Reena Foundation continues. What better way to say *mazal tov* or convey condolences than with a contribution to Reena Foundation? Cards are available from \$10 each. If you wish to make a donation, please call Reena Foundation at (905) 763-8254, ext. 3034. We apologize for any errors or omissions. To help us correct our records, please call the Foundation office, at the number above.

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Launch of www.reenafoundation.org

FEBRUARY 8, 2006

Lord of the Rings @ Princess of Wales Theatre

MARCH 18, 2006

Not Just Another Saturday Night & Texas Hold'em Tournament
Canoe Restaurant and Bar

MARCH 22, 2006

Hand in Hand concert
Leah Posluns Theatre

A concert by children for Reena's children



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