

2022 Impact Report

Journeys to Impact





Visit us online to learn more
about our journeys to impact.

Message from the CEO



Photo: Yuri Dojc

Philanthropy begins in the heart.

It starts with compassion, grows into curiosity, and then becomes a call to action. In answering this call, one anticipates making a positive impact and improving lives.

This vision of a journey to impact was instilled in me and my sisters, Sharon and Danna, by our father, David Azrieli, who started the Azrieli Foundation 31 years ago. It has guided us in our work to support initiatives that better the lives of people in Canada, Israel and beyond.

Philanthropy can be defined as a love for humankind. It originates from the Greek words *philos* (loving) and *anthropos* (humankind). But this definition certainly

took on new dimensions as COVID-19 made its way around the world.

While we have always worked to assist the most vulnerable in our society, the pandemic brought things into sharper focus. It compelled us to think about how we could best provide care and compassion under extraordinary circumstances. And it led us to change some funding directions and operations at the Azrieli Foundation.

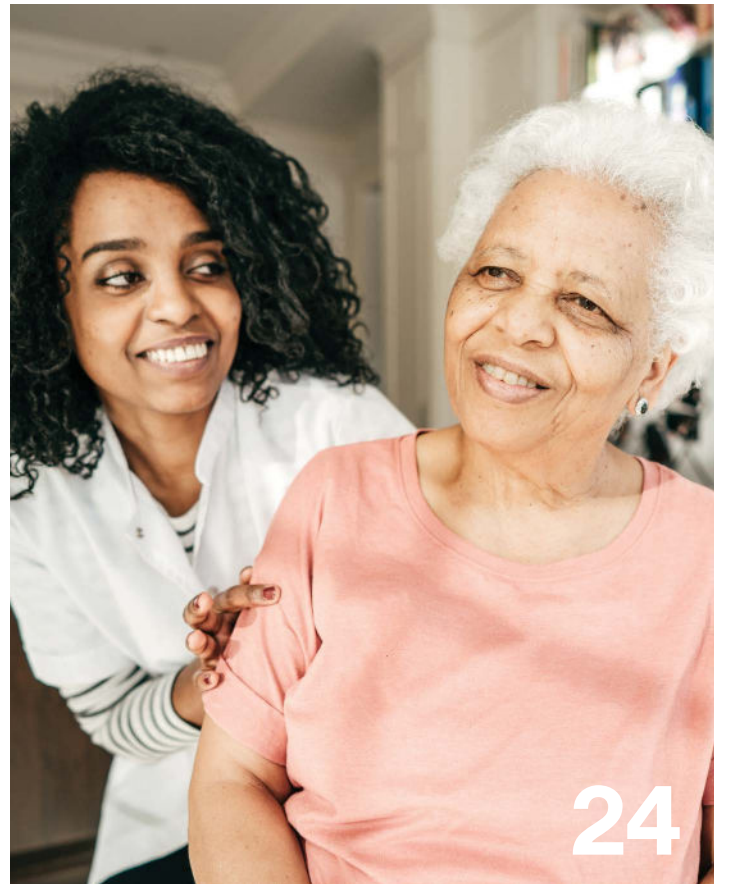
For instance, the pandemic brought with it an unprecedented increase in food insecurity, which spurred us to deploy funds to food banks at a higher level than ever before. We also worked closely in new ways with our grantees, enabling them to reassign their grant funds to meet their highest priority needs. In addition, we quickly and strategically decided to support early-career scientists and researchers whose labs had shut down and required funds to relaunch.

The pandemic caused great upheaval in the communities we serve. As Canada's largest non-corporate foundation, we had the capacity to act — and we heeded the call. To us, it was the most natural thing to do: give with an open heart and an open hand. We see living generously as a way of being — a value in which to ground ourselves and our organization.

In the following pages, you will read about some of our journeys to impact during the last year. From our flexible approach to pandemic relief to our ongoing work in architecture, science, education and beyond, we took big, bold and innovative steps.

And as we worked to make a positive difference in the world, it did our hearts good.

