



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 22, 2009

Robyn Carmel
415-512-6432
robynC@sfjcf.org

Jamie Zander
858-279-2740
jamie@jcsandiego.org

San Diego Teen Wins \$36,000 for Extraordinary Community Service

A San Diego area teen is among five Jewish outstanding California teens named winners of an award for community service that comes with a cash prize of \$36,000. **Max Einhorn** of La Jolla was recently honored with the Diller Teen *Tikkun Olam* award. Einhorn was nominated by the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego (JCF) where he participated in the JCF's Youth Philanthropy Program. The Diller award was created to recognize teens who have initiated an exceptional social action project that helps to repair the world (*tikkun olam*). The awards will be presented Monday, August 31 in the San Francisco Presidio.



The award recognizes Einhorn's efforts in developing and spearheading the Entrepreneurs Club and Disaster Aware which prepare community members for national disasters (<http://www.preparesandiego.org/People/MaxEinhorn.aspx>). "Our goal is to educate and prepare everyone in San Diego and we do this by informing anyone that will listen and make it as convenient as possible to buy a disaster preparedness kit," said Einhorn. Einhorn conceived of the idea after witnessing firsthand the devastating impact of the 2007 Wildfires in San Diego. He is also a founding member of Hand up Youth Food Pantry at Jewish Family Service of San Diego (JFS).

"Disaster Aware was inspired by devastation. In November, 2007, wildfires destroyed parts of San Diego County...I felt compelled to help. I discovered that San Diego is 20 years overdue for its next major earthquake...and that most of the city is susceptible to flood as well as fire," said Einhorn. Einhorn has always been interested in business and philanthropy. He saw an opportunity to do both by starting these two initiatives at La Jolla High School.

The awards are funded by the Helen Diller Family Foundation, a supporting foundation of the Jewish Community Endowment Fund of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties.

"Max's gregarious nature and passion for helping others makes him a natural leader among his peers who turn to him for guidance," said JCF Vice President of Philanthropy Charlene Seidle. "His impact on the world is especially significant, not only because of his personal contributions, but for his ability to motivate other teens."

More than 135 teens were nominated this year, which were awarded by a team of judges composed of educators and community leaders from the San Francisco Bay Area, Fresno, San Jose, Los Angeles, San Diego and Orange County. To be eligible, teens had to be

nominated by an adult and then complete a detailed application describing their projects, its goals, their inspiration and challenges, fundraising tactics and more. Nominees had to be California residents, between 13 and 19 years old, and self-identify as Jewish. While nominees are required to be Jewish, their community service projects are unrestricted, and can benefit the general community.

The other four 2009 Diller Teen *Tikkun Olam* Award winners are:

Eric Feldman, Palos Verdes Estates: “Just One Night” – fundraising concerts for education of orphans in Africa. Eric was inspired by his grandfather and other members of his family who taught him about *tikkun olam* as he “tagged along to see my father’s patients, deliver Meals-on-Wheels, and visit half-way houses. He became despondent while reading about the lack of education of orphans in Africa. “Just One Night”, Eric’s first fundraiser, referred to the fact that just one night of giving would change a child’s life forever.

Aaron Feuer, Los Angeles: President, California Association of Student Councils – empowering students to change their schools and become leaders. Aaron focused on “reinvigorating our student councils as the vehicles for change, providing leadership training for students from all backgrounds and giving students from across the academic and socioeconomic spectrum opportunities to lead and speak up about school issues.”

Jacqueline Rotman, Santa Barbara: Everybody Dance Now! – creates positive outlets for at-risk youth (www.everybodydancenowsb.org). Jackie was inspired to take action at a young age. She states “when I was twelve years old, I performed a hip-hop routine for eighty teens with disabilities. In response to a technical difficulty with my music, I adapted my performance by inviting audience members onstage to have their own opportunity to express themselves freely through movement. Five years later I haven’t forgotten the way it felt to see those teenagers full of self-confidence and adrenaline from dancing.”

Erin Schrode, Ross: Teens Turning Green/Teens for Safe Cosmetics – informs and educates youth about making healthy and “green” life choices, investigates harmful exposures in our daily lives, school, and communities, and advocates for change in policy and habits to protect our world. (www.teensturninggreen.org). Erin sees herself as “the ultimate green girl” where “eco-consciousness forms the lens through which I view my entire life.”

The Diller Teen *Tikkun Olam* Award is one of a number of projects funded by the Helen Diller Family Foundation through the Jewish Community Endowment Fund to develop leadership in teens and enhance Jewish education.

About Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Award:

For information on the Diller Teen *Tikkun Olam* Award, please visit www.sfjcf.org/diller or contact Robyn Carmel at RobynC@sfjcf.org.

About the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego:

Since 1967, the Jewish Community Foundation has partnered with individuals, families and community organizations to help them achieve their philanthropic goals and to increase current and future support for a vibrant and secure Jewish community in San Diego, Israel and around the world.

During fiscal year 2008-09, the Foundation awarded and facilitated nearly \$60 million in 5,000 grants to more than 1,000 Jewish and general organizations in San Diego, the United States and Israel. Visit the Jewish Community Foundation at www.jcfsandiego.org or call 858-279-2740.