

2021 Impact Report

# Opening Doors





“

I want to  
make an  
impact.”

Whether we are talking to potential grantees, interviewing candidates to join our team, or chatting with fellow donors, we hear every day about the desire to make an impact.

Teachers, students, composers, authors, architects, scientists, parents and philanthropists all hope their efforts will improve lives and communities.

From our most vulnerable to our most exceptional, we all have a contribution to make. For potential to flourish, however, it needs opportunity, guidance, an empathetic hand and a courageous heart.

The Azrieli Foundation is Canada's largest non-corporate foundation. We connect and nurture potential, wherever it exists, with the resources and the wisdom it needs to open the doors to a better world, one individual at a time.

These are some of the stories of how the Azrieli Foundation and the people and organizations we support are making an impact in the world.

Sometimes our impact is immediate, as was the case with our innovative COVID relief funding: for example, our Music, Arts and Culture Restart initiative turned around 45 grants in 45 days, providing a lifeline to shell-shocked organizations. In many instances, we were the first funder to reach out to grantees. We reassured them that we understood the challenges they were facing, and we took a flexible approach to use of funds during the crisis.



Sometimes our investments in programs don't bear fruit immediately, as we see with some of our grantees who address barriers to school perseverance and early-childhood education.

Sometimes the work of our grantees shifts paradigms, making it possible for change to occur—for example, influencing policy to improve the lives of neurodiverse adults or enabling high-risk, high-reward research.

Even when our grants don't have their anticipated outcome—for instance, when a scientific research project doesn't produce the expected results—there is an impact. Every initiative provides a chance to learn and then apply the lessons in the future.

We believe that active and engaged listening is one of the keys to having impact. To make lives better, more productive and more meaningful, we listen closely to the needs of the community, and we respond with open-mindedness and agility.

We make an impact both through and with our many grantees and partners. Together, we nurture networks, helping people and communities discover their strengths and maximize their potential by connecting them to resources, expertise and education.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Naomi Azrieli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

**Naomi Azrieli, DPhil**  
Chair and CEO, The Azrieli Foundation

## IMPACTING SCHOOL PERSEVERANCE

# Education is the greatest accelerator of success.



This is all thanks to the generosity of your Foundation, which supports people who were former Crown wards. Your gift has sparked a dream within me. One day, I will donate money into the scholarship fund to aid other children who are like me.”

— KA PAN, RECIPIENT OF A CHILDREN'S AID FOUNDATION OF CANADA SCHOLARSHIP



Experiential learning at Youth Fusion. Photo courtesy of Youth Fusion

Like the Azrieli Foundation, **THE DARCA SCHOOLS NETWORK** understands that education is critically important in creating a society with equal opportunities for all. For the past decade, Darca has supported schools in Israel's periphery, helping to transform them into high-quality institutions of education. In one community, eligibility for matriculation at the local high school jumped from 13 per cent to 60 per cent after a few years of partnership with Darca. Currently serving more than 24,000 students across 43 schools, the organization has been integral to the development of diverse communities across the country.

This impressive record of success is the reason why the Azrieli Foundation selected Darca to operate **THE AZRIELI EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM** and continue its nearly 20-year legacy. We share values, goals and the resources to effect real change, and our relationship is significantly reducing school dropout and empowering Israel's socio-economic periphery.

In Canada, the Azrieli Foundation supports several initiatives focused on creating more opportunities for educational success.

**YOUTH FUSION** pairs both industry professionals and university students with schools that have high dropout rates, with the goal of bringing experiential learning opportunities into classrooms to stoke students' intellectual curiosity. With in-class and after-school programs featuring 13 different fields—including robotics, fashion design and film production—Youth Fusion helps students to develop new skills, discover their passions and persevere in their education. Since the Foundation started funding Youth Fusion in 2015, over 18,000 students have participated in programs in over 300 schools across Canada.

**TEACH FOR CANADA** is a non-profit organization that works with northern First Nations to recruit, prepare and support committed teachers. Too often, teachers arrive in the north without the preparation and support they need to succeed—and stay—in the classroom. The twin challenges of teacher supply and high turnover compound historical injustices and systemic inequities to produce an education gap between First Nations and non-First Nations communities. In an effort to begin closing this gap, Teach For Canada has partnered with 21 northern First Nations in Ontario and Manitoba.

The organization currently assists 120 educators working with over 2,400 students. It provides meaningful personal and professional supports, including its Indigenous-led Summer Enrichment Program, held in the weeks leading up to the teachers' time in the north. Teach For Canada's impact is substantial: schools have seen a 35 per cent increase in attendance, and 90 per cent of the educators complete their two-year commitment. Teach For Canada has proven that bridging the education gap requires collaboration, a culturally responsive approach and an open heart.

**PATHWAYS TO EDUCATION**, launched in Toronto's Regent Park neighbourhood in 2001, focuses on lowering high school dropout rates by helping young people in low-income neighbourhoods to overcome barriers to graduation.