Naomi Azrieli, OC, D.Phil
Chair and CEO
The Azrieli Foundation



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in Toronto
Photo: Jen Squires

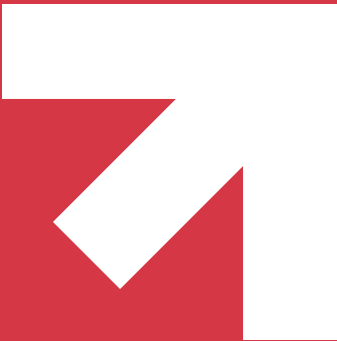


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Accelerating Innovation in Neurodevelopment Research



Senior leadership of the Azrieli National Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopment Research
From left: Prof. Hava Golan; David Zvida, CEO; Prof. Ilan Dinstein; Prof. Idan Menashe; Prof. Gal Meiri



The range of questions and opportunities surrounding neurodevelopmental disabilities (NDDs) is vast — from investigating the biology of brain development, to exploring the most effective social and behavioural interventions, to implementing policies that help people thrive.

Uniting experts from across disciplines to engage in collaborative, large-scale research will make it possible to answer these big questions. To this end, the Azrieli Foundation is building a network of centres of excellence in Canada and Israel that focus on neurodevelopment research and aim for knowledge-sharing through interdisciplinary and international collaboration.

In late 2021 and early 2022, the Foundation launched three such initiatives at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the University of Calgary. These initiatives will deepen our understanding of the human brain, and translate research into positive outcomes for neurodivergent individuals, their families and their communities.

The Weizmann Institute of Science is a world-renowned hub of scientific excellence and a global leader in brain research. With a donation of US\$50 million, it will now be home to the **Azrieli Institute for Brain and Neural Sciences**, a dedicated, state-of-the-art neuroscience facility on its campus in Rehovot, Israel.

“The initiative embodies one of the Weizmann Institute’s fundamental values — interdisciplinary collaboration,” says Weizmann’s President, Prof. Alon Chen, a neuroscientist himself. He says researchers will work together to gain a detailed understanding of the brain’s development and functions, contributing to global advancement in neuroscience.

Meanwhile, in Israel’s south, the **Azrieli National Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopment Research** (formerly the National Autism Center of Israel) at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev aims



Prof. Alon Chen. Photo: Axel Griesch

to make the country an international leader in developing and implementing autism diagnosis and intervention techniques.

A donation of NIS 40 million from the Foundation will enable many developments including the recruitment of new faculty, the expansion of the National Autism Database and Biobank (the largest of its kind in Israel) and training for early-career researchers. The Centre creates a mutually informing relationship between the research and clinical worlds by integrating autistic people into diagnostic and treatment processes.

The team is guided by the belief that “combining clinical and scientific excellence will lead to critical breakthroughs in the way we currently diagnose and treat children with autism,” says Dr. Gal Meiri, the Centre’s medical director.

This year, the Foundation also made its first major investment in western Canada. The **Azrieli Accelerator** at the University of Calgary, established with a gift of \$25 million, will fuel collaborative research —

ranging from medical and social sciences to technology and policy. This approach spans neurons to networks to neighbourhoods.

University of Calgary researchers have a global reputation as leaders in the brain and mental health fields, with a dedicated emphasis on neurodivergent children. Its leading facilities and culture of cross-disciplinary collaboration set the stage for the Accelerator to improve the present and future health of our communities.

The three new initiatives join previously established centres of excellence in the field: the Azrieli Centre for Autism Research at the Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital, and the Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

The brain is the most complex organ in the body, yet remains the least understood. By enabling multidisciplinary networks to address this essential frontier in research and discovery, the Azrieli Foundation is leveraging scientific excellence to transform the healthcare landscape.

Recalibration and Renewal in the Arts



When COVID-19 surged around the world in spring 2020, Canadian arts and culture organizations went into lockdown. Live performances were cancelled, museums shut their doors and children could no longer assemble for music classes.

As a result, the pandemic significantly affected the livelihood of tens of thousands of Canadians who work in this sector.

“The arts are all about people,” says Barry Hughson, Executive Director of the National Ballet of Canada, one of 114 Azrieli Foundation arts and culture grantees. “My chief concern at the start of the pandemic was how we were going to take care of our performers and staff.”

The Azrieli Foundation disbursed targeted emergency funds to arts organizations to support artists until government programs kicked in. But we also knew it would be as important to provide funds six months into the pandemic, when cash reserves would run low amid an ongoing state of crisis and uncertainty. So, the Foundation took a step back and asked: “What can we do to help this sector restart and recover?”

After consulting widely with the community across the country, we made grants totalling \$1 million to more than 40 groups in 2020. And then we did so again in 2021.

