

**We have
the choice
to make a
difference**



**The Choice
Foundation™**

WHAT IS TCF?

The Choice Foundation supports disability programs and projects through JCA Member organisations. We are looking to create innovative new education, vocation, housing, respite and social services that enable everyone to better contribute to and benefit from the community we all share.

**“We give people
more choice in how
they want to live
their lives”**



OUR MISSION



To raise awareness and educate

To ensure collaboration between organisations

Funding of new and innovative ideas

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

After being involved in the community for many years both as active community members and philanthropically, Taryn and Andrew Boyarsky felt a deep connection to the people they were meeting who were impacted by disability. They slowly learned of the services they were not receiving, of the inclusion not always taking place, of the social, educational, vocational limitations they felt due to their disability, and so, they took it upon themselves to see this change.

It was clear to them that the best way forward was to fund projects directed by the people who needed them, and so, The Choice Foundation was formed, to do exactly what it claims to do, give people Choice.



"We laughed, listened, loved, danced and educated while achieving our mission of providing more opportunity and more choice, we thank you for all of your support"



OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE...

A time where people with disabilities feel just as much part of a community as everyone else. Where their lives are filled with meaningful activities, facilities and employment opportunities.

A community in which every organisation has inclusion as a part of their expectation.

OUR JEWISH VALUES

The Choice Foundation was founded in 2018 and has the guidance of Jewish values at its core, whereby collaboration and innovation allow our community to make impactful change.

Guided by our Jewish Values of Chessed (Giving of oneself fully with love and compassion) and Tikkun Olam (to mend the world), we represent and advocate for the inclusion of people with disabilities, to ensure that everyone has the same opportunities to reach their potential.

Motivated by a desire to create a just and fair community for people with a disability.

With innovative concepts at the core of the vision for The Choice Foundation, the hope is to bring programs and services to the community that make real, needed and impactful change.



HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING:

We seek to represent injustices within our community for people with a disability by funding programs brought to us by community members wanting to advocate for change.

Applications are available at www.thechoicefoundation.org.au

Programs and services funded must fit within one or more of the 5 core areas of support:



Housing



Vocation



Education



Social



Respite

OUR PROGRAMS

A Weekend Away

Funding: JewishCare

Idea: Initiated by an Individual

7 weekends away with friends since 2020

A Weekend Away provides a unique opportunity for people with a disability to go on a holiday with friends of all abilities. Led by volunteers of similar ages and interests, 3-4 people with disabilities go away with 3-4 people without disabilities for a fun weekend. Starting on a Friday night to create a Shabbat together until Sunday. The homes they stay in are holiday homes generously donated for the weekend by members of our community.

Annual Cost
\$10,000

Anticipated future cost
\$20,000 p/annum to expand the offering to higher needs participants, an opportunity to travel outside of NSW, and to offer more frequent weekends.

 Social  Respite



“Our daughter went away on the Weekends Away programme last weekend. Rebecca is always hesitant to go away, change of scenery, people, routine etc.. She had a wonderful time. The helpers were a wonderful, energetic group. Nothing was a problem for them. What impressive young ladies. We on the other hand had a lovely break , going out guilt free.”

- Parent of a Participant

Flex Funds

Funding: JewishCare

34 Individuals received funding in 1 year

Flex Funds is a new avenue of funding for families in financial stress as a result of their child's or their own disability. Available through JewishCare, this new source of funding can relieve families of the cost of assessments, services or other needs, based on a discussion with a case manager.

Annual Cost

\$60,000



Education



Respite



"We have 2 children with ADHD, so life is busy with medical appointments and extra learning support. Thanks to Flex Funds, we can go the extra mile knowing that we are doing everything possible to best support our kids without the added financial stress of their appointments, assessments and medication. Thank you to The Choice Foundation for making this possible"

- Parent and recipient of Flex Funds



Learning Support Officer

Funding: Kesser Torah College

22 Children receiving learning Support

A unique grant provided for Funding to employ a full time learning support officer in the high school at KTC for the first time.

With reports that KTC has a large cohort of students with additional learning needs and no support, this funding has been essential in assisting students to make gains in their learning with 1:1 support.