Pathways to Education is now active in 26 communities across Canada, with 5,562 students participating in 2020. The program's impact is impressive: in 2020, graduation rates where Pathways operates increased by 85 per cent on average. Furthermore, over 73 per cent of students who graduated from high school while in the program went on to pursue post-secondary education or training.

Obstacles abound between children in Canada's child welfare system and their educational dreams. **THE CHILDREN'S AID FOUNDATION OF CANADA** attempts to fill gaps between what is provided for these young people and what they need to create a bold vision of personal success. In addition to scholarships for youth pursuing higher education, the organization—which has been operating for over 40 years—offers mental health and employment support.

Our support to the Children's Aid Foundation creates 10 scholarships and seven bursaries every year, helping 51 youth go from surviving to thriving.



Students Mohamed, Kelvin and Sindy at Pathways to Education. Photo: Bob Hatcher



## IMPACTING THE EARLY YEARS

# Working towards a more equal world through education

Early-childhood wellness is key in the pursuit of community autonomy and engagement. This not only includes early-childhood education, but also language development, school readiness and maternal health, all of which are promoted in Indigenous communities across Canada by **THE MARTIN FAMILY INITIATIVE**.

The Initiative, led by the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin, former prime minister of Canada, includes a two-part Early Years program. First, a home-based program pairs new mothers with community members who provide mentorship and support. The second phase aligns existing early-childhood education services in the community with the Early Years programming, ensuring that support continues until a child enters school at age four.

Community autonomy is of the utmost importance: Indigenous communities are involved in both developing and implementing the program, ensuring that it is culturally sensitive and that it meets the needs of the people who request it.

Managing programs on the scale of Teach For Canada and The Martin Family Initiative requires flexibility. The Azrieli Foundation is honoured to help these excellent programs support Canada's Indigenous communities, and we're proud to continue working towards a more equal world through education.



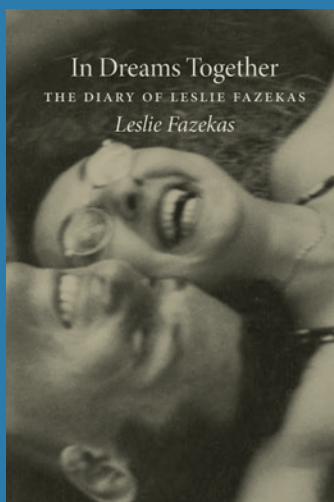
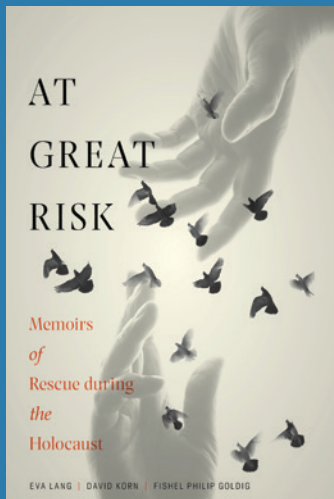




A family in the Early Years program. Photo: Louise Johns

# The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program

First-person accounts allow readers to grasp the enormity of what happened—one story at a time.



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In telling these stories, the writers have liberated themselves. Now, when at last we are writing about what happened to us in this dark period of history, knowing that our stories will be read and live on allows us to feel truly free.”

— DAVID J. AZRIELI, Z”L, C.M., C.Q., M.A.R.C.H.

## Publishing

The Azrieli Foundation established the **HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR MEMOIRS PROGRAM** in 2005 to collect, preserve and share the memoirs and diaries written by survivors of the Holocaust who came to Canada. To date, the program has published the stories of 120 Canadian Holocaust survivors. These memoirs—published in both English and French—are distributed free of charge to educational institutions across Canada, and they are available for purchase online.

The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program gives life to stories. These powerful and diverse first-person accounts provide glimpses into lives and histories that would otherwise be lost.

Books published by the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program: *At Great Risk*, an anthology by Eva Lang, David Korn and Fishel Philip Goldig, and *In Dreams Together* by Leslie Fazekas



## Educating

The Azrieli Foundation believes in the importance of Holocaust education. The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program staff works in communities from coast to coast to coast, and with organizations and partners that are dedicated to teaching about this watershed event in human history. The Foundation brings the voices of Holocaust survivors to classrooms, connecting educators and students to the first-hand accounts of those who immigrated to Canada.

Committed to expanding our collective knowledge of all that was lost, and to sharing the experiences of those who survived the Holocaust, the Azrieli Foundation strives to cultivate a better understanding of the enormity of this tragedy.

The memoirs have a powerful emotional and intellectual impact on students. The narratives portray people in the fullness of their lives, adding individual voices to a collective experience and helping students make meaning out of the statistics. When studied in their broader historical context, survivor memoirs deepen students' understanding of the Holocaust.

The program trains teachers in how to use the free educational materials and resources produced by the Azrieli Foundation: memoirs, lesson plans, short films and an innovative digital resource, *Re:Collection*.