This support helped organizations reimagine and expand their offerings so they could remain viable for staff and continue to entertain, educate and inspire patrons. For several groups, this meant embracing a critical multi-year digital evolution.

For its centennial, the **McCord Stewart Museum** wanted to create an open-access online platform with bilingual descriptions of 140,000+ objects, photographs and archival documents from its collections. Launched with support from the Azrieli Foundation, the new Online Collections align with the Museum’s social

mission of bringing its collective heritage to a wider audience.

Meanwhile, the **Canadian Opera Company** and the **National Ballet of Canada** used the Foundation’s support to accelerate their ongoing Digital Stage collaboration. The companies, which share the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto, invested in state-of-the-art robotic cameras and other new broadcast and data technology. This infrastructure allows partners to stream world-class content around the globe and helps performers connect with one another.

Sistema-inspired music education programs across the country, which provide free ensemble-based lessons to children from underserved communities, weathered the early days of the pandemic by sending instruments home with students and moving classes online. But to ensure they remained accessible to students and continued to provide stable and engaging environments to help them deal with the negative impacts of the pandemic, Sistema organizations banded together to share knowledge and resources.

With guidance and funding from the Azrieli Foundation, the **Sistema Canada Network** was developed and established. The Network’s overarching goal is to support, enrich and accelerate the impact of organizations committed to encouraging positive social change through music education.

“For many arts and culture organizations, the innovative application of digital technology has been a saving grace,” says Jason van Eyk, Manager, Music, Arts and Culture at the Azrieli Foundation. “But the pandemic has also accelerated other trends, stimulating a fundamental rethinking of what it means to be an arts organization in the 21st century. Philanthropy is there to support these organizations to adapt and grow as they incorporate pandemic learnings into a new hybrid future.”



Top left: Sistema Toronto students
Photo: Jen Squires

Bottom left: Artists of the National Ballet of Canada at the filming of *Apollo*
Photo: Karolina Kuras

Top: Jamie Groote performing in the Canadian Opera Company’s presentation of *In Winter*, 2021
Photo: COC

Left: Robe, Expo 67, 1967
Photo: Denise Philippon, McCord Stewart Museum



Reducing Barriers to Education

While Canada's public education system is known for its overall excellence, the reality is much more complex. In remote First Nations, historical injustices and systemic inequality, coupled with low availability and high turnover of teachers, result in many First Nations youth experiencing significant barriers to education.

The Azrieli Foundation believes empowering everyone with opportunities for education is critical to creating a more just and equal society. This means connecting students, teachers and schools with the resources they need to thrive.

Teach For Canada — an Indigenous-led organization that works with remote First Nations in Northern Ontario and Manitoba to recruit, prepare, retain and support qualified schoolteachers — exists to meet this challenge. We are proud to support it in its mission.

Since 2015, Teach For Canada has helped schools make strides in student outcomes, including increased attendance and engagement and high rates of teacher retention. Its approach includes a rigorous teacher selection process, comprehensive training and support networks to help teachers succeed in Northern classrooms. It also engages in meaningful collaboration with its First Nations community partners to promote their educational autonomy.

What started as a small grant from the Azrieli Foundation in 2017 has grown into a multi-year partnership guided by the shared goal of educational empowerment.

In 2021, Teach For Canada launched new community-led offerings to aid in the development of effective and sustainable school ecosystems. The Foundation committed \$1 million to support this strategic goal, which will help the organization work with 45 remote First

Nations to directly impact more than 10,000 students.

Executive Director Ken Sanderson says he is grateful for the “unwavering support of the Azrieli Foundation as [Teach For Canada] serves First Nation schools and upholds their all-important efforts to equip future generations.”

Teach For Canada is currently recruiting and supporting teachers to “Go North” while aiming to strengthen local First Nations’ capacity with community-led programming. Its Teacher Assistant (TA) Program supports local TAs, the majority of whom are Indigenous, with personalized skills development, monthly coaching and access to professional and mental health resources. The program also establishes pathways for TAs to become fully certified teachers. In addition to creating employment opportunities, the increased local supply of teachers aims to reduce educator turnover and allow students to see themselves reflected in the positive role models of their communities.

Another new offering, in collaboration with universities, is Teach For Canada’s Northern Practicum Program. Teacher candidates complete a short-term placement in a northern classroom. There, they learn from inspiring northern educators and deepen their understanding of culturally responsive teaching. Once certified, they can become Teach For Canada teachers or may receive an offer of permanent employment, leading to more educators making multi-year commitments to First Nations schools.

