



PRESS RELEASE

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Students Rate Youth Foundation Highly

In its seventh year, student participants in the Jewish Community Foundation's Community Youth Foundation have again given the program high marks. The Youth Foundation teaches young people in eighth to tenth grades about the importance of philanthropy by empowering them with the skills to give effectively. During the seven-year period, the program has involved more than 200 young people from different denominations, geographic areas and backgrounds.

One student commented "I liked learning what it means to give *tzedakah* and how it relates to being Jewish." Another stated "There is a real emphasis on what the world would be like without nonprofit organizations, and I think that is an important concept."

For the first time this year, twelve Hillel students from UCSD and SDSU were paired with the younger students to perform site visits and serve as role models and mentors. Both the Hillel students and the eighth to tenth graders learned side-by-side from a curriculum that encompassed text study from Judaic sources about giving, exercises to identify charitable priorities and interests as well as site visits to non-profits in both the Jewish and general communities.

The end result were grants to programs in the local Jewish community including the Anti-Defamation League's Manhigim Program, Project SARAH at Jewish Family Service, the Agency for Jewish Education's March of the Living, and Inclusion at the Lawrence Family JCC. In addition, the youth distributed funds to the Make a Wish Foundation, the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, St. Vincent de Paul and Second Chance.

"We learn many valuable lessons from the students," stated Marjory Kaplan, Jewish Community Foundation Executive Director. "They build consensus and are eager to get involved. Our Jewish future is in excellent hands."

For more information about the Community Youth Foundation, please call Gail Littman at 858-279-2740.

Since 1967, the Jewish Community Foundation has partnered with donors and community organizations in achieving their philanthropic goals. In addition, the Foundation works to increase current and future support for a vibrant and secure Jewish community in San Diego, Israel and around the world. During fiscal year 2002/2003, the Jewish Community Foundation distributed more than \$36 million in 3,000 separate grants to 700 different charitable organizations.

