

My Story



At a time when many of his friends are settling in the suburbs, **Leor Barak** is unabashedly pro-Detroit. As a lawyer, business student and president of the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, Leor is helping to grow a hub of Jewish life in the city. It was no surprise he also wanted to move into Detroit to live.

"I work downtown, I go to cultural shows and clubs, I spend all my time here," said Leor, "so living here is a combination of both idealism and convenience. I'm very lucky. I have a great house in West Village, friendly neighbors, easy access to stores, restaurants and whatever I need. All the landmarks people think about when they visualize Detroit, like Belle Isle and the riverfront, are right there."

The problem came in when Leor's roof began to leak. "Every time it rained, I cringed," he said. "The total cost of replacing the roof wasn't something I just had lying around handy, and I went to Hebrew Free Loan for help with some of the expense. It worked out well, because we also made the house more energy efficient."

Leor lives in Detroit because it has everything he needs, including something intangible. "I'm just glad to be part of positive change in Detroit," he said. "There's an energy here. If we continue reinvesting in ourselves and our community, we can keep it going."

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