By working alongside First Nations to expand core educational resources and infrastructure, Teach For Canada is developing effective, self-sustaining, locally staffed schools — and with our support, helping to enable and launch the next generation of Indigenous educators and leaders.

“

I am grateful for the unwavering support of the Azrieli Foundation as we serve First Nation schools and uphold their all-important efforts to equip future generations.

”

— **Ken Sanderson**, Executive Director of Teach For Canada

Students from Martin McKay Memorial School in Sachigo Lake First Nation
Photo: Teach For Canada



Rendering of the new Azrieli School of Architecture by Tsionov Vitkon Architects

Reshaping Architectural Initiatives in Israel

David Azrieli had a passion for architecture — a passion that guided his successful career and resulted in the indelible mark he left on Israel's urban landscape.

The Azrieli Foundation has upheld David's legacy over the years by fostering the education and advancement of the next generation of architects through the support of schools, symposiums, archives and events.

Last year, we decided to consolidate all our architectural initiatives in Israel under one umbrella: the **Azrieli Architecture Center**. This exciting new initiative is working to strengthen our existing programs and incorporate new, forward-thinking ideas.



Rendering of "Transformill" by Mai Whiteson

"The Azrieli Architecture Center plays a crucial role in promoting architectural education, research and the heritage of Israeli architecture," says architect Gili Shapira, the Director of the Center, former Collection Manager of the Azrieli Architectural Archive, and alum of the Azrieli Fellows Program. "The Center enables inter-institutional collaborations that benefit students and educators, support excellence in design and research, and advance learning and discourse in the field."

One of the Center's mainstays is the David Azrieli Architecture Student Prize, Israel's most prestigious award for architecture students. The Prize celebrates creativity, originality and excellence among students from Israel's five schools of architecture.

In 2021, this distinguished prize was awarded to Mai Whiteson from Tel Aviv University for her work entitled "Transformill." Mai transformed a flour mill into a school of architecture, infusing the existing characteristics of the space with innovative content and integrating it into its urban context.

The new Azrieli Architecture Center also oversees the Azrieli Architectural Archive, established in 2010 to preserve original materials, advance research and promote the heritage of Israeli architecture. Architects around the world use it for their research, and its retrospective exhibitions and events engage a wide audience.

The Archive is scheduled to move in 2025 from its current location at the Tel Aviv Museum into the Azrieli School of Architecture at Tel Aviv University. And this school, which has been in existence since 1992, will soon have a new home.

A competition was held to design a new building for the School, and the winning design came from Tsionov Vitkon Architects, alumni of the Azrieli School of Architecture. The new 8,500 sqm building will be a significant landmark and serve as a source of inspiration to young architecture students. It will face out into the community and allow people to enjoy its exhibits, cinemas and retail spaces.

With so many projects on the go – and more to come – we are excited that the Azrieli Architecture Center is reaching architects across Israel and around the world, and proud of how it is upholding and expanding David Azrieli's legacy.

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The Azrieli Architecture Center plays a crucial role in promoting architectural education, research and the heritage of Israeli architecture.

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— Gili Shapira, Director of the Azrieli Architecture Center

Safeguarding the Future of Holocaust Education

David Azrieli faced the loss and devastation of the Holocaust first hand, and his experiences stayed with him throughout his life.

After sharing his memories with his family over many years, his daughter Danna wrote the book *One Step Ahead*. First published by Yad Vashem in 2001, and released this year in an updated second edition, Danna's book chronicles the story of David's childhood and the years during the war. David often noted that he found the process of sharing his story to be liberating; he wanted other survivors to have the same opportunity and ensure that the history of the Holocaust is never forgotten.



Rendering of the Azrieli Legacy Hall at the new Toronto Holocaust Museum by Reich & Petch Design International

“

Using literature [to teach about the Holocaust] is great, but students need context.

”

— **Stephanie Kessler**, educator at Collège Reine-Marie



Montreal Holocaust Museum. Photo: Red Button Photo

One of David's goals in establishing the Azrieli Foundation was to ensure that current and future generations could learn about the Holocaust from accurate and reliable sources. The Foundation now works locally, nationally and internationally to achieve the greatest possible impact in Holocaust education and legacy.

