

I was born in Montreal, a city that boasts a significant Jewish community. In 1984, I moved to Ottawa with my wife Rhoda, and our young son, to be closer to Rhoda's family. Ottawa had a much smaller Jewish community by comparison, and I felt compelled to engage in the community right away. I volunteered as a canvasser for the Federation's annual campaign, a board member with Jewish Family Services, and a participant in the Jewish Community Centre's Jewish Men's Softball and Basketball Leagues.

Involving myself in my adopted community gave me a sense of belonging. Rhoda and I also sent our children to Hillel Academy for a Jewish education and Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa for a summertime Jewish experience. My daughter's lifelong friendships were forged at Hillel and some of my son's oldest friends are from CBB.

Over the pasty 35+ years, I've sat on, and chaired, numerous boards of directors and have volunteered at many of the Ottawa Jewish Community's annual events and campaigns.

This community welcomed me with wide open arms. I've always felt a responsibility to, to the best of my ability, repay that generosity of heart and acceptance through financial contributions and personal time.

I decided to support Federation through the Life & Legacy Program to help ensure that future generations of the Ottawa Jewish Community have the same opportunities that my family has had. The Ottawa Jewish Community has helped shape who I am and who my children are, and for that, I'm eternally grateful.

In 25 years, I hope Ottawa's Jewish Community is even more vibrant than it is today. More importantly, I hope that every Jewish individual feels safe and accepted no matter how or where in the city they choose to live.

*Jeff Miller*