

2016-2017 The Jewish Fund Teen Board Mission Statement

The Jewish Fund Teen Board will strive to address community needs in Metro Detroit affecting youth and families. Our mission is to effect change in the following areas:

1. Through support of mental health awareness initiatives, individuals in our community will experience improved mental health.
2. Through projects which provide support and assistance to individuals with special needs and/or their families, participants will experience better quality of life and access to community participation.

The Jewish Fund Teen Board is a collaborative philanthropy group providing Jewish teens from the Metro Detroit area the opportunity to learn about grantmaking and philanthropy. In 2016-2017, our 3rd year of programming, 33 Teen Board members representing 13 high schools and 14 congregations, granted \$50,000. This report is about who they are, what they did and how they did it.

The Teen Board Experience

By: Yara Hyman, Emma Jacobson, Claire Schwartz

The Teen Board has introduced us to a new understanding of philanthropic and life values. Through our experience we have learned more about the issues within the Jewish community and the wider Metro Detroit area. We were able to take all of our different backgrounds and perspectives and use them to create a cohesive mission statement. Our mission statement was focused on mental health and special needs, which we believe are two prevalent issues. During our meetings we were able to develop skills like public speaking and group collaboration, resulting in an increased sense of confidence. At site visits we were able to fully visualize the impact that we would be making on these organizations. We were able to come up with a decision that, as a group, we are extremely proud of.



Leadership

By: Carolyn Cohn, Talya Dovas, Taylor Golden-Wise, Paul Schmitz, George Victor

Being on the leadership committee for The Jewish Fund Teen Board has taught us leadership skills, communication skills, and more, that have helped prepared us for the rest of our lives. We worked with teens like us who were passionate about philanthropy and making a difference in our community. Although this year we were not directly involved in the grant making process and decisions, we observed a parallel process to what we had done in previous years and were able to contrast the different priorities and perspectives between the different years. We truly enjoyed observing and helping facilitate these teens' passions for philanthropy and making an idea transform into reality.

The Impact of Site Visits

By: Griffin Kozlow, Micah Krakoff, Eliana Tieke

Up until the site visits, our experience with the organizations was limited. We read over their proposals, evaluated them, and discussed them amongst our board, but were never able to fully visualize the impact that our grant money was going to have on them. While we were touring the organizations we were able to get a stronger sense of how the non-profits were run. We were able to make a personal connection with the leaders of the organizations through asking our own questions. We took the information that we gained from the visits and shared it with the rest of the board, which allowed us to engage in informed discussion and narrow down our grant options. Without the site visits, we would not have gained the personal insight that allowed us to make our final decisions.



Connecting our Grantmaking to Jewish Values

Klal Yisrael – All Jewish People are Responsible for One Another

By: Ilan Elrom, Sofia Klein

As The Jewish Fund Teen Board, our goal is to address pressing issues within and around our community by funding programs through non-profit organizations that provide much needed support. In our aspirations towards that goal, we closely follow the Jewish value of Klal Israel, meaning that all Jewish people are responsible for each other. In doing so, we allot 70% of our grantmaking funds toward Jewish organizations and issues affecting Jewish members of our society. Considering all of the members of this board are Jewish and have strong Jewish heritages that are the foundations to our philanthropy, we strive to make an impact on Jewish people with our \$50,000, provided to us by The Jewish Fund. By addressing topics close to home, we are able to better our understanding of nonprofit organizations in Metro Detroit and their importance in our society. While our intent is not to demean the importance of causes that are not Jewish, we simply dedicate ourselves first to those that share our ever important Jewish bond, and that is the most meaningful way in which we can follow the guiding principle of *Klal Israel*.

Pikuach Nefesh – Save Life

By: Kate Gordon, Nicole Kahan, Jordyn Taylor

Save Life applied to the organizations Common Ground and Friendship Circle (specifically the U Matter project). Both focus on mental health awareness, most specifically suicide prevention. These organizations provide many different ways to reach out to the community and those who are in need. Mental health affects many teens in the community and this being a board made of teens, we felt the need to help people just like us. With our help, more SafeTalks and U Matter weeks will be provided to schools as well as extended hours for Common Ground's Crisis Hotline. We are so honored to contribute to such amazing organizations to help save lives and we look forward to see the organizations thrive with our help.