Our **Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program**, launched in 2005, publishes first-person memoirs of Holocaust survivors who immigrated to Canada after the war. Now, 17 years later, the Program has published more than 122 survivor stories and creates educational resources and activities to accompany them.

“Using literature [to teach about the Holocaust] is great, but students need context,” says Stephanie Kessler, who teaches at Collège Reine-Marie in Montreal and uses the Program's resources in her classroom. “For example, before teaching a fictional story, I will show short videos that provide historical context, or have students work on the Hidden Children educational resource provided by the Azrieli Foundation's Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program.”

The Program's academic outreach has grown to host groundbreaking conferences for students and scholars, and our survivor memoirs have been featured in academic journals. In 2022, *Buried Words: The Diary of Molly Applebaum* won the inaugural Wolfe Chair Holocaust Studies Student Impact Prize, awarded by the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto.

In addition to the Foundation's own program, we safeguard the future of Holocaust education through commitments and disbursements to Holocaust education organizations across Canada.

The Foundation's support has been instrumental in the creation of two new Holocaust museums in Canada. With a donation of \$15 million, the **Montreal Holocaust Museum** secured a new location in downtown Montreal, and a donation of \$12 million to the **Toronto Holocaust Museum** allowed construction to begin on its new site. Both will be engaging spaces with advanced technology to facilitate deep learning opportunities.

On an international level, Jody Spiegel, Director of the Memoirs Program, took on a leadership role with the **International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)** in March 2022. As the current Chair of IHRA's Education Working Group, she is working to strengthen opportunities for collaboration among other leading Holocaust education organizations around the world.

With the increase of disinformation and Holocaust distortion, we are proud to be part of IHRA's work preserving the memory and protecting the facts of the Holocaust.

By continuing to create resources, fund initiatives and work with partners in the field, we aim to achieve David Azrieli's goal: ensuring the history of the Holocaust is never forgotten.

Taking Giant Steps Toward Excellence

The Azrieli Foundation aims to open the doors to opportunity for all. We help our grantee partners advance their work and make a difference in their communities.

The neurodivergent community is often overlooked and lacks opportunities. We feel strongly about supporting neurodivergent individuals and working with innovative, forward-thinking organizations to provide enriching opportunities and high-quality services to this equally deserving population group.

Giant Steps, a private school in Montreal for students aged four to 21 with autism spectrum disorder, is a great example. The school uses best practices to give its students the extra attention and supports they require.



Polaris program with Loblaw Companies Ltd.



Giant Steps School during the Autism Acceptance Walk

Until recently, the major challenge of Giant Steps was space — the school could not accommodate the demand for its high-quality educational services. Now, with a \$5 million donation from the Azrieli Foundation, a new centre of excellence is being created to allow for higher enrollment, additional services and novel programming.

Giant Steps prides itself on research and innovation. Its advanced teaching techniques help students feel safe, comfortable and connected. Its motto, while simple in theory, is all-encompassing: “Inclusion 365.” The school aims to exemplify inclusion and bring inclusivity into surrounding communities and workplaces.

The new, groundbreaking centre of excellence will be a large, well-equipped space. It will include a living lab for research observations and discovery in settings where autistic students feel at ease. Genuine behaviours will result in more accurate findings, sparking discoveries that can benefit the larger neurodivergent community.

The exceptional work at Giant Steps extends beyond classroom and lab settings. It offers work readiness programs and transition support from education to employment. It is a Quebec partner of the national Ready, Willing and Able (RWA) employment program, which matches employers with autistic employees.

At the age of 21, neurodivergent students age out of the education system, often leaving without the skills they need

to successfully enter the mainstream labour market. Through its own internal programs, as well as partnerships with Loblaw Companies Limited, St. Hubert and Fairmont Hotels, Giant Steps aims to better prepare and support autistic individuals for employment and educate employers about the benefits of diversified teams.

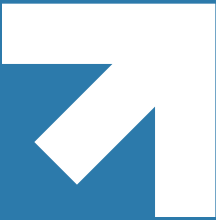
In a sector where individuals often do not receive the services and supports they need to thrive, Giant Steps is filling the gap. And the Azrieli Foundation is proud to help make a difference in so many lives.

“
In a sector where individuals often do not receive the services and supports they need to thrive, Giant Steps is filling the gap.
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Investing in Exceptional People



Incoming Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellows (September 2021) with Fellows Program staff



Fifteen years ago, when the **Azrieli Fellows Program** welcomed its first cohort of researchers, the Azrieli Foundation had an ambitious yet clear-cut goal: to nurture the next generation of academic leaders and promote scientific and scholarly innovation for the betterment of society.

