



**2022-2023**

# ANNUAL

Report



**THE HINDA INSTITUTE**

# ABOUT THE HINDA INSTITUTE



**0% Recidivism 100% Acceptance**  
**Helping Individuals Ascend**



For over 40 years, the Hinda Institute has provided counseling, visitation, and support predominantly to Jews who have encountered the criminal justice system. Our goal is to lower recidivism rates and ensure that those coming out of prison do not return. We provide nonjudgemental and caring support for innocent families; spouses, parents, and children affected by the criminal justice system.

Due to the support of our sponsors, the Hinda Institute has provided staggering results in the realm of recidivism. Our pervasive, holistic, and personal approach is responsible for our recidivism rate of less than 10% compared to a national recidivism baseline rate of over 75%.

## ESSENTIAL AND UNIQUE ROLE



140 detained citizens visited monthly in federal and state correctional institutions as well as jails throughout Illinois.



Supports 118 family members, spouses, parents, and children: the innocent collateral damage of crime.



Dynamic re-entry program assists 219 casework clients and families in rebuilding their lives for good;

Reentry Education Program 175 participants

## SERVICES



Spirituality



Counseling



Support Groups



Courses/Education



Family Services



Legal Services



Probation/Parole

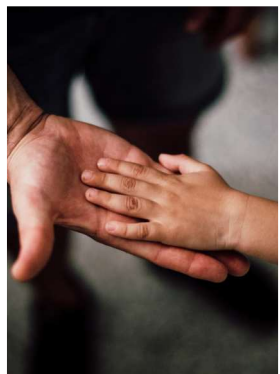


Finding Employment



Finding Housing

*"I was feeling very depressed, isolated, and anxious. Hinda's services helped me improve in all areas of my life. The amount of support I get is very valuable to my well-being. It saved my life."* -Hinda Client

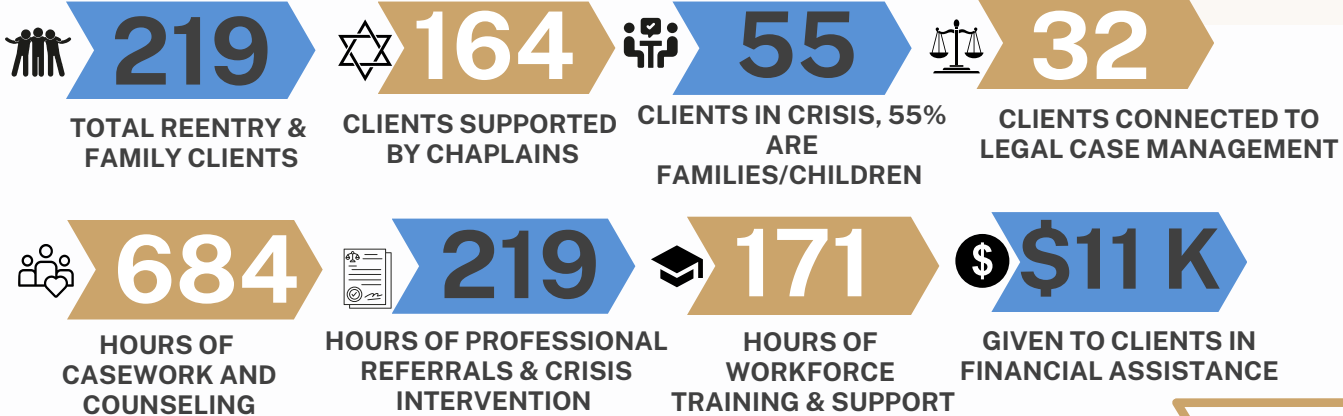


# COUNSELING AND CASEWORK

The Hinda Institute provides our clients with hope, counseling, and assistance where no other Jewish organization does. We also provide assistance in unique areas such as dealing with parole and probation. In the past 2 years, our staff has grown to include five caseworkers and counselors who are Reentry Specialists and/or counselors.