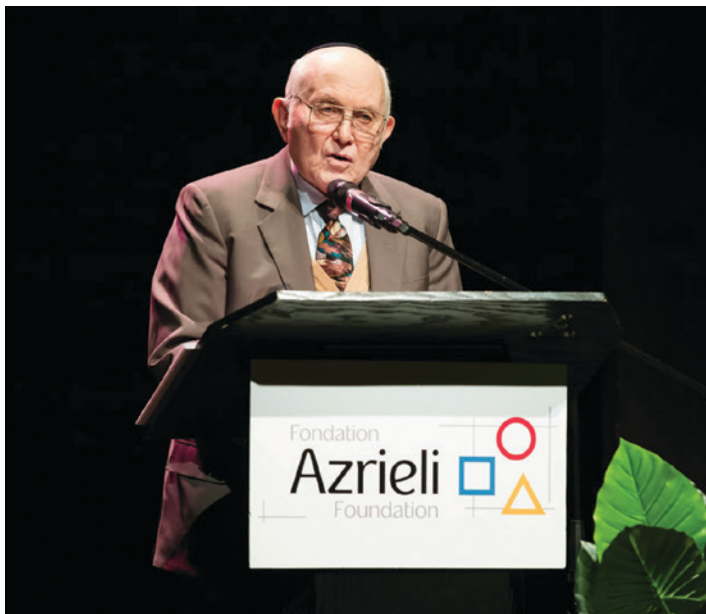
The educational mission of the program extends beyond secondary schools to universities, where the memoirs have found a place in curricula. Books such as *Buried Words: The Diary of Molly Applebaum* have inspired the creation of an academic conference in Toronto and a workshop in Montreal. They were also the subject of papers delivered at conferences in France and California, as well as a special issue of *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History*. Scholars find new paths of research as they engage with the program's memoirs and resources.

## Expertise

The Azrieli Foundation is represented on the Canadian delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) by the Director of the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program, Jody Spiegel. As a Canadian voice in IHRA's Education Working Group, she collaborates and engages with other experts on a transnational level to create best practices in Holocaust education and pedagogy worldwide. Jody will chair the working group beginning in 2022.



Holocaust survivors and authors John Freund and Alex Levin sign their memoirs.  
Photo: Riddle Films



Holocaust survivor and author Pinchas Gutter speaks at the launch of his book.  
Photo: Eric Benchimol



## IMPACTING EARLY CAREERS

# Supporting researchers at the most critical moment in their careers

Early-career researchers are caught in a conundrum. As they start to seek independent funding, they are asked to present evidence of past success. However, because they are new researchers, they don't have a track record to prove themselves. Additionally, their approaches to research and collaboration often fall outside traditional models, which may make it difficult to convince traditional funders to invest in their work. These early-career researchers need someone to champion them, regardless of their age, experience and innovative paradigms.

The Azrieli Foundation believes in this “high-risk, high-reward” endeavour.

The **CIFAR AZRIELI GLOBAL SCHOLARS** program supports exceptional early-career researchers who have the potential to become the research leaders of tomorrow. It is hosted by CIFAR—the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research—which includes more than 400 researchers from 161 institutions in 18 countries. CIFAR fellows, chairs, scholars and advisors are among the most-cited researchers in the world, and CIFAR-affiliated researchers have won 20 Nobel Prizes.

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars receive both generous funding and mentorship, which helps them build a network and develop essential professional skills. For two years, the Scholars join CIFAR research programs, where they collaborate with research fellows and get inspiration for new ways to approach the most important questions facing science and humanity. After their term as a Global Scholar ends, many Scholars stay connected to the CIFAR community.

Dr. Rebecca Shapiro, who received the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholarship in 2021–22 as part of the CIFAR program *Fungal Kingdom: Threats & Opportunities*, explains the value of the recognition: “Being part of the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program is an unparalleled opportunity for my research at this stage in my career. I have the opportunity to connect with top leaders in my own field through the greater CIFAR program, but also with a truly exceptional and diverse group of early-career CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars. Given the immense diversity in research interests amongst the Global Scholars—from physical to biological to social sciences—I anticipate exciting opportunities for interdisciplinary research and cross-pollination of ideas.”





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I anticipate exciting opportunities for interdisciplinary research and cross-pollination of ideas.”

— DR. REBECCA SHAPIRO

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar Dr. Rebecca Shapiro at the University of Guelph. Photo: Karen K. Tran



Brain Canada plays a unique and invaluable role as the national convenor of the community of people who support and advance brain research.

The Azrieli Foundation is proud to support the **FUTURE LEADERS IN CANADIAN BRAIN RESEARCH PROGRAM** at Brain Canada. This program provides key support to early-career investigators to develop new lines of research on the fundamental properties and mechanisms of the brain and nervous system, to gather preliminary data and to launch careers on a trajectory for long-term scientific success.

“I did not have any proof of principle that my research could work, which means that other agencies wouldn’t fund it, because I first needed to prove that it was successful. Early-career investigators don’t always have the means to generate the data that we need to get funding, so it’s a vicious cycle.”