From those roots, the Azrieli Fellows Program has grown into a prestigious international fellowship. It provides generous funding and enhances the research impact of Israel's universities by supporting elite PhD students, postdocs and early-career faculty members in Israel.

The substantial stipend allows PhD students and postdocs to concentrate on, and advance, their research, as well as make important contacts at a critical point in their academic journeys. And it allows young faculty members to boost their research at a stage of their careers when they might otherwise be consumed by grant applications.

"Our Fellows are the most important part of the program," says Dr. Aviad Stollman, the Program's Global Director. "We're investing in people in their formative years and providing an environment that stimulates the cross-pollination of ideas."

And despite steady, incremental expansion — from 11 new Fellows each year in the early days to close to 60 Fellows per year more recently — the program has maintained an underlying family feeling; individual scholars and their potential are at the heart of its success.

"In every aspect of what we do, we're looking at the individual," says Program Director Rochelle Avitan. "The guiding light is that we're not just looking at research work, we're looking at the person."

Initially, the Program accepted candidates in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields, as well as architecture and education — and Fellows were encouraged to collaborate with one another. This interdisciplinarity was ahead of its time and has blossomed with the addition of scholars in humanities, natural sciences, social sciences and other areas of study.



Rochelle Avitan and Dr. Aviad Stollman presenting a certificate to Omer Kneller upon completion of his Graduate Studies Fellowship

Indispensable exchanges among researchers take place at Fellows events, making it easier for them to thrive while pursuing high-risk, high-reward projects.

"As soon as I arrived in Israel, I felt like part of a community that was united by a shared vision," says Deni Kasa, a former Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow. "Like many Fellows, I went through a metamorphosis. I began to see my work as part of the quest to use the fruits of academic labour for the betterment of society."

The Azrieli Fellows Program has recently made a significant effort to become even more global, adding 19 International Postdoctoral Fellows in 2021 — the first cohort to include postdocs from Europe. Next year, the postdoctoral track will be open to candidates from all countries.

To help attract global scholars, the Foundation also launched *Aperio* magazine, giving academics across Europe and Canada the opportunity to read about the many accomplishments of Fellows.

Accompanied by an improved, multi-layer selection process, this shift will help leading Israeli faculty members recruit postdocs from around the world, alleviating an academic labour shortage and strengthening links to the global research community.

“We’re investing in people in their formative years and providing an environment that stimulates the cross-pollination of ideas.”

— Dr. Aviad Stollman, Global Director, Azrieli Fellows Program



Transforming Lives Through Microloans

The Azrieli Foundation is proud to support organizations and initiatives that improve the lives of marginalized and vulnerable individuals, while promoting Jewish values.

Organizations like Jewish Free Loan Toronto, the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Montreal, Windmill Microlending and Rise enable those in need to obtain the necessary assistance for their personal or professional development through training, mentorship programs and micro-financing.

Based on the Jewish value of *G'milut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness), **Jewish Free Loan Toronto (JFLT)** has been helping community members through interest-free loans for more than 100 years. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, JFLT began delivering many of its services virtually. And, with the help of the Azrieli Foundation, it was able to start a COVID-19 loan program that did not require guarantors. To date, this program has helped 104 families access microloans for living expenses, medical and dental costs and emergency expenses.

The **Hebrew Free Loan Association of Montreal (HFLA)** also generously supports the Jewish community and has provided interest-free loans for more than 110 years. During the pandemic, the Azrieli Foundation helped HFLA launch its 'microloans without guarantors' program. The impact was immediate, with 115 loans given between October 2021 and March 2022. These loans helped people cover basic needs, improve their quality of life, and, in many cases, achieve financial independence.

Windmill Microlending has assisted newcomers to Canada since 2005.

It provides low-interest loans of up to \$15,000 to help skilled immigrants and refugees continue their careers in Canada. In partnership with the Azrieli Foundation, Windmill now provides loans to healthcare workers in Ontario and Quebec to help them obtain the Canadian licensing and training they require to work in their chosen fields. In 2021 alone, Windmill approved 1,096 loans, an increase of 13 per cent over the previous year.

