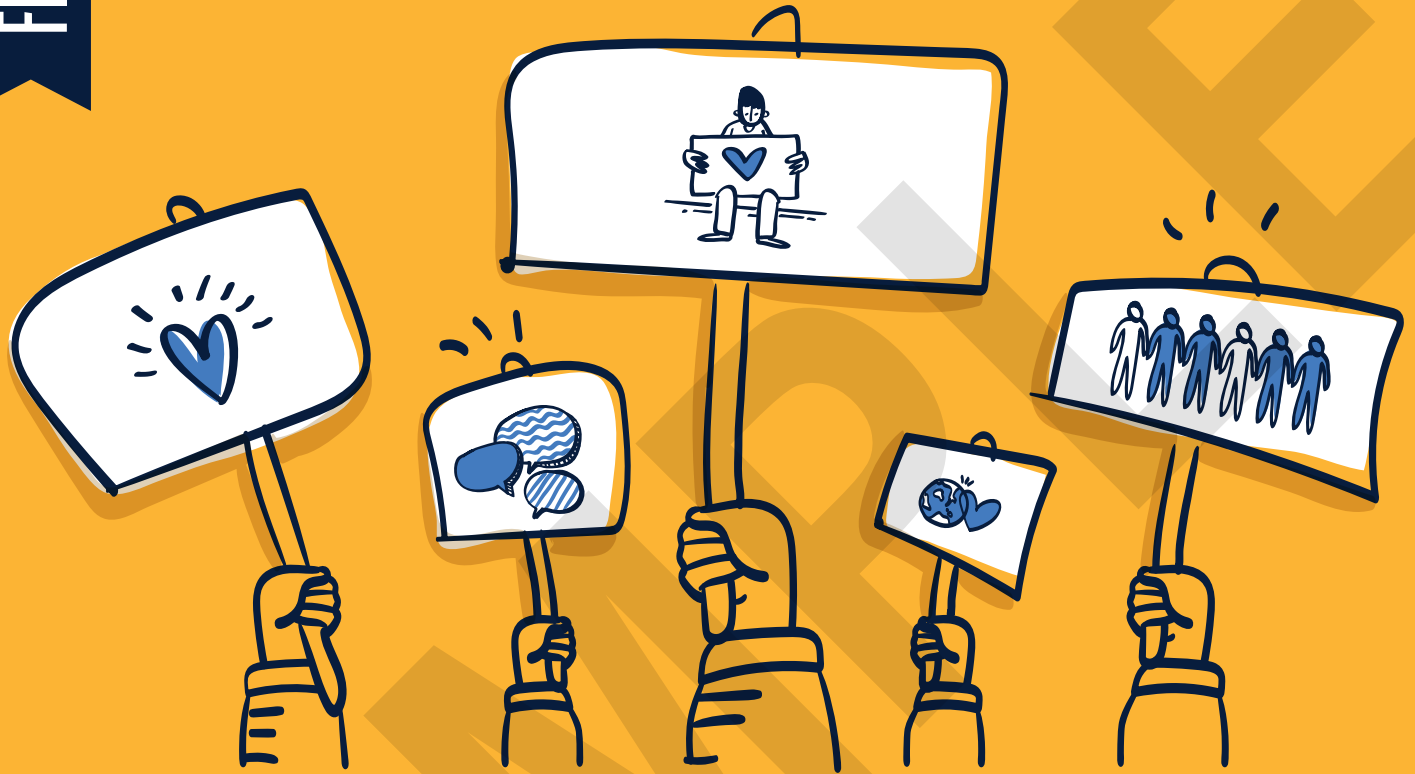


FIRST EDITION



ChangeMakers

A Journey through Jewish Teen Philanthropy



honeycomb
Jewish Youth Philanthropy Reimagined

honeycomb.org

Jewish teen philanthropy is a journey that enables individual and collective understanding of Jewish peoplehood and Jewish identity through the responsibility of giving. Using active celebration and pride in our rich Jewish traditions of giving brings these elements to life for teens today, allowing them to explore Judaism and their own Jewish path in the world.

Pioneers across the country who inspired Jewish teen philanthropy so many years ago have led the way for Honeycomb to do this work for the field at large. It is thanks to their dedication that teens continue to learn the value of Jewish philanthropy.

This Changemakers curriculum, the Jewish Philanthropy Compass and Deck of cards is the result of many who provided input into initial research, think tanks, sharing materials and more, and for this, the pages that follow are an incredible representation of what has been created by so many.

Many thanks to M² : The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education who worked diligently to produce this incredible new product for the field, and for years to come, will inspire Jewish educators to learn, grow and teach their teens about philanthropy.

To the team at Honeycomb, you continue to be a source for inspiration and your commitment to support, grow and build the field of Jewish teen philanthropy will be seen through this new curriculum.