**Dr. Janelle Drouin-Ouellet**

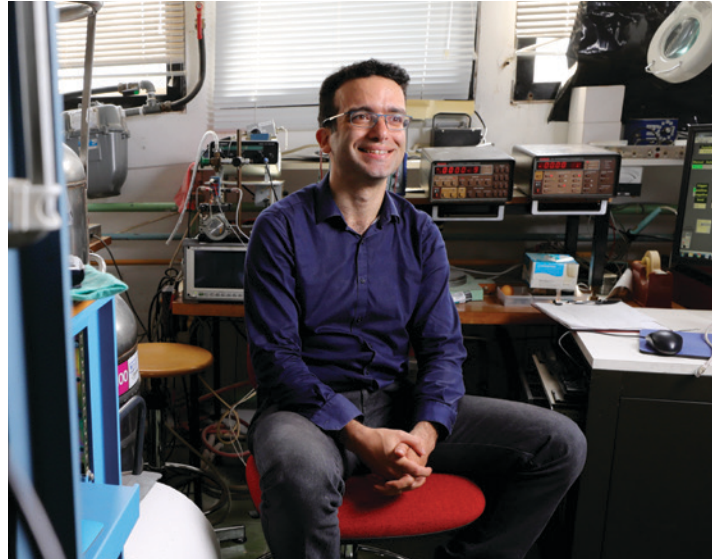
University of Montreal, Azrieli Future Leader in Canadian Brain Research (2019)

“We had this amazing idea to study the effects of cannabis on fetal development. It is a high-risk project, and it’s a project that anywhere else I would have difficulty getting off the ground. But what this funding allows me to do is to actually launch the research inquiry, and it will also almost certainly allow me to build this out into a career-long investigation of these drugs and how they work.”

**Dr. Robert Laprairie**

University of Saskatchewan, Azrieli Future Leader in Canadian Brain Research (2019)

# Igniting the brightest minds



**THE AZRIELI FELLOWS PROGRAM** invests in a network of outstanding researchers who are on the path to becoming the next generation of academic leaders. By generously funding young researchers at Israel's leading academic institutions, the Azrieli Fellows Program promotes cutting-edge scientific and scholarly innovation for the betterment of society. Azrieli Fellows

are enriched by interdisciplinary and cross-cultural exchange, mentorship, leadership training and community engagement through program-sponsored activities. The fellowships assist scholars in reaching their potential for groundbreaking research and in strengthening academic links between the Israeli and international research communities.

Through the collective efforts of the Azrieli Fellows, the Azrieli Foundation helps to preserve the outstanding accomplishments of the past, understand the world we live in and provide tools to imagine the future.

Fellows (clockwise from top left): Deborah Marciano, Yonathan Anahory, Edna Langenthal and Liran Ben-Moshe. Photos: Ziv Koren









## IMPACTING THE ARTS

“

Beyond the substantial financial support and the increased visibility, this prize clearly confirms that I am heading in the right direction, and that my voice as a composer has been heard by and has touched people I admire.”

— KEIKO DEVAUX, LAUREATE, AZRIELI MUSIC PRIZES (2020)

The Azrieli Foundation opens doors for talented people at critical stages of their careers in many areas: science, music and architecture, to name just a few.

In 2014, the Azrieli Foundation launched the **AZRIELI MUSIC PRIZES** (AMP), a biennial international competition that celebrates excellence in music composition, specifically in Jewish and Canadian music. AMP laureates receive a substantial prize package, including generous funding, three guaranteed performances—beginning with a gala premiere in Montreal—and a professional recording released by Analekta, Canada’s largest classical music label. Altogether, they position AMP as the top competition of its kind in Canada and one of the most impressive in the world.

The 2020 AMP Gala Concert, featuring compositions by laureates Keiko Devaux, Yotam Haber and Yitzhak Yedid, reached nearly 10,000 viewers in 77 countries thanks to a partnership with medici.tv, the world’s leading classical music channel. As a result, we’ve received a record number of applications for the 2022 competition, from composers in 15 countries.

Musicians around the world will continue to perform the winning compositions, in part due to the Azrieli Foundation’s AMP Performance Fund, with international concerts planned for Tel Aviv; Jerusalem; Portland, Oregon; and New York City.



# Feeding those in need while fighting food waste

**LEKET ISRAEL** has an unusual solution for food insecurity: it rescues surplus healthy food that would otherwise go to landfill and redirects it to people in need throughout the country. This approach addresses environmental, socio-economic and nutritional issues all at once.





Before the pandemic, Leket (which is Hebrew for “gleaning”) collected excess prepared food from hotels and catering halls, and extra produce from farmers. Drivers delivered the food to non-profit organizations, which in turn distributed it to those in need.

In March 2020, Leket’s non-profit partners were forced to close their doors. Hotels and catering companies were not operating, so they had little food to donate. Meanwhile, farmers lost much of their business, leaving a surplus of produce in the fields.

Across Israel, the need for food rose. Many families found themselves living below the poverty line for the first time. The elderly—now isolated and unable to pick up food at community agencies—were in desperate straits.

Leket made two critical changes: it harvested more produce from the farmers, and it delivered the food directly to people’s homes. The result: in 2020, Leket provided food to almost 250,000 people every week. In the first three months of 2021, the Leket team rescued and delivered over 13.2 million pounds of fresh produce.