Annual Cost
\$50,000

Match Funded by another donor
Totalling \$100,00

 Education



“It appears that the program is not only running successfully during lockdown, but in actual fact has been critical during this period for the effective learning of these children requiring support. Thank you for enabling this to occur.”

- Teacher Kesser Torah College





J-JOBS

Funding: JewishCare

- 4 participants in Paid Employment**
- 2 participants in short term roles**
- 2 participants have developed their own micro businesses**
- Predicted to double outcomes for 2023**

J-JOBS is a new innovative customized employment program run by and through JewishCare that works with individuals with a disability who are interested in securing customised employment. J-JOBS works directly with employers to help them identify and develop the appropriate work and skill sets for the client. They then support the client and the employer for the duration of the initial phase of the placement.

Annual Cost
\$110,000

 Vocation  Education



"I wanted to say thank you for having such an amazing impact on my child in such a small space of time...he has really struggled to find his feet and has not managed to find a position that lasts for him. He has been from employer to employer and every knock back that he gets, affects his confidence and feeling of self-worth."

- Parent of a J-JOBS participant



Improved Accessibility and Inclusion at Sydney Jewish Museum

Funding: Sydney Jewish Museum

The Choice Foundation Funding solved an ongoing intention to take a formal look into the museum and its accessibility. While looking at other museums around the world and how Sydney Jewish museum (SJM) can offer best practice. SJM is now committed to creating an inclusive and accessible environment in all areas of service. They believe inclusion includes both physical accessibility and enhanced inclusion practices beyond the physical space, considering visual, learning and other needs. They also acknowledge this is an ongoing process.



“We are committed to achieving an inclusive environment, so that as many people as possible are able to engage”

Annual Cost

\$15,000



Education

All Abilities Dance Program

Funding: JewishCare

142 Students have participated in the Program

A weekly dance class for all abilities taught by top dance teachers and run through the Maccabi all abilities team

The Maccabi Dance Project employs professional paid teachers to engage participants in a dance studio environment. There are a few different avenues of how the dance program provides access and submerges its services to the community.

Annual Cost
\$6,000



Education



Social



“Every Friday 16 students from the Rose Bay Secondary College, IEF (Inclusive Education Faculty) look forward to seeing the Maccabi dance teacher Gabi. The dance class is the carrot for getting all the morning work done, students will go above and beyond knowing that after recess they have a lesson where they get to listen to great music and dance. I have seen each student blossom under Gabi’s direction, each student feels like they belong and are part of a collaborative group.. Thank you JCA The Choice Foundation and Maccabi for the opportunity.”

- Rose Bay High School Teacher



Educate Through Experience

Funding: Maccabi All Abilities

520 students participated

An Opportunity for young students in Jewish Day schools to learn first hand from a person with a disability about finding success and joy, no matter their ability. Students can now hear from and experience playing wheelchair Basketball with a paralympian at school as arranged by Maccabi.

Annual Cost

\$7,000



Education



Social



“The combination of learning about disabilities and the experience of playing basketball in a wheelchair broadened the students’ awareness of diversity and inclusion in both sport and everyday life. Our thanks to Maccabi for giving our students this opportunity.”

- Masada Teacher





Upskill

Funding: JewishCare

Idea initiated and run by: An Individual

8 Events run in the last 12 months
40 Participants

Upskill provides those with a disability the opportunity to learn specialised skills with likeminded people of all abilities. This includes skills such as coffee and cocktail making, floristry, hospitality and much much more.

Designed as a social outing but with the intention behind the scenes being to support participants in the day to day rituals of purchasing tickets, engaging staff, and taking public transport. All to upskill in life skills.

A guaranteed fun night out learning new skills as decided on by the participants, with the intention to guide these learned skills into paid employment opportunities or future hobbies.

Annual Cost

\$10,000



Vocation



Social



Respite



**"I am so glad I met
you at Upskill."**

- Upskill Participant

Camp Sababa Extension Programs

Funding: JewishCare

Run by: Individuals

250 Participants

Camp Sababa facilitates a range of programs, including an annual overnight holiday camp, for young people with disabilities aged 7-24 years old. They encourage social inclusion for all abilities and provide support to parents and families who provide year-round disability care for their children.



