

## Susan & Paul Roth Legacy Endowment Fund

**Growing up,** Tzedakah was always a very important part of Susan and Paul Roth's respective families. Born and raised in Toronto, Susan and Paul have lived in Hamilton for more than 40 years. "The community here in Hamilton has been good to our family and we would like to see it continue," they said.

Susan, a professional social worker and former professor at Mohawk College, and Paul, among the most prominent optometrists in Hamilton, have become true leaders in the local Jewish community over the years.

Teenaged sweethearts, Paul and Susan met at a Young Judea camp when he was 18 and she 16. After years of dating they married in the early 1970s. After years of living in Toronto, the Roths decided to leave the hustle and bustle of the big city.

"We wanted to live in a smaller community that still had a significant Jewish population," said Susan. "We were looking for a good place to raise a family." Hamilton provided the perfect environment for them to do just that. Blessed with three children and nine grandchildren, the Roths have become fixtures in their adopted Jewish community.

The Roths have both served on the board of the Hamilton Jewish Federation, and still volunteer their time and efforts on many of its committees. Susan has been president of the Jewish Social Services board of directors for more than 15 years. Paul participated in the rewriting of Federation's by-laws, co-chaired local UJA campaigns and sits on the Jewish Social Services finance committee.

The Roths passed on their strong sense of community to their children. Their daughter, Leah Izenberg, is the co-founder and co-director of The Red Oak Centre, a Toronto-based integrated support facility for children, adolescents and adults. Their son Jay (Kalman) is living in Tzfat, Israel, studying to be a rabbi, while their youngest son Jordan is a New York-based screenwriter and producer for late night TV talk shows.

Susan and Paul created their legacy endowment fund in 2018 to help the community thrive on an ongoing basis. Because they do not wish to limit their fund's scope to one specific project, they have requested that funds be allocated to where they will be needed most.

"When you work voluntarily in a community for a long period of time, you develop an investment in the community's future," said Susan.