Leket relies on thousands of volunteers throughout the country, which keeps its costs down. At the same time, its supporters learn about food security and food waste.

In a year filled with dark clouds, Leket found a silver lining.

Leket volunteers collect produce for donation.  
Photo courtesy of Leket





# The Azrieli Foundation provides opportunities for neurodiverse individuals to live to their fullest potential.



These opportunities include all aspects of independent living: suitable housing, jobs, transportation and specific life skills. In **JDC ISRAEL UNLIMITED**, the Azrieli Foundation found a perfect partner to operate an array of independent-living and inclusion programs throughout the country for adults with physical, cognitive, psychiatric and/or developmental disabilities.

JDC Israel Unlimited implements multiple Azrieli Foundation programs. The *Supported Housing* program trains participants in life skills like cooking, housekeeping and budgeting. Once they've settled into their new homes, the program provides ongoing support services such as mentoring and social activities.

Barriers to education abound for those with disabilities. The *To Be a Student* program breaks down those barriers, assisting students who want to pursue higher education by providing support and the skills to succeed. Participants have a reduced course load. They receive mentoring on how to adapt to new courses, new physical spaces and the stress of assignments and exams, and they learn about social norms. Students are also taught to advocate for themselves, gaining the skills and confidence to educate their professors and fellow students on how to become more inclusive.

Access to transportation can open the door to education and independent living. The *Riding to Independence* program helps individuals in Israel's southern region learn to navigate public transportation systems. This program literally takes participants to activities that otherwise would remain out of reach.



A JDC Israel Unlimited coach with a participant in the Supported Housing Program (top) and JDC participants at a wheelchair basketball game. Photos courtesy of JDC Israel Unlimited

With science  
and health  
care, it's often  
the long game  
that matters.

The Azrieli Foundation understands that providing multi-year commitments to grantees helps them make long-term plans. This is what's possible with bold and sustained funding:

## The Azrieli Centre for Autism Research

The **AZRIELI CENTRE FOR AUTISM RESEARCH** (ACAR) at The Neuro in Montreal was launched in 2017 with a transformational donation from the Azrieli Foundation. This centre offers a fully integrated clinical research approach, “from bench to bedside and back,” in which clinical data helps to advance research, and research informs clinical decision-making. It's an ambitious approach that requires a long-term investment.

The ACAR clinic cares for autistic individuals at every stage of development, from childhood to adulthood, including diagnosis, treatment/intervention and service navigation.

Research is integrated into existing clinical care services, so families can participate in research while benefiting from evidence-based treatment tailored to their needs.

ACAR's research team consists of more than 30 top-level scientists, as well as experts in related fields who bring their specialized knowledge and range of perspectives, from genetics to brain imaging to psychiatry.

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Our strength comes from the diversity of clinical and research expertise—working together to advance our understanding of autism and improve care for our patients and the global autism community.”

— DR. GUY ROULEAU, DIRECTOR OF ACAR AND THE NEURO

## The Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre at CAMH

The **AZRIELI ADULT NEURODEVELOPMENTAL CENTRE** at CAMH in Toronto is the first research and education centre in Canada dedicated to improving care for adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities and mental health challenges.

The pandemic has had a particularly negative impact on people with disabilities, who have suffered disproportionately high rates of COVID-19-related hospitalization and death. The Azrieli Centre, through its research, education and community engagement efforts, played a pivotal role in building awareness about the need to prioritize vaccines for those with neurodevelopmental disabilities, and in developing guidance on how to ensure that vaccines are provided in an accessible manner.

Dr. Yona Lunskey, Director of the Azrieli Centre, worked within her own hospital, at other vaccination sites and with government and community partners to develop "easy-read" vaccine information; educational videos about the vaccination process; and smaller, more accessible clinics for people who would find getting vaccinated in a mass-clinic setting to be overwhelming.

The briefs, papers and media interviews that followed were widely shared, and they informed the vaccination rollout effort across Canada. The Azrieli Foundation, by connecting its experts at these centres of excellence, ensured best practices were shared across Canada and Israel.

## The Azrieli National Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Research

This new facility at Ben-Gurion University is on its way to becoming a leading centre for innovation in the diagnosis and treatment of autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions in Israel and internationally.

In 2018, the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology awarded funding to establish the National Autism Center of Israel. Its activities have focused on developing shared resources such as the National Autism Database and Biobank, which enable collaboration across other autism research and clinical centres in Israel. Researchers and clinical faculty leveraged their complementary expertise to develop a highly integrated and innovative model of research and clinical care at Soroka University Medical Center. They continue to establish collaborations and partnerships across the Israeli research community, and with health care and child care providers, families, government and industry.

The Azrieli Foundation's recent investment in the centre will transform it into an international leader in translational autism research, diagnosis and interventions.

The core faculty, led by Dr. Ilan Dinstein, is a small but extremely impactful team, with broad disciplinary range and academic affiliations. Its long-term objective is to improve the lives of people with autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities.



## IMPACTING HEALTH NETWORKS

# The Azrieli Faculty of Medicine at Bar-Ilan University

The Azrieli Foundation's long-term investment in the faculty of medicine at Bar-Ilan University has changed the landscape of health care and medical education in northern Israel.