"My advice to newcomers would be to not be afraid to take out a loan," says Dr. Stephen Akinkunmi, who immigrated to Canada from Nigeria. "Without my loan from Windmill, I wouldn't be back in my field practising medicine."

Rise is a Canada-wide organization founded in 2009 that empowers people with mental health and addiction challenges. The organization enables people to achieve greater social and economic inclusion through education, mentorship and micro-financing – and get the skills and money necessary to start small businesses.

In 2021, the Foundation became a primary supporter of Rise's Peer Supported Startup Program (PSSP), an eight-week entrepreneurship program that gives participants the skills needed to start or grow businesses. This year, the PSSP engaged 85 participants and 20 of them joined Rise's micro-financing program; in total, 92 loans were given.

The Foundation is proud to fund these remarkable organizations that help marginalized and vulnerable communities across Canada.

“Without my loan from Windmill, I wouldn't be back in my field practising medicine.”

— Dr. Stephen Akinkunmi,
Family Practitioner



By the Numbers

In 2021, the Azrieli Foundation disbursed \$7 million more than we did in 2020. As we grow, we continue to increase our impact and empower those doing incredible work.



Since 1990

6,000+

grants

In 2021

301

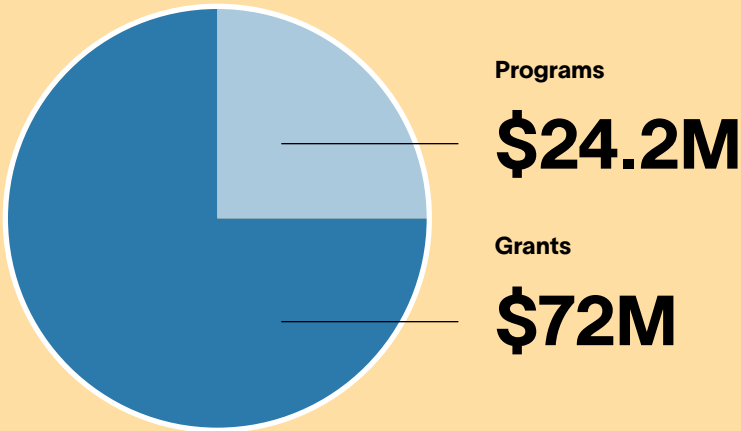
grants

\$96.2M

total granted

2021 Grants and Programs

In addition to our extensive granting, we operate a series of programs in Canada and Israel, all of which align with our vision to remember the past, heal the present and enhance the future.



Addressing the Pandemic

When the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in 2020, we immediately began making grants to organizations in our priority areas.

While the impacts of the pandemic were felt most acutely that year, we were pleased to continue our support into 2021 and beyond to meet the needs of our communities and partners.

Total Pandemic Grants	\$16M
Grants disbursed in 2021	\$3.3M
Grants to be disbursed in 2022	\$2M

The People We Impact

We provided financial support to

1,100

low-income Holocaust survivors across Canada.

We held **5** showcase concerts in **3** countries with **1** national live broadcast via the Azrieli Music Prizes program.

The Azrieli Science Grants Program supported **23** researchers working on **12** projects in fundamental neuroscience of brain development.

The Azrieli Fellows Program welcomed **120** new Fellows, representing **14** countries.

We provided Holocaust education training to

2,100

Canadian teachers.

16 applicants working on **15** projects competed for the David Azrieli Architecture Student Prize.

9,522 students from **63** elementary and middle schools across Israel participated in the Azrieli Empowerment Program.

461 children had their first summer experience at a Jewish overnight camp through the Azrieli/PJ Library Campership Awards Program.

