

# Jewish teens lauded for making a difference

COAST CITIES — Two North County residents are among five outstanding California teens named winners of a new award for community service that comes with a cash prize of \$36,000. Justin Sachs of Carlsbad, 19, and Amanda Haworth of La Jolla, 18, were named winners of the Diller Teen Tikkun Olam award. The award was created to recognize teens who have initiated an exceptional social action proj-

ect that helps to repair the world (tikkun olam).

Sachs, a student at La Costa Canyon High School, developed the Tikkun Project, a synagogue-based social action program for teens. The two-pronged goal of the monthly program for



**JUSTIN SACHS**

teens at Temple Solel in Carlsbad is to inspire them to take an active role in their community and to develop leadership skills. Among the group's actions are sending care packages to troops in Iraq; a 1,000 Sandwich-a-Thon and canned food drive to feed the homeless; participating in a Walk for Autism Research; and a three-day house building trip to Tijuana, Mexico. They have raised funds for each effort and sell bagels, orange juice and coffee regularly at synagogue functions to support varying causes.

Haworth, a student at La Jolla High School, raised \$12,000 to pay for a field trip for 410 San Diego high school juniors to visit the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles after she heard anti-Semitic and ignorant remarks about Jews



**AMANDA  
HAWORTH**

and the Holocaust. The trip, which had been part of the school curriculum in the past, had been discontinued because of costs. It is now a mandatory field trip in her high school. The Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego nominated Haworth for the award.

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.

Tikkun Olam, the Hebrew words for repairing the world, is one of the basic precepts of Judaism. "Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders," said Helen Diller, president of the sponsoring foundation. "This award reflects our confidence in them and our encouragement to continue their outstanding work in the spirit of Tikkun Olam for all of us and for future generations."

The awardees' projects ranged from actions to stop genocide, particularly the genocide in Darfur, to the recycling of furniture to raise funds for the needy. Each included leadership and careful organization and most included significant fundraising. Award money is to be used for college or to further implement the winner's vision of making the world a better place.