

Message from the Chair and CEO



It's a time of change and transformation at Ve'ahavta.

Last year, during our 20th anniversary, we achieved a new level of growth, raising \$2 million to support our poverty alleviation and community engagement work. We thank you for your support in achieving this milestone! We were also accredited by Imagine Canada for our excellence in accountability, transparency and governance in the not-for-profit sector.

In 2016, 779 volunteers provided 7,500 hours of their time and talent to Ve'ahavta. We are extremely proud that our Mobile Jewish Response to Homelessness (MJRH) outreach van has three volunteers each shift, rarely an open seat even on the most frigid nights and a waiting list for spots.

There is also a high demand for Tikun Workshops about social justice issues and for the MJRH Young Riders Program for youth aged 12 to 15, which highlights their ability to make an impact on homelessness.

In 2017, we are continuing to extend our reach. The Ontario Trillium Foundation provided a grant to support our new Meal Box Program, which enables us to provide paid work placements for people who have experienced poverty and homelessness. They will be working as kitchen coordinators helping volunteers to prepare nutritious meals for the people served by our MRJH outreach van. Two Kerr Foundation grants have enabled us to add a sixth MJRH shift and to develop a four-week bridge program to further support our Ve'ahavta Street Academy graduates to achieve their career and life goals.

We are also involved with the Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness on the MYTORONTO photography project that will engage people who are homeless in taking photographs of the world around them. Seeing the world through their lens will help change people's perspective of homelessness in Toronto.

It has been a wonderful experience for both of us to provide leadership for the organization this past year. We have been able to develop a skilled and engaged Board of Directors who actively offer their expertise, be it in program evaluation or legal or financial matters. We thank them all for their hard work and commitment. We also thank our tremendous staff who are dedicated to social justice.

Mostly, we thank you for your compassion and caring and for believing in and supporting our work in *tikun olam* (repairing the world).

B'shalom,

Gary Samuel
Chair of the Board

Karen Goldenberg, C.M.
Interim CEO

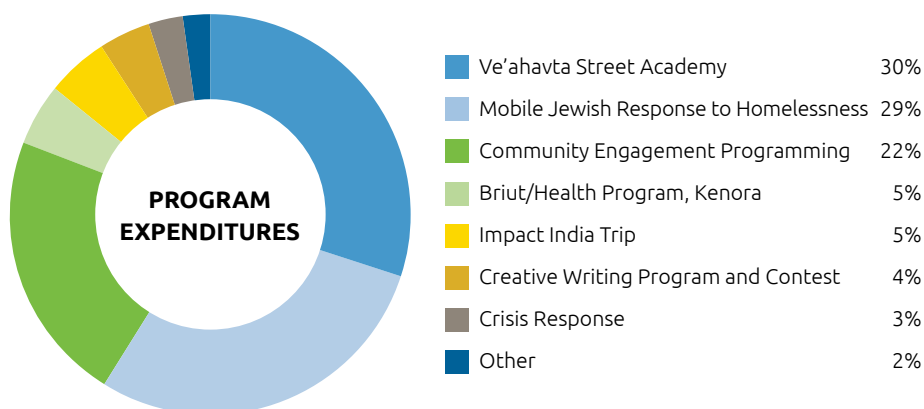
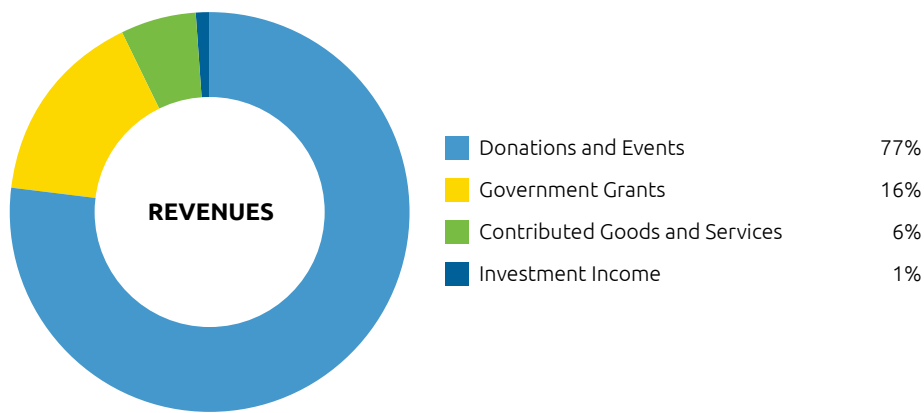
2016