“Words cannot express my deep appreciation and thanks for the most wonderful day my daughters had at Camp Sibs today. You all do unbelievably amazing work. It is so nice for the girls to feel special when life usually centers around our special needs son.”

- Mum of daughters at Sibs

Camp Sababa Extension Programs are run through JewishCare providing extra programs to support the annual camp, and the funding has been broken into 2 parts:

1. Sababa Reunion - A reconnection for ex campers who have outgrown camp Sababa , but have not outgrown eachother. Offering events and social activities to reunite.
2. Sababa Sibs - Siblings of children with a disability tend to grow up with a deep and complex understanding of the disability sector. This is an opportunity for them to not worry about anything else but fun and meet like minded friends.

The funding provided allows for these programs to run throughout the year as the leaders/volunteers of each program design the events.

Annual Cost

\$30,000



Social



Respite



Surfs UP

Funding: Maccabi All Abilities

40 Surf Participants
20 Volunteers

A unique Surf School run monthly in the warmer months.

Surfs UP is where community members with a disability can learn how to surf and hang out with like minded people, all under the supervision of trained Lets Go Surfing Instructors.

Annual Cost
\$22,000

Future cost
\$11,000 per annum



Education



Social



“We are compelled to pass on how amazing today’s experience was for Edwina. She was anxious about going. But once she got the wetsuit on and saw her pals there she went with it. And then you all took control and gave her a brand new experience. I have never seen Edwina glow as much as she is this afternoon. The forced change was priceless and valuable. Surfing is something Edwina would not have ever tried if it was not for you Taryn, and friends. We are deeply grateful. Cliche says “words can’t describe” but they can’t describe the gift you gave today. Not just financially but in the community you created and gathered.”

- Mum of Surfs UP Participant



Group Homes

Funding: JewishCare

Funding has been allocated to help solve a long standing issue amongst many regarding accommodation away from home.

A Jewish group home will be set up with this funding to house up to 4 people with a disability and a support worker.

One off cost
\$50,000

 Education

 Social



Adamama at One&All

Funding: Shalom College

An innovative collaboration between One&All and Shalom's Adamama Program to allow participants of One&All to continue to learn new skills in sustainability and healthy living, which will solidify their connection to nature.

Skills learned include, gardening, connecting with nature, pickling and more

One off cost

\$50,000



Education



Vocation



“It is our CHOICES that show what we truly are, far more than our Abilities”



OUR TEAM



Taryn Boyarsky

Co-Founder / Chairperson

"The Choice Foundation has been a culmination of my passion and deep belief of Tikkun Olam and Chessed coming together."



Andrew Boyarsky

Co-Founder

"It is gratifying to be part of a community where inclusion matters. A place where every participant has opportunities and experiences that tangibly improve their lives."



Danielle Wakerman

Foundation Manager

"I choose to work for an organisation that values every individual and I know that working in the same place where you can make great impact."



Michelle Falk

Social Media Manager

"I am passionate about creating awareness about disability and through social media I am able to impact and reach the maximum amount of people."



Adam Dostalek

Head of Video Content

"The foundation has raised much needed awareness on what it's like for those who are living with a mental or physical disability and I'm honoured I get to be a part of that process."



Sam

Chief Photographer

"I like being a photographer for The Choice Foundation as I love being a part of the community making people smile and making a difference in peoples lives."

OUR ADVISORY BOARD



Taryn Boyarsky

Co-Founder / Chairperson



Andrew Boyarsky

Co-Founder



Danielle Wakerman

Foundation Manager



Shari Lowe

JCA Head of Planning



Steve Gluckman

Medical Director at Human



Nicole Gamerov

MyCareSpace Founder



Nicky Franks

Founder Camp Sababa



Daniel Grynberg

Past CEO of JCA



Robyn Gerber

Past Board Member

"We have the choice to make a difference, to strengthen our community by ensuring that everyone has the choice to fulfil their potential and contribute to the greater good.