With gratitude, we share this journey with you.

Wayne Green

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GETTING STARTED: PRE-PROGRAM PLANNING FOR THE FACILITATOR

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to “ChangeMakers: A Journey Through Jewish Teen Philanthropy”: a new curriculum for Jewish teen philanthropy, designed for Honeycomb by M²: The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education. We are excited to present this new curricular resource to guide Jewish teens on their philanthropic journey, guided by powerful questions, Jewish texts and values.

Jewish teen philanthropy programs are diverse in their goals, time spans, and affiliations. They engage teens of different ages and in many different frameworks and settings. As such, it would be impossible to create a single curriculum that could be applied across all programs. Instead, this is a modular resource that facilitators can use to build their own unique curriculum that meets the needs of their particular program. The program is built around 4 Phases, each of which contains many concrete ideas and suggestions for facilitators to choose from.

This curriculum was developed in partnership with practitioners in the field and combines the best of previous resources with new materials that we have created specifically for this purpose.



It is our hope that this curricular resource can help refresh and bring new energy into Jewish teen philanthropy programming. We encourage you to share feedback on this curriculum and how you have used it. Please be in touch with us at info@honeycomb.org.

This Getting Started section is designed for the facilitator to use before building and running a Jewish teen philanthropy program. It contains a wealth of tools and information to help you build the best program possible.

A. What is Jewish Teen Philanthropy?

Jewish Teen Philanthropy is a powerful way to engage Jewish teens in meaningful action to change the world. It offers teens a concrete way to take action and effect change by utilizing the tool of philanthropy. Through this method teens not only make a difference for the causes they fund, they also learn leadership skills, explore the values that drive them, and make commitments for future action in their communities and beyond.

Jewish-Teen-Philanthropy

There are three main components of a Jewish teen philanthropy program – which can be organized around the three words **Jewish**, **Teen** and **Philanthropy**. This curriculum offers materials that address each of these elements, and invites the facilitator to build a program that combines them in the best way to reflect the goals of the host institution and the needs of the teens.

The **Jewish** component of the program addresses the issues of Jewish meaning and purpose in philanthropy. It invites participants to engage with **Core Values**, **Jewish Principles** (*mitzvot*), and the contemporary **Justice Issues** that they care about. See below, in the Lexicon section, to see how we will be using all these terms.

The **Teen** aspect of the program focuses on personal growth that occurs as a result of acquiring skills and self-awareness, working in a team and exploring values. Teen philanthropy provides a concrete opportunity for teens to develop their leadership and collaborative skills – vital skills for emerging adults of the 21st century. Throughout this curriculum we provide resources to help teens learn and practice these skills.

The **Philanthropy** component of the program forms the concrete experience through which teens will learn and practice their skills and deepen their understanding of the values that animate them. Through actually granting money to organizations they care about, teens learn about what it means to be a philanthropist and develop their commitment to philanthropy for the future.

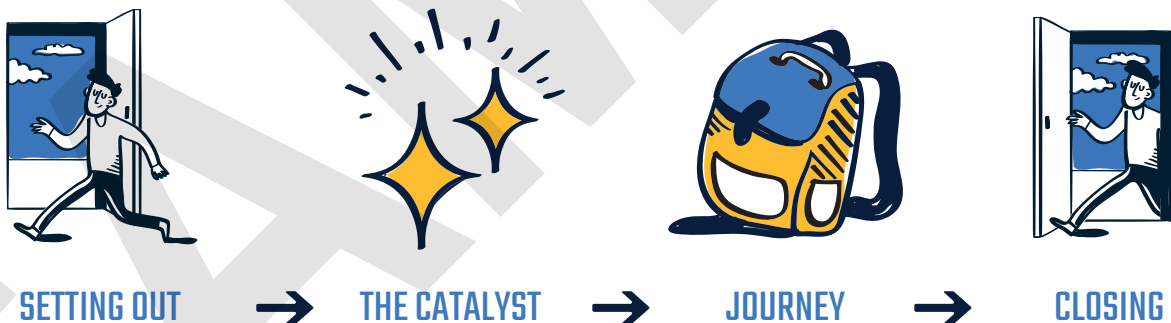
B. The 4 Phases of a Jewish Teen Philanthropy Journey

A Jewish teen philanthropy program is a journey of exploration through values, leadership and meaningful action. Whether your program consists of 6 meetings or 26, is designed for 7th or 12th graders, the basic structure of the journey is the same. The journey consists of four distinct Phases, for which we offer multiple options and materials for each Phase. The facilitator can pick and choose from the various activities and resources contained within each Phase in order to build the best experience for their teens. See pages 23-28 for our suggested Pathways: ways to structure the material into programs that suit different audiences.