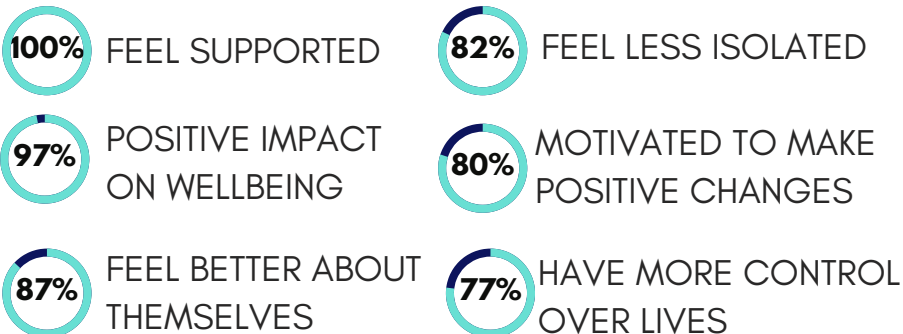
The Hinda Institute's casework and counseling program assists some of the most under-served and vulnerable, populations in the Jewish Community. Most of our clients are in desperate need and are dealing with severe poverty and employment problems. Additionally, this population faces tremendous challenges in self-esteem and dealing with trauma.

“  
The Support Groups have made my levels of depression and anxiety regarding our incarcerated son MUCH more manageable.  
”



## SUPPORT GROUPS

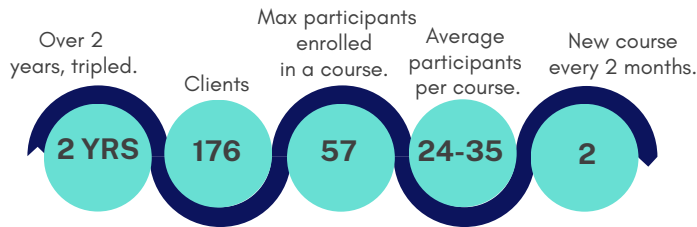
Rebounders  
Addiction  
Family



## LEGAL ADVISORY TEAM

The Hinda institute has a legal advisory team and paralegal that guides our families in navigating the legal system, provides referrals, and assists with letters of support, sealing, and other free legal services.

# REENTRY EDUCATION PROGRAM



The Hinda Institute Reentry Education Program was developed to help people who are reentering society to rebuild their lives for good. These unique, expert and relevant courses include ways to cope psychosocially, practical essential courses such as training for employment and financial management as well as legal guidance. This year we initiated a certification program for peer support specialists and a course on facilitation techniques.

Our clients are success stories; they are human beings who have changed themselves and rebuilt their lives despite tremendous challenges and prejudice. The majority of our clients do turn over their lives, find gainful employment, and give back to their communities. They succeed where others could not. We are there to support them.

## SOME GUEST FACILITATORS



Alan Mills,  
Lawyer



Elizabeth Kelley,  
Lawyer



George Chochos,  
Leadership



Mark Weinberg,  
Lawyer

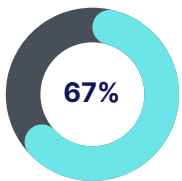


Dr. Kutzen,  
Professor

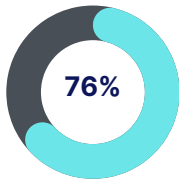


Edna Eres, PhD

## SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE BUILDING



Able to apply for, interview, and find jobs



Better understanding of legal rights.

*For the past two years, I have been participating in various Hinda Institute courses. They have inspired me to believe in myself again. This gave me the courage to rebuild my life. They gave me a feeling of belonging and a purpose.*

## SELF-CONFIDENCE

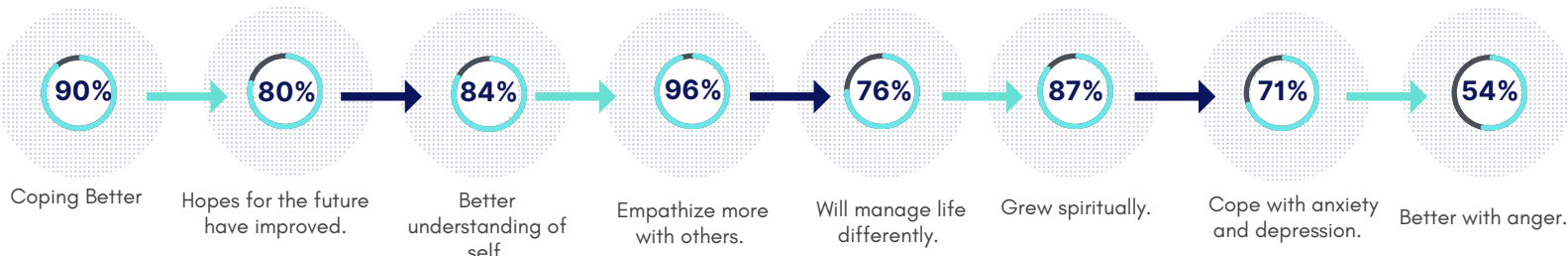


Confidence has improved.



Felt that they were supported by a nonjudgmental community.

## PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT



# VISITING CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS



The Hinda Institute currently visits 150 to 200 clients every month within federal and state correctional institutions as well as weekly within jails. The Hinda Institute chaplains travel over 45,000 miles across Illinois to visit these Jews who have often been virtually forgotten by their communities. The chaplains offer support to these Jews who are alone in the abyss of prison and give them hope for the future.



## ACTIVITIES:



Counseling and mentoring



Ensuring that the client's religious rights are respected in accordance with American law. Bringing the joy of Jewish holidays to our isolated clients.



Facilitating Jewish burials and divorces.



Educational courses



Correspondence program



Lending library

“

*“My son is currently fighting a court case in Cook County Jail. Chaplains from the Hinda Institute visit my son every week. They support me each time I am in the courtroom and have formed a defense support team. They even helped me secure a rehabilitation facility.”*

”

# CARES FAMILY SUPPORT

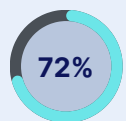
Counseling, Advocacy, Restorative Justice, Education, and Support



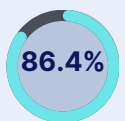
The Hinda Institute initiated the CARES Family Support Group after we repeatedly heard the realities of the families that had a close family member who was detained. They were devastated financially, were suffering from PTSD often for years, had been “snubbed” in their synagogues and were suffering multiple psychological stresses. Our survey of the needs of these families in April 2021 found that the impact was even greater for children. Through no fault of their own, the women and children were the unrecognized “collateral damage of crime”. Family structures were fractured. The CARES group was a place where voices could be heard and validated.

-  115 Jewish women who benefit from our family counseling programs and weekly support groups; 30 women joined just this year.
-  Assist families find financial resources. (More than 50% are low-income families)
-  Supported 30 families this year through the legal process; support in the courtroom; legal consultations and advocacy.
-  Provide a safe place for social events and classes.

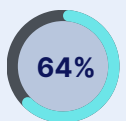
*"I found myself with a group of people who understood and supported us. We no longer hang our heads in shame."*



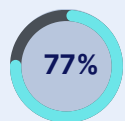
Aware of the challenges of these families



Will be more inclusive



Have more empathy



Understand families more who have a loved one who is incarcerated

The Hinda institute has empowered our families to advocate in order to sensitize the community to the devastation of incarceration on wives, mothers, fathers, and children. We have brought our documentary film, along with presenters to over 15 critical agencies and institutions working to create awareness, sensitivity and support of the families.



# HOLIDAYS AT HINDA



Chanukah presents for Children of Hinda Families

Menorah lighting in Correctional Institutions

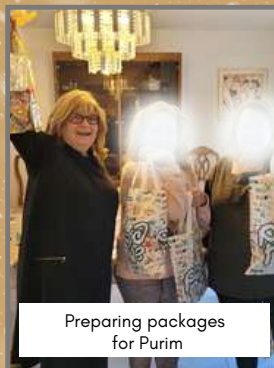
Chanukah presents for Children of Hinda Families

*"You have made an amazing difference in my life during a time of such uncertainty. Much appreciated."*

*I just returned from the kitchen. I was called over there to pick up the box of food you sent to me for Passover. As I sat here in the quiet solitude of my cell, unpacking it, I began to cry. I was reminded of Passovers that I shared with my brother and parents as a child and with friends, family, and xxx as an adult. I cried because as I touched each item, especially the hand-crafted Seder Plate, I realized there is an anonymous Jewish community that cares. It more than offsets the abandonment I feel ..*



Delivering Matzos to our Clients and Families



Preparing packages for Purim

Hinda Institute provides for the spiritual needs of our clients and families through classes and rabbinic chaplaincy and helps them integrate socially.



Chaplains and dedicated volunteers visit correctional institutions during the Jewish Holidays. Provide Holiday food and religious items and most importantly the joy of celebration in a place of tremendous darkness.



Provides a home away from home a warm and accepting place for the holidays or services for isolated families and clients. The Hinda Institute wants them to know that they are not alone and that someone cares.



Assist with food insecurity and holiday packages.



Menorah lighting in Correctional Institutions



Passover Deliveries to Correctional Institutions



**HELP US TO BREAK THE CYCLE  
AND MAKE REAL CHANGE**

## **SPONSORS**

**THE CASLOW FOUNDATION**

**STERN FAMILY FOUNDATION**

**LAVIN-HERBECK FOUNDATION**

**THE KLAFF FOUNDATION**

**THE COOPERMAN  
FOUNDATION**

**WALDER  
FOUNDATION**

POWERING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



**Crain-Maling  
Foundation**