We exist to enable

We are here to empower

We offer the CHOICE"

Thank you to the board who offer their time and expertise, which is highly valued

IT'S BEEN A BUSY BEGINNING...

WHAT do we do when we aren't investing in Programs?



1 MUSIC VIDEO created to accompany the song, starring our own community.



1 TRIP TO MELBOURNE to collaborate and learn from Flying Fox.



15 INTERVIEWS with our community members. Personal and raw, they delve deeply into the stories of how different disabilities impact people on every level.



HOSTED 5 PARTIES, including Chanukah parties, end of year parties and a Moonlight cinema.



Met with heads of all **5 JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS** to understand the needs of their students with additional needs.



1 SONG WRITTEN FOR PARALYMPICS, - Used as the theme song for Channel 7. Collaborated with Ilan Kidron to write, Nothing is Impossible.



Sat and Learned from over **150 FAMILIES** to hear what they need from the programs we are providing.



HOSTED 6 THINKTANKS to hear from and learn what the community needs. Participants include, Direct consumers of programs, parents and Volunteers.



COLLABORATED with all Disability leaders to bring A Kinder World now for a **1 OFF EVENT**.



Introduced **STEVE SOLOMON** to train a Maccabiah athlete who ran for Maccabi All Abilities.



ADVOCATED tirelessly where necessary for individuals to receive fair and just access to programs.



\$5,000 ADDITIONAL PRIZE MONEY donated to the winner of the annual JCA Shark Tank should their idea impact the disability sector.



Collaborated and met with **MAJOR DONORS** from around the globe with similar intentions the Choice Foundation, Including The Ruderman Foundation.



2 PERSONAL INVITATIONS to meet sporting heroes, off the back of filming our interview series.



CONNECTED 25 isolated people through our **VIRTUAL CHECK IN** during lockdown to avoid feelings on loneliness.



Joined The **AUSTRALIAN JEWISH FUNDERS (AJF)** and worked closely to build partnerships within the philanthropy sphere in our local and global Jewish community. We also participated in a number of their upskilling opportunities, including launchpad leadership



Built a community of over **150 VOLUNTEERS**, committed to our programs.

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WHAT'S NEXT FOR TCF?...

2022 has proved to be yet another successful year for JCA The Choice Foundation.

Notwithstanding its challenges and the continued impact Covid has had on our community and the opportunities to run larger social events.

Our response to Covid, as was most people's response, was to re-evaluate some of our funding opportunities and to find new ways of engaging people.

This included developing a program called Flex Funds, which allows for families who need financial aid to support their child through the early years of assessment and evaluation. Acknowledging the financial stress Covid placed on many families, particularly those with children with disabilities.

As 2023 rolls in, The Choice Foundation will remain firm in its mission to continue to advocate, support and grow an inclusive and accessible community for all members. Our focus now moving forward is to grow in this space.

We have recently aligned ourselves with the new Hakoah at White City, guaranteeing \$500,000. The funds for Hakoah have been clearly stipulated to employ an inclusive architect to review the physical and social needs of our choice foundation community.

The funds will also support an inclusion officer onsite whose responsibility it will be to ensure that the needs of people with varying abilities are met in the programming of the overall experience onsite.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the community we have built over the last 4.5 years whilst developing JCA The Choice Foundation. The families who have entrusted us with developing programs and services and spaces that serve their loved ones. The same people who have sat with us for hours upon hours to help us understand their needs, their frustrations and their hopes.

The volunteers who have delivered time and time again by creating and delivering programs and offering their friendship and time is absolutely what sets us apart from other communities. We could not do this without our volunteers.

As we approach 2023, and we take stock of the 11 programs we have so far invested in, we can only hope that the year to come delivers programs that are as meaningful and as impactful.

Applications for new investments into JCA constituent organisations opens at the end of 2022 for financial support and advocacy support. We have made a commitment to each program that we invest in, to stand alongside them and nurture their ideas and help the program to flourish.

We look forward to seeing how we can continue to maximise the supports, access and inclusive behaviours of this wonderful community.

Thank you for joining us on this journey so far.

Taryn and Andrew Boyarsky



The Choice
Foundation™