



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Meeting the Needs of People with Mental Illness

Ometz receives transformational \$1 million gift

Montreal, October 10, 2018 – One of our most vulnerable and overlooked populations will now have better access to mental health services thanks to a generous \$1 million gift from Miriam Aaron Roland. The newly established *Miriam Aaron Roland Social Service Fund* will allow the Ometz Community Mental Health Department to greatly expand its services, alleviate growing waitlists and serve an additional number of clients with mental illness.

“Medical practice and research continue to advance towards a goal of wellbeing. Wellbeing is more than the absence of illness and infirmity,” explains Ms. Roland. “Many people suffer from stress, anxiety, and depression. They and their families require prompt reliable services and support. By highlighting its focus on mental health, Ometz will expand its services for those in need.”

Ometz currently assists 200 adults (a number of them young adults under the age of 35) living with illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression and anxiety disorder, many of whom live well below the poverty line. Ometz has also developed a unique expertise of working with 18-30 year olds living with high functioning autism spectrum disorder or mild intellectual challenges often coupled with mental health issues. The major objective is to support our clients by increasing connection to community, promoting autonomy, and equipping them with necessary life and coping skills.

“Recent budget cuts in the public sector have seen a surge in wait times for mental-health services, and people are turning to community organizations like us for support,” says Gail Small, Chief Executive Office of Ometz. “This transformational gift will be a first big step in meeting the evolving needs of our growing clientele.”

About Ometz

Founded in 1863, Ometz is a charitable organization that supports and strengthens individuals and families by offering a range of employment, immigration, school and community services. Serving more than 13,000 people annually, Ometz provides intervention, prevention, support services and programs aimed to enhance quality of life. Whether supporting a student who is struggling at school, a family in crisis, an individual coping with mental illness, a person looking for a new career or starting a new life in Montreal, Ometz helps change lives. To find out more about Ometz, please visit www.ometz.ca

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For interview opportunities, please contact:

Carly Grossman
Ometz
Senior Communications and Stewardship Officer
carly.grossman@ometz.ca
(514) 342-0000 (ext.3460)