



FIRST EDITION – NOVEMBER 2022

Dear Friends, Customers, Supporters, Staff and Volunteers,

Thank you all for supporting Zera Café. It's been an exciting and productive year. We have so much to be proud of and couldn't have achieved so many great things without all of you.

Looking back on the past year, Zera's seeds have really sprouted into a flourishing enterprise. We are so proud of our great milestones and how much we have accomplished.

New kitchen, strong leadership.

In January 2022 we moved into a modern, larger kitchen in Cummings Square. We became **MK certified**, hired a **Head of Kitchen, Director of Operations** and **Job Coach**. This professional leadership team creates structure and supports our growth! Our dedicated **Board of Directors** continues to offer invaluable support, guidance and acumen in making Zera Café a growing and sustainable organization.



More working opportunities for people of all abilities.

Our staff of **neurodiverse employees is now 22 strong!** Operations are running smoothly with the help and dedication of **35 energetic volunteers** that help coach our staff in the kitchen and deliver our orders every week.

Business is good.

Sales of our ready-to-eat business are strong. We make extraordinary home-made kosher food and our **customers love our product**. We are now **catering events** and work on **special catering projects** for schools, synagogues and other agencies in the community. We baked over **3,000 honey cakes for Rosh Hashana** and saw many of them on our friends' and neighbours' tables over the holidays. Over Purim, our first major fundraiser in the form of a hamentashen bake sale, **raised over \$45,000** through sponsorship.



Nods and Papparazzi.

Our social enterprise was awarded a business development grant from **Petit Moyen Entreprise Montréal** and **Innogec**. As winners of the **CIBC Mars Innovation Employment Challenge**, we will be sharing our expertise on a panel in Toronto. As well, we are honored to be invited to the **Hartman Institute Leadership Development Program**.

There was a steady stream of **media coverage** over the last year in the Montreal Gazette, The Suburban and Westmount Independent. See the full stories [here](#).

Partnerships, together is better.

We continue to strengthen our partnership with **JEM Workshop** which has us working as one to provide even more varied meaningful employment opportunities to people of all abilities. Since June, we have employed **JEM's first enclave/mobile working group**.

The team of 7 people is tasked with picking and packing our ready-to-eat meal orders and has become an indispensable part of our process. As well, the team has worked on their customer service skills by running our beta version "Zera Café Kiosk" in the Cummings Centre.



Feeling the love from community.

Our new kitchen puts us in the heart of the community and we are so grateful to **Federation CJA** for that opportunity and all it's support in kind. We are so grateful to **key supporters** including the **Morris & Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation**, **Reuben Family**, **Martin Banoon**, **Alvin Segal Family Foundation**, **David and Rachelle Sochaczewski**, **Stan and Vicki Zack**, and **Howard and Vivian Stotland**.



We appreciate your ongoing support.

Consider **donating** to Zera Café. Please email info@zeracafe.ca for opportunities. Buy our Zera Café **gift cards**. The perfect holiday gift.

Founding Director