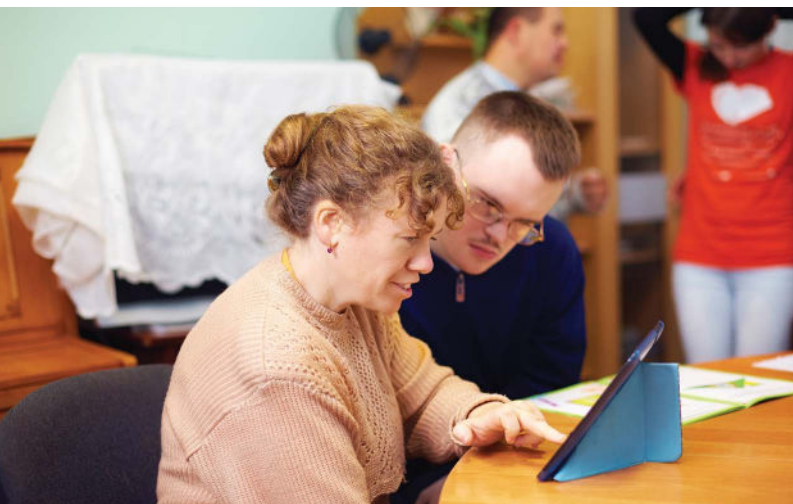
The Networks We Nurture

3,000

students from underserved communities benefited from music education through the Sistema Canada Network. The Network employs **200+** teaching artists working for **12** music for social change organizations.

29

social enterprises employing neurodivergent adults joined our Social Enterprise Network.



about 19 hours of care per week to family members or loved ones.

Perhaps the most significant thing we discovered was that no initiative existed in Canada to address the needs of the caregiving field as a whole.

To remedy this, we created the **Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence (CCCE)** in 2021 and launched it in the spring of 2022. The initiative, which focuses on the *entire* field of caregiving, aims to support care providers and caregivers, advance the knowledge and capacity of the caregiving field and advocate for effective social policy.

"CCCE is unique in that we are looking at the needs of those who need care, the needs of caregivers and care providers, and bridging the gaps and resolving inequities in Canada," says Liv Mendelsohn, Executive Director of CCCE.

The vision of CCCE is a Canada leading the way in quality care – a place where

caregiving is valued, caregivers are supported and people accessing care are central to policies and practices.

"Caregiving is about relationships, about deep respect, about how systems and policies can support and strengthen those relationships," says Liv. "When the caregiver isn't getting support, the person accessing care is also not getting what they need."

To deliver its mandate, CCCE directs its support to four areas: education and leadership development, advocacy and policy development, support networks and knowledge sharing, and inclusion and underserved communities.

CCCE already has several projects in development, including the funding of an Indigenous-led caregiving needs assessment with Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society; support for L'Appui pour les proches aidants to develop resources for caregiver organizations in Francophone

communities outside of Quebec; and the launch of a National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities Institute.

In addition, CCCE will engage in advocacy efforts, pushing for policy reform to better support Canadian caregivers. As part of this effort, a white paper will be released in the fall of 2022.

"We want to put caregiving on the public policy radar," says Liv. "We know CCCE can convene and build networks and bring groups together across the country, but we also know there is a need for government support. We are here to fill gaps and urge government partners to focus on the needs of caregivers and the growing needs of Canadians."

Liv says this past year has been a busy one, as she and her team built a "robust network of voices in caregiving from across the country."

CCCE's work is just beginning, and already the impact is being felt far and wide.

Our values inform who we are and what we do.

A Commitment to Caregiving

It is no secret that caregivers in Canada are in dire need of support. Resources are stretched, regulation is lacking, and governmental policies do not do enough to help those who need it most.

These issues were made even clearer during the past few years, as the COVID-19 pandemic further stressed an already overwhelmed population.

In 2019, the Azrieli Foundation undertook an extensive review of the needs of the disability sector in Quebec and Ontario, which led us to an important realization: qualified caregivers are not only a critical component of a good quality of life for

people with developmental disabilities, but they are also the invisible backbone of the Canadian health, social service and community care systems.

We learned that there are many challenges facing care providers (personal and disability support workers) in Canada, such as burnout, low wages and a lack of substantial employment opportunities.

We also discovered that many challenges exist for caregivers (family, friends or other supporters) whose work is unpaid, unsupported and unseen. In Canada, approximately one in four people over the age of 15 is a caregiver, and they provide



Excellence



Equity and Inclusion



Building Networks



Interdependence



Codesign



Advocacy

Who We Are

Fulfilling the philanthropic legacy of our founder, David J. Azrieli z"l, the Azrieli Foundation has been funding institutions and operating programs in Israel and Canada since 1989.

Driven by a strong belief in the powerful role and responsibility of philanthropy, the Foundation focuses on improving the lives of present and future generations through education, research, healthcare and the arts.

We empower people by supporting a broad range of organizations, facilitating innovative solutions and increasing knowledge to better the lives of others.

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From left to right: Franco Vaccarino, Amir Gissin, Danny Hakim, Naomi Azrieli,
Fred Lowy, Sharon Azrieli, André Beaulieu
Photo: Shelagh Howard

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