



## 2015-2016 The Jewish Fund Teen Board Mission Statement

We are The Jewish Fund Teen Board, a group of motivated teens working together to address community needs through our grantmaking. Through partnerships with Metro Detroit nonprofit organizations we will fund projects with the following priorities:

1. To support individuals and families that have experienced domestic violence, and/or to increase awareness of the incidence of intimate partner violence in our community.
2. To foster a healthy community through support of those seeking to improve their mental health, as well as community education on this topic.



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 2015-2016, our 2nd year of programming, 34 Teen Board members, representing 13 high schools and 11 congregations, granted \$50,000. This report is about who they are, what they did, and how they did it.

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## The Teen Board Experience

*By: Blake Israel, Ruby Kolender, Sidrah Kovan and Caitlin Simpson*

The Teen Board has been exciting and insightful. Throughout this year, we have learned about philanthropy and how to make a difference in our community. We started our year by getting to know each other through games, puzzles and team building activities. By first bringing ourselves together as a group, we were able to enhance our future discussions. By November, we were down to business and encountered our first challenge – deciding our focus issues for the year. After a long discussion, we came to an agreement and developed our mission statement, which would guide our grantmaking. Through sessions with community leaders and professionals, we were advised on how to help our community. We began the extensive process of grantmaking, including how to read and analyze grant proposals, how to use due diligence to examine the soundness of an organization and how to conduct a site visit. We used all of this knowledge to guide our final discussions and come to a consensus. Through the experience of connecting and learning from others in the community, as well as working along side one another, we learned so much about how to help the community.





## Leadership

*By: Nick Bellinson, Sam Gendelman, Livvy Gordon, Avi Greenbaum, Lucie Rosenthal and Dani Silverman*

This year, the six of us have had the opportunity to share our past experience and guide these teens toward their goal. We saw how integral the Leadership Committee was to the Board last year, and hoped to follow in their footsteps this year. As Leadership Committee members, we learned a lot about the importance of teamwork and communication to achieve a common goal. Our responsibilities this year included leading the Board through their philanthropic experience, planning meetings and social events for the teens and helping Martha Goldberg, Teen Board Coordinator, run the meetings smoothly. Though we are sad to see our time on the Board come to an end, we are excited to see the teens continue to make a greater impact on our Jewish community in the upcoming years.

## The Difficulty of Coming to Consensus

*By: Alec Eisenshtadt, Ethan Neuvirth, Ben Rashty and Gabe Schlusset*

The 2015-2016 Teen Board consisted of 34 teens, with 34 unique and different minds, from all over Metro Detroit. Due to this, there were many times when it was challenging to be given the responsibility of granting \$50,000 to organizations across the region and agree, as a group, where to grant the money. The Board received grant proposals amounting to approximately \$100,000. Although we wanted to award funds to all of these organizations, we had to limit ourselves to the \$50,000 that we were given to distribute. Each Teen Board member brought a different perspective to the group and felt differently about which areas of the community needed the most help. At times, it was difficult to come to a consensus, but we worked together to make decisions we felt would have the greatest positive impact on our community.



## Focus Area 1: Intimate Partner Violence

*By: Brett Gonte, Jayden Raitt, George Victor and Daniel Grosinger*

**A**s The Jewish Fund Teen Board we feel domestic violence is a pressing issue in our community. While researching this topic, we were shocked to learn the reality of domestic violence in our area. In fact, one in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime, often times unreported. After learning about the reality of this problem, we felt we needed to address it. This matter became our top priority after a representative from Haven, a local organization that deals with domestic violence on a daily basis, visited us and gave a compelling speech. It became our mission to give these victims a voice and encourage them to speak out against domestic violence. With the money we gave back to the community, we hope to make a significant difference in how domestic violence is perceived in our area.

The Teen Board is proud to fund an organization which works tirelessly to address this issue:

- **Haven, Inc.:** \$15,000 to support Building a Future Without Violence, a community outreach program which provides youth with increased awareness to the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence, while developing skills for healthy relationships, and learning skills to intervene in a culture that allows for violence to occur.



## Focus Area 2: Mental Health & Mental Wellness

By: Jared Arbit, Talya Dovas, Carly Klein and Josh Kornblum

**W**e chose our grantmaking priority on mental health because this issue is very apparent among teenagers in our Metro Detroit. With the recent suicides in our community, our awareness of this issue made us want to do something about it.

As high schoolers, we see mental health as an important issue that appears everyday in our lives at school and the negative impact it has. By contributing to the fight for mental health awareness, we hope to make a positive impact on our society.

We believe that by educating our community, we can reduce the stigma and establish an open and positive environment, as opposed to one where those who suffer from mental illness feel alone and have no one to turn to.

The Teen Board made three grants to organizations working to address this issue:

- **Friendship Circle:** \$6,000 to support a Teen Depression Educational Series to raise awareness about depression and the severity of it amongst the Jewish teenage community of Metro Detroit, and to supply tools for approaching and addressing it.
- **Kadima:** \$19,000 to support Recognizing & Responding to Mental Health Crises in Youth & Young Adults. This program will train non-mental health professionals in understanding the signs and symptoms of mental health problems in youth and young adults; as well as how to respond in effective ways during a mental health crisis.
- **Yeshiva Beth Yehudah:** \$10,000 to support Mental Wellness Workshops in order to facilitate unmet mental health needs within the Orthodox community by hosting educational workshops and lectures.







## 2015-2016 Teen Board Members

Jared Arbit	Brett Gonte	Ethan Neuvirth
Dara Bellinson	Daniel Grosinger	Jayden Raitt
Alana Blumenstein	Blake Israel	Skylar Raitt
Josh Chapnick	Carly Klein	Ben Rashty
Margo Dickstein	Ruby Kolender	Gabe Schluskel
Talya Dovas	Josh Kornblum	Paul Schmitz
Rebecca Driker-Ohren	Sidrah Kovan	Adi Siegmann
Alec Eisenshtadt	Rachel Krasner	Caitlin Simpson
Maddie Fink	Chava Levi	George Victor
	Max Levine	

## Teen Board Leadership Council Members

Cooper Bellinson	Sam Gendelman	Emily Levin
Nick Bellinson	Livvy Gordon	Lucie Rosenthal
Cooper Brovenick	Avi Greenbaum	Dani Silverman

## 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](http://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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