Annual Report



Ve'ahavta
A Jewish Humanitarian Response to Poverty

2016 Financials



To see Ve'ahavta's full 2016 financial statement, please visit veahavta.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Gary Samuel – Chair, Anthony Alberga, Amalia Berg, Amiel Blajchman, Tom Chervinsky, Mark Fox, Philip Goldband, Ron Haber, Norman Levine, Bev Margolian, Jordana Ross, Ruby Silvertown, Benjamin Shinewald, Ira Teich, Larry Zimmerman

Starry Nights

SAVE THE DATE

Ve'ahavta's Tikun Olam Awards Ceremony

Sunday, November 12, 2017

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Emmanuel Zziwa

As a recent newcomer to Canada, Emmanuel attended the Ve'ahavta Street Academy and the Renée Roth Memorial Speakers Bureau. After graduating, he applied to college to become a community worker to help others.

"VSA changed my life and instilled new hope in me, and helped me to prepare myself for my new career."

Ve'ahavta 2016 Highlights



Lisa Visconti, VSA Valedictorian

Diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder and told she would never work again, Lisa began to give up on her goals until she attended the Ve'ahavta Street Academy (VSA).

"VSA rebuilt my confidence and allowed me to express my thoughts. I am currently working part time as an administrative assistant with VSA and love it!"

MJRH Outreach Van Program



7,349

interactions with clients:

3,920 sandwiches and **600** pounds of coffee, along with clothes, sleeping bags and essential supplies and friendly support were provided to clients who are homeless or precariously housed by

387 volunteers and **3** outreach workers (one per shift).



76%

of Ve'ahavta Street Academy graduates

advance to education, training, employment and volunteer opportunities.

Creative Writing Contest

18 judges reviewed

136 submissions from people whose voices are rarely heard in this city,

recognized **6** honourable mentions

and awarded **12** top cash prizes

including the **\$2,000** top prize.



Third Night Community Passover Seder

320 guests including clients, friends and supporters and

70 volunteers celebrated Ve'ahavta's annual Passover seder in partnership with

3 community partners: Holy Blossom Temple, Congregation Habonim and Mazon Canada.

Dugmah Grants for Summer Camps

9 summer camps across Canada engaged

2,500 campers and staff in *tikun olam* activities with the support of Ve'ahavta's Dugmah Grants.

Together with **12** partner organizations, including shelters, family support centres, and Indigenous organizations, the youth engaged in social justice activities.



"I volunteered with my daughter (age 12) as part of your Mobile Jewish Response to Homelessness program. We worked with your staff person André who was incredibly kind, charming and well informed about your program and how we could contribute. My daughter was a bit anxious about what the day was going to be like and André provided an orientation that was so accessible, compassionate and practical."

We helped approximately **25** individuals and the experience went very smoothly and we were able to provide food and clothing to lots of people in deplorable weather and it was very appreciated by the clients."

– Fiona MacCool



Amy Platt, Director of General Studies, Bialik Hebrew Day School

Amy participated in Ve'ahavta's Professional Development Day around Indigenous culture and history, which she says led to more meaningful and relevant teachings on the topic in the Jewish Day School system.

"Our students will be more empathetic and caring citizens because of their increased engagement..."

Professional Development Day

32 educational professionals from

11 Jewish schools attended Ve'ahavta's Professional Development Day

learning from **11** Indigenous and education facilitators how to better educate young people about Indigenous history and culture.



Crisis Relief in 2016:

\$40,064

Fort McMurray
\$31,066

Syrian Refugee Fund*
\$11,664

*(Total raised to date: **\$20,562**)

Major Donors

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Distributel

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