V'Shinantam L'Vanecha – You Shall Teach Your Children

By: Hugh Camiener, Jonah Stone, Ari Weiss

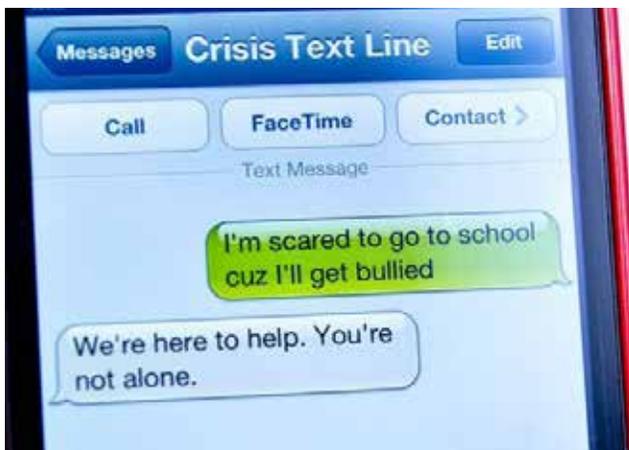
The value of teaching children, or V'shinantam L'vanecha, has an important place in the Jewish community. Education is a vital part of Jewish culture, and perhaps one of the most recognizable features in our everyday lives. For these reasons, the board decided to fund the Jewish Federation's Opening the Doors' School Inclusion Program in order to preserve this value. This program allows those with special needs to receive the Jewish education they deserve. Without a program such as this one, religious children would be unable to attend Detroit's Jewish day schools, which provide them with the Jewish values and education they need to prosper in their future lives. Instead, these children would attend public schools which often do not match up with their religious lives at home.

Focus Area 1: Mental Health

By: Julia Abramson, Rebecca Benezra, Charles Gertner, Evie Segal

As a board, we all had a collective interest in mental health. Mental health is a pressing issue within our schools, so we felt it was our obligation to make a change. As teenagers, most of us were able to recall situations where mental health assistance such as the ones we are funding could have been useful. We are confident that our choice to include mental health in our mission statement will help eliminate the stigma surrounding this important issue. By providing the Metro Detroit community with support for vital resources, we hope to make a positive effect on our community.

- The Teen Board is proud to fund two organizations committed to making significant community impact in this area:
- Common Ground: \$15,500 to expand the accessible hours of text and chat crisis line services for community benefit.
- Friendship Circle: \$10,000 to support U Matter Weeks in a minimum of five high schools, to raise awareness about mental health challenges and the severity of them amongst the Jewish teenage community of Metro Detroit and supply tools for approaching and addressing them.



Focus Area 2: Special Needs

By: Brooke Boardman, Joshua Klein, Ellie Rothstein, Daniel Sternberg

This year, we chose special needs as one of our grant making priorities. We feel that this is important because of the division in our community between those with special needs and those without. We believe that everyone deserves equal opportunities, despite our differences. By funding programs that help people with special needs, we hope to broaden the opportunities available and allow them to lead better lives. Our goal is to help people with special needs feel more included within the community.

- The Teen Board made two grants to organizations working to address this issue:
- JARC: \$12,486 to support LinkUp: Social Connection for Young Adults with Special Needs, which will provide an array of full social inclusion opportunities for individuals ages 18-26.
- Jewish Federation's Opening the Doors: \$12,000 to support the School Inclusion Program in order to allow students with a wide range of special needs to be included and be successful in a Jewish day school classroom with their same age peers and siblings.





2016-2017 Teen Board Members

Julia Abramson
Rebecca Benezra
Elana Bittker
Brooke Boardman
Hugh Camiener
Ilan Elrom
Charles Gertner
Kate Gordon
Yara Hyman

Emma Jacobson
Nicole Kahan
Jared Katzen
Sofia Klein
Joshua Klein
Griffin Kozlow
Micah Krakoff
Sarah Kreitman
Ellie Rothstein

Claire Schwartz
Evie Segal
Ryan Silberg
Daniel Sternberg
Jonah Stone
Jordyn Taylor
Eliana Tieke
Rafi Victor
Ari Weiss

Teen Board Leadership Council Members

Carolyn Cohn
Talya Dovas
Taylor Golden-Wise

Josh Kornblum
Paul Schmitz
George Victor

Staff of The Jewish Fund

Martha Goldberg, Teen Board Coordinator | Margo Pernick, Executive Director

Chair of The Jewish Fund

Karen Sosnick Schoenberg

Vice-Chair of The Jewish Fund

Nancy Grosfeld

thejewishfund.org/teenboard



The Teen Board is a project of The Jewish Fund. The Jewish Fund was established in 1997 from the sale proceeds of Sinai Hospital to the Detroit Medical Center. Sinai Hospital was a Jewish community funded facility that grew into one of metropolitan Detroit's top health care institutions. As a legacy of Sinai Hospital, The Jewish Fund continues the tradition of assuring quality and compassionate care for those in need in Metropolitan Detroit.



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