Located in the city of Safed, **THE AZRIELI FACULTY OF MEDICINE AT BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY** was established in response to a nationwide shortage of physicians and the need to upgrade medical services and infrastructure in the region. Now completing its 10th year of operation, the medical school has already graduated 547 new physicians and is home to 450 MD students and 155 graduate students enrolled in MD programs, medical research programs, combined MD/PhD programs and several postdoctoral programs.

Bar-Ilan University is training the next generation of doctors, expanding medical research infrastructure and offering excellent health care to the diverse Jewish, Arab and Druze communities who live in one of Israel's most beautiful areas.



Medical students lead a demonstration with teddy bear “patients.”  
Photo courtesy of The Azrieli Faculty of Medicine, Bar-Ilan University

# Connecting and building stronger networks results in broader impact

## Catalyze

Sometimes making an impact doesn't involve the provision of funds, but rather time and expertise offered with an open mind and a shared vision. The Azrieli Foundation nurtures networks through deep and ongoing relationships with grantees and partners.

In 2020, the Azrieli Foundation reached out to Hill Strategies Research to discuss the co-development of an arts research initiative—one that would fill current and future needs unmet by government agencies. Over a series of conversations, we realized that our vision was national in scope, and that we needed more partners to make it a reality.

By early 2021, the Metcalf Foundation and the Rozsa Foundation had joined the partnership. We launched a national advisory panel, composed of diverse leaders from the Canadian arts community.

Under the banner of **ARTS INSIGHT CANADA**, the initiative will produce a range of top-quality, meaningful and data-based research products of practical significance to Canadian artists and arts workers. It will also identify and interpret trending arts-focused research from other sources and stimulate community engagement through blog posts, panels and webinars.

Arts Insight Canada will explore diverse issues that affect Canadian artists and arts organizations, including precarious employment, racism, digital technologies, COVID-19 and post-pandemic rebuilding efforts.

## Collaborate

To catalyze growth and expand the scope of Jewish programming in Montreal to reach a wider, more diverse community, the Azrieli Foundation joined a Funders Collaborative and partnered with Federation CJA to create **PASSPORT TO JEWISH LIFE** in 2018. The goal is to reimagine how people can foster meaningful personal and communal Jewish identities, by offering a broad array of programs and a wide range of entry points into Jewish life in Montreal.

In true collaborative fashion, each partner took on different roles. The know-how and infrastructure offered by Federation CJA, as the backbone organization, provided the engine for growth. Recognizing that high risk could yield high rewards, the funders identified large-scale projects that could push beyond the limitations of more traditional initiatives. These projects include a community-wide experiential Jewish education professional development program, a transformational technology platform and initiatives for teen engagement.

The Funders Collaborative includes the Azrieli Foundation, the Sylvan Adams Family Foundation, the Claudine & Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation, the Morris & Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation, the Alvin Segal Family Foundation and the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal.

## Challenge

More than 10,000 Holocaust survivors currently live in Canada, and many of them live in poverty. Through community partners across the country, the Azrieli Foundation supports the Emergency Assistance Program.

In 2017, Federation CJA in Montreal challenged its community to raise multiple donations of \$100,000 to support Holocaust survivors. It secured almost \$8 million, in addition to the Azrieli Foundation's \$5-million leadership gift.

“

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.”

— ANDREW CARNEGIE

## Convene

Services for neurodiverse individuals are a priority area for the Azrieli Foundation, spanning many of our impact areas, including health care and community.

Our community-based **MEDICAL AND DENTAL CLINICS** initiative will address gaps in care for adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities (NDD) across Quebec.

The Miriam Foundation initially raised awareness of the lack of specialized primary and secondary medical services for adults with disabilities. The Azrieli Foundation brought together the right players to provide a sustainable solution for this systemic problem.

Individuals with NDD require more complex and time-intensive care than the general population. Due to myriad systemic issues, there is a shortage of health professionals trained and ready to treat people with NDD.

Education for physicians, dentists and allied health professionals is lacking in this area. Although medical schools in Quebec are required to include specialized care for people with disabilities in their curricula, dental schools have no such requirement.

For these and other reasons, many patients fall through the cracks, missing out on essential health and dental care.

In 2019, the Azrieli Foundation funded a pilot program at the CIUSSS West-Central Montreal to provide an interdisciplinary continuum-of-care approach for addressing gaps, and to create the case for support for government to fund the project and replicate it province-wide. The plan is to:

- develop a model of interdisciplinary community-based care founded on best practices;
- enable a growing community of trained health professionals to ensure continuity of services over time;
- provide the proof of concept for evidence-based research to shape policy.

As part of the larger initiative, a community clinic located at the CLSC René-Cassin is being designed and renovated to meet the needs of neurodiverse adults. The clinic is scheduled to open in late 2021, and it will also become a training facility for health care professionals.

## Community

The Azrieli Foundation approached the pandemic and its effects on communities by prioritizing donations according to the stages of Response, Recovery, Rebuild.