The Philanthropy Journey

Think of the process of a Jewish teen philanthropy program as a journey told as a story: a powerful narrative in which the teens are the protagonists, embarking on an expedition into the world of values, competing issues, non-profit organizations and funding strategies. It is their job as a group to navigate through these forces in order to make decisions about how their funding can make a difference. On the way they will encounter questions, challenges, and obstacles, as well as inspiring ideas, committed people and exciting ways to be involved in their community and the world. It is the role of a facilitator to build the broad map for this journey and to guide the teens through it, providing the “equipment” they need before they set off, offering signposts when necessary and welcoming them home at the end of the journey.

In this spirit we conceive of the Jewish Teen Philanthropy Journey with the following 4 Phases:



Phase I: Setting Out

All good stories start with an exposition; the opening scenes that give context and provide the audience with all the information and equipment they need in order to participate in the rest of the story. Similarly, the opening of a Jewish teen philanthropy program sets the stage for what will happen next and is critical to its success.

In this phase teens meet, form a community, create the necessary ground-rules for their decision-making and understand the broader Jewish context for their work



together. They encounter the Jewish Philanthropy Compass and the layers of Jewish concepts that form the heart of this process. When they are ready with their own goals and group ground-rules, they move to the next Phase.

Phase II: Catalyzing the Journey: Justice Issues and Mission

All meaningful journeys are catalyzed by a motivation to do, learn or experience something important. In this case, what is the motivation that will drive the teens forward? We believe that it will be the motivation to explore the questions: “what do we most care about?”, “how can our money make a difference” and “how can Jewish ideas enrich our understanding of the issues we care about?” These are the questions that will make the philanthropy journey meaningful, effective and real and in this Phase the teens engage with these questions, which provide the energy for moving forward.

In this phase teens will:

1. **Choose a Justice Issue:** First, participants are guided to think about the Justice Issues that they care about. They then work to reach consensus on one or a few Justice Issues that they will focus on.
2. **Explore Jewish Ideas:** Next, teens start to explore their Justice Issue by encountering Jewish ideas directly related to that issue and deepening their understanding of that issue from a Jewish perspective.
3. **Craft a Mission Statement:** The group will now craft a group mission statement that reflects their chosen Justice Issues and the mission for their philanthropy. This statement will be used to direct the philanthropy process going forward.

Phase III: The Philanthropy Journey

The completed mission statement lays the groundwork for the philanthropy process. Now the teens embark on their journey.

First, they dive into the world of non-profit organizations, investigate organizations that address the Justice Issue they have chosen, and make requests for proposals (RFPs). They may also make site visits or speak to the non-profit organisations they are interested in funding. On the way they encounter questions and issues that they will explore through the lens of the 7 Core Values of Jewish philanthropy. At the end of this stage the teens have all the information they need in order to move to Phase IV, where they will close this process.

Phase IV: Closing: Bringing it Home

Phase IV is about coming “home”, bringing everything they have learnt along the way, and making the final decision about where to grant their money. In this Phase teens will first make their funding decisions. Then they will close this entire journey. They will celebrate, share their successes with their families and communities, and think about how to incorporate their new learnings into their lives. Based on M²'s best practices for processing experiences, we provide take-away questions, and activities

that will help participants reflect on and conceptualize what they have learned over the course of the program. We also offer ideas for celebrating and handing over the check to the chosen organization.

C. The 7 Core Values of Jewish Philanthropy

Beyond the actual processes and concrete actions involved in Jewish teen philanthropy (investigating worthy organizations, making decisions, learning about particular Justice Issues), we believe that a teen philanthropy program is actually an exploration of big ideas, or Core Values, that yield meaning for life. We have identified 7 Core Values that we believe underlie the whole process of Jewish philanthropy and that teens will encounter, implicitly or explicitly, throughout the program.

The 7 Core Values are: *Areyvut* – Responsibility; *Avodah* – Service; *G'milut Chasadim* – Lovingkindness; *Kavod* – Human Dignity; *Shmirah* – Preservation; *Tikvah* – Hope; *Tzedek* – Justice.

Here is an overview of the 7 Core Values, the challenging questions that they provoke, the skills they engender and opportunities during the Philanthropy Journey to engage with them.



Responsibility – Areyvut

Responsibility is the belief that it is OUR problem, that we hold some responsibility for those in need or for making our world better. It is a driving force behind all social change work.

Questions:

Are we more responsible for some people and to some issues than others? What are the limits of our responsibility toward others? Should we be putting our lives at risk?

Areyvut and the Philanthropy Journey:

- When teens grow in their leadership capacity or face leadership challenges.
- When it is hard to decide what Justice Issue to focus on. What issue do we feel most responsible to tackle?
- When teens lose motivation and are not sure why they are doing this.