

Allen Wynperle Legacy Endowment Fund

I grew up in North York, the son of two Holocaust survivors. My parents' experiences in the war shaped much of my childhood, although they did not speak of what happened to them. As an adult, I became a student of history, and I was able to speak with other survivors to gain a better understanding of what my parents lived through. Of course, even children of survivors can't fully appreciate the depths of darkness that our parents endured.

My father, Kiwa Kadysiewicz, was in a concentration camp at the age of 9, and he suffered a very deep psychological impact that was hard on our family. My mother, Henrietta, was truly the centre of my universe. She passed away when I was only 14 years old, but in that time she laid a strong and loving foundation for me. After I graduated from law school, I adopted her maiden name, Wynperle, as a way to honour her.

After my mother's passing I was raised by my two older sisters, Yvette and Jacquie. They supported me through university and I eventually continued my studies to become a lawyer.

Following law school, I had the opportunity to work with William Morris, a respected lawyer practicing in Hamilton (which is what brought me to the city). I grew to love living in Hamilton and I have now lived here for 24 years.

I feel it is important to help support the Jewish community in Hamilton. It is a small community, and we need to secure the future of Jewish life here by ensuring basic services are available, such as Jewish schooling and social services. Without that, the fabric of the community will deteriorate. I hope that my gift to the Hamilton Jewish Federation will help keep the community strong so that Jewish families can continue to build their lives here.

In my adult life, I have been fortunate to find professional success and to build a loving family with my wife, Marina, and our sons, Benjamin and Jacob. There are times when we all face challenges, and there are many people in difficult circumstances who need a helping hand. Ultimately I hope that in some small way, I can contribute to making the world a better place.