“Umbrella” agencies—such as **UNITED WAY GREATER TORONTO** (UWGT) and **CENTRAIDE OF GREATER MONTREAL**—work with an array of partners, identifying immediate and long-term needs and acting nimbly through all three stages.

UWGT supports 13 cities and municipalities comprising Toronto, Peel and York Region. It fights poverty in all its forms, with a focus on the 850,000 residents living on low incomes.

Women have been especially impacted by the pandemic. UWGT has determined that the 450,000 women in the GTA who were living in poverty prior to the health crisis are at even greater risk now. Women's participation in the labour force has fallen to its lowest level since the 1980s.

At the same time, women are on the pandemic's front lines: over half of female workers are employed in low-paying health care and service jobs: caring, clerical, catering, cashiering and cleaning. In addition, pandemic stay-at-home orders have been linked to a spike in domestic violence reports and calls to crisis lines. Women and girls have had to cope with mental health issues, isolation, family violence and other instabilities at home without support.

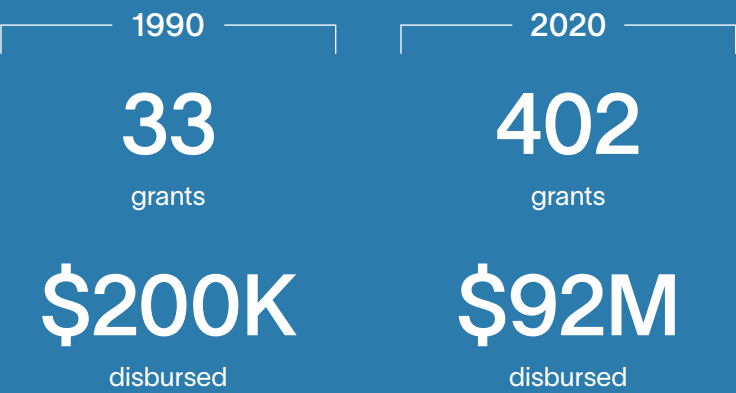
In 2020, to mitigate these effects, the Azrieli Foundation provided a three-year grant to the United Way's Women's Impact Fund, which:

- provides access to essential services and supports related to homelessness, mental health, settlement and parenting;
- helps women and their children live without violence;
- supports education and employment for women;
- empowers girls to reach their full potential through education, mentorship, sports, science and technology, arts and leadership development;
- and acts as a convener, capacity builder and advocate for system-wide change.

