

GIVE AND GROW

An Opportunity to Invest in the Next Generation of Jewish Leadership



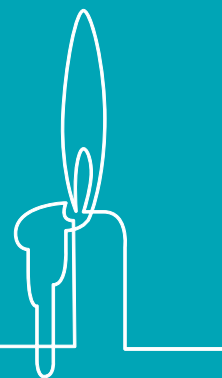
**Jewish Teen Philanthropy's Unique,
Powerful, and Lasting Impact**



Jewish teen philanthropy is a unique and powerful experience with lasting impact—keeping teens connected to Judaism.



UNIQUE.
POWERFUL.
LASTING IMPACT.



Jewish teen philanthropy aims to empower teens at all levels of Jewish engagement to serve as local philanthropic leaders, grounded in their Jewish ethics and values.

In 2014, the Jewish Teen Funders Network (JTfN) launched the Foundation Board Incubator to seed and support the sustainable growth of community-based Jewish teen philanthropy globally. Multiple studies¹ conducted with participants and alumni from the Incubator program show positive and enduring outcomes. These studies show that participating in Jewish teen philanthropy strengthens teens' Jewish identity and sense of connection to Jewish community, and provides inspiration, skills, and confidence for teens becoming leaders and changemakers in their own communities.

Jewish teen philanthropy is contributing to a collective effort within the Jewish community to foster in teens a desire to change the world while strengthening their connection to Jewish life and values.

For more information about the Incubator studies, please visit www.jtfn.org.

UNIQUE



Jewish teen philanthropy **engages** teens in unique ways that inspire and challenge them.

Jewish teen philanthropy provides teens with experiences they recognize as uncommon for people their age, harnessing their desire to do meaningful work through activities that challenge them in new ways. The unique experiences catalyze growth while also building community connection.

"[The program] is a very unique experience. I haven't seen anything remotely close to it, and because of its nature, it kind of inspired me... When I do make my own money and have a full-time job and my own family, I would love to contribute and apply these things that I learned and continue the value of Jewish unity."

Alumnus, Jewish Teen Board of Greater Toronto

Jewish teen philanthropy uniquely...

- ▶ **engages** teens to think about their Judaism in ways that feel relevant to their lives and dreams for the future.
- ▶ **challenges** teens to work with Jewish peers and build consensus by presenting their views, listening to others, and compromise.
- ▶ **empowers** teens to make decisions that are consequential for communities and issues they care about.
- ▶ **connects** teens with changemakers in community organizations, exposing them to different issues and career paths that are aligned with Jewish values.

And through these experiences, teens gain...

- ▶ **a stronger Jewish identity** and sense of connection to the Jewish community.
- ▶ **a sense of agency** from contributing meaningfully to their local communities and Jewish communities abroad.
- ▶ **leadership and communication skills**, with experiences relevant to their futures.
- ▶ **inspiration** to become changemakers, as an expression of their Jewish values.



POWERFUL

Our studies show that teens left the program with a stronger connection to the Jewish community—both local and global—and a deeper motivation to engage in Jewish activities.

Jewish teen philanthropy **strengthens** Jewish identity and teens' sense of connection to the Jewish community.

Within the program, Jewish teens serve on foundation boards where they learn about nonprofit operations, review proposals, make site visits to institutions, and allocate funds to support local and global organizations, based on Jewish values. Teens interact with their Jewish peers to make grantmaking decisions, discussing and applying Jewish values to a consensus-based decision-making process. The power of this experience lies in teens' meaningful contribution and authentic interactions with each other and within their community, and deep engagement with their Jewish values.


Participants were surveyed about their Jewish identity before and after the program. **At the end of the program, there was a statistically significant increase in positive responses about Jewish identity.** That means teens more strongly agreed with statements like:

Being Jewish is an important part of who I am.

I feel connected to Jewish people around the world.

Being involved in the Jewish community is important to me.

Many or most of my values are Jewish values.



71%

of teens felt their Jewish identity was strengthened.

Jewish teen philanthropy **inspires** and fosters the next generation of leaders and changemakers.

Teens engage with changemakers in their communities and report being inspired to continue working toward positive social impact and do more themselves. Jewish teen philanthropy strengthens teens' motivation and ability to become leaders in their community. All participants from the program study reported that they planned to engage in changemaking efforts in the future, many in the form of philanthropy. Teens also reported improved professional skills and increased confidence when taking on leadership roles.



"[The program] was the first experience I had where I was highly involved in something connected with doing good in the world through Judaism, which is something I think is very important."

Alumnus, The Jewish Fund Teen Board, Detroit



Participating in Jewish teen philanthropy increases key leadership skills.

Graph reflects the average percentage of teens who reported an increase in skills across four program years.



LASTING IMPACT

Positive impacts on participants' Jewish identity and connection to the Jewish community last well beyond the end of the program.

Reflecting on the enduring impact, teens shared that the program helped them better understand and appreciate the Jewish community and their place in it. It also strengthened their Jewish values, particularly *tzedakah* (charitable giving) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).



"The different things that we would learn [in the program] really gave me a better-honed sense of what it means to do good as a Jew, and learning all those different lessons about tikkun olam and [other Jewish values], I feel it really just gave me a more goal-oriented view of Judaism, to help others."

—Alumnus, Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston



Our research shows that even after the program, when alumni leave home, they maintain this strengthened Jewish identity and connection to the Jewish community.

Survey responses from study participants indicated strong positive Jewish identity and involvement in the Jewish community at the end of the program.

Involvement in Jewish community in this context meant they participated in activities that brought Jews together to **learn, celebrate** Jewish culture, and **change** the lives of others both locally and globally. When alumni were surveyed again 1.5–2.5 years later responses were largely unchanged, meaning **the increases achieved during the program were lasting**. This was true whether alumni still lived at home or had moved away.

Participants also **continue to be** highly motivated to become leaders and changemakers as they begin their adult lives.

With an increased sense of agency and through inspirational interactions with role models—local and global changemakers and local Jewish philanthropists—teens say they are inspired to become changemakers themselves. The majority of participants from the study continued to be changemakers in their communities after completing the program.

Baila's Story

At first, Baila was hesitant to join San Diego's Jewish Teen Foundation program, but through her experience, she gained confidence in her ability to, in her words, "go into a place that was unknown... and really thrive." After giving a grant to a nonprofit in Israel, Baila felt more connected to the country and decided to participate in a program there during her gap year. It was designed to help her be a more impassioned and articulate advocate for Israel when she returned to the States. In the program she blossomed: she took on leadership roles, gave speeches at schools and was given the responsibility of running activities. She also gained a clearer picture of what kind of change she wanted to make in the world. Inspired by what she saw during local site visits as part of her Jewish teen philanthropy experience, she plans to go to law school so that she can advocate for women and children in her professional life.



For more information about supporting or hosting Jewish teen philanthropy in your community, go to www.jtfn.org.

Contact us:

Jewish Teen Funders Network 150 West 30th Street, Suite 900 New York, NY 10001

Phone: (212) 726-0177 | **Email:** jtfn@jtfn.org | **Web:** www.jtfn.org



"I think [the program] was a gateway for me to realize how important Judaism was in my life... it's just really important to me now that I do things that feed my Jewish identity and things that really help me with my Jewish morals."

Alumnus, The Teen Giving Project, Philadelphia



¹ The statements and data presented in this document are based on the JTFN report, *Foundation Board Incubator: Long-Term Teen Outcomes*, as well as three short-term outcome studies leading up to it. The report was published in April 2019 and can be found at www.jtfn.org.



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