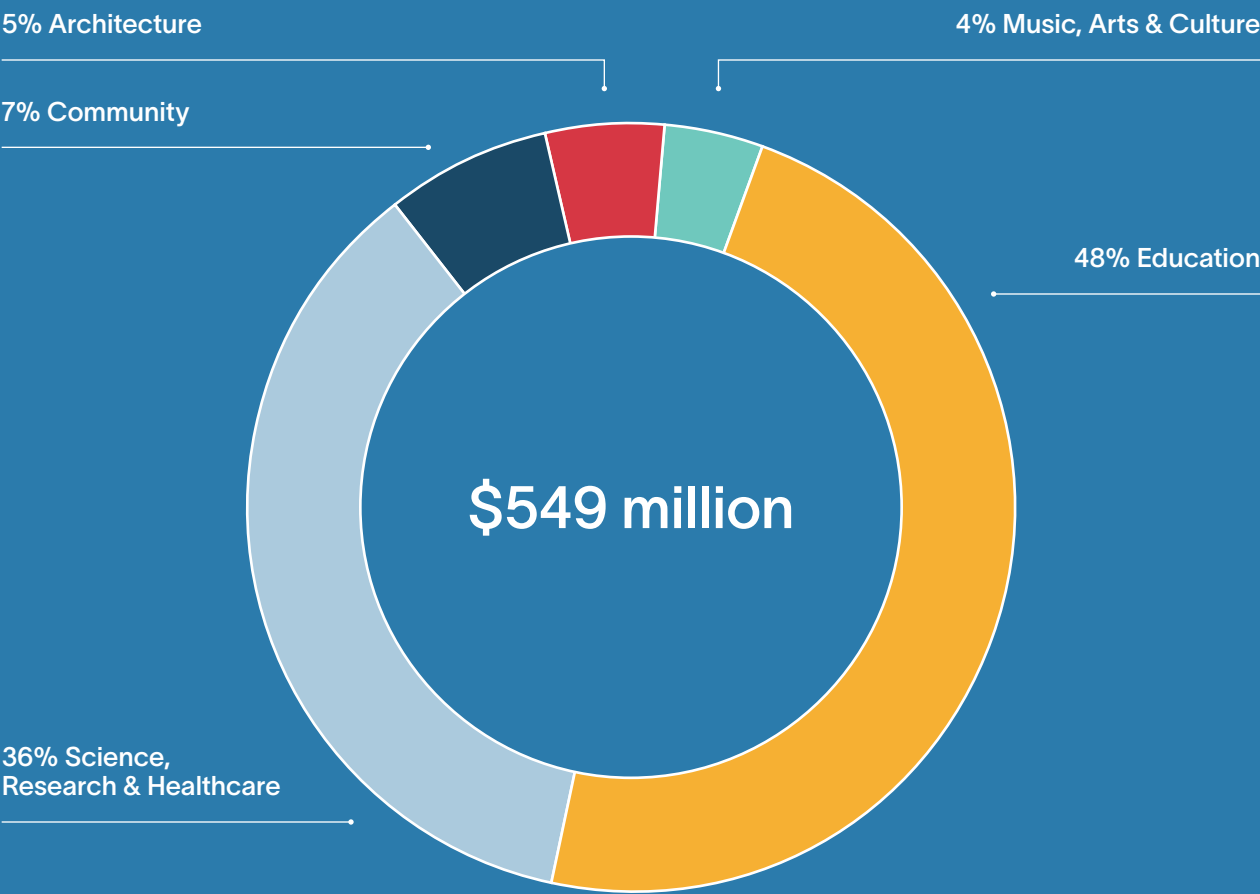


# By the numbers

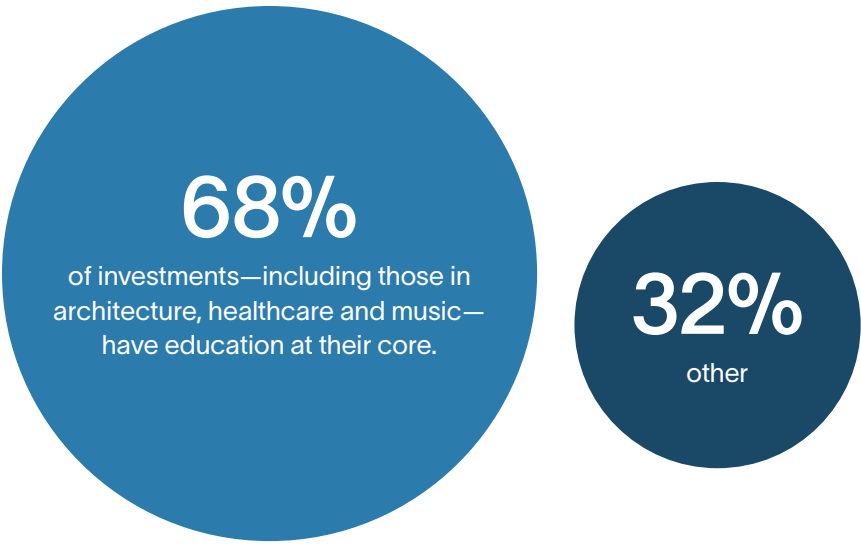
In 30 years, the Foundation has provided more than 5,000 grants.



## Total disbursements 1990-2020



Education is at the heart of our 30 years of impact



The Azrieli Foundation’s response to the pandemic so far

Community & Education	\$10,308,545
Science, Research & Healthcare	\$2,256,826
Music, Arts & Culture	\$1,783,000
Grand total	\$14,348,371

Our programs by the numbers

Since 2018,  
**365,000**  
students have studied the books they received from the **Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program**.

In 2020, the **Azrieli Music Prizes** received  
**147**  
applications from 17 countries.

The Azrieli Foundation has committed more than  
**\$90M**  
to 385 **Azrieli Fellows** over the last 15 years.

Starting in 2020, the **Azrieli Science Grants** began providing more than  
**\$1M**  
per year to Canadian researchers through its “RNA and the Brain” program.

## OUR HISTORY

“I want to use the tangible rewards of my career to help others.”  
— David J. Azrieli, z”l, C.M., C.Q., M.Arch.

The Azrieli Foundation was established in 1989 by the late David J. Azrieli to implement and extend his philanthropic vision in Canada and in Israel.

In the early years, the Foundation focused primarily on strengthening institutions in Jewish, Holocaust and architectural education. David Azrieli believed that true freedom is “being able to do what you love to do,” and that education is empowering. In this pursuit, in 2002, the young Foundation took a leap in creating the Azrieli Institute for Educational Empowerment (AIEE). To date, the AIEE has helped over 70,000 at-risk youth finish high school.

Since the creation of the AIEE, the Foundation has launched a number of programs, including the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program (2005), the Azrieli Fellows Program (2007), the Azrieli Music Prizes (2014), the Azrieli Science Grants program (2019) and the David Azrieli Architecture Student Prize (2015). From its early focus on education, the Foundation has expanded its scope to include:

- Education
- Holocaust Education and Legacy
- Fellowships
- Science, Research and Healthcare
- Neurodevelopment
- Music, Arts and Culture
- Community
- Architecture, Design and Engineering

From 1989 to 2014, the Azrieli Foundation’s disbursements totalled approximately \$100 million. Now, the Foundation disburses almost \$100 million annually and has a staff of 45 in Toronto and Montreal.

## CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

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Sharon Azrieli, DMus., C.Q.

André Beaulieu

Amir Gissin

Danny Hakim

Dr. Frederick Lowy, O.C.

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Myer Bick, C.M.

Menachem Einan

The Hon. Morris J. Fish, C.C., Q.C.

Herb Marx, z”l

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