

**The First Annual Peter Chortek Leadership Award Recognizes Three Outstanding High School Seniors Making a Difference**

**SAN DIEGO** - The Jewish Community Foundation held its first annual Peter Chortek Leadership Award Ceremony to honor three extraordinary young individuals. Nina Church, Liza Gurtin and Ethan Lew were each awarded \$3,600 and each received an additional \$1,800 in a Donor Advised Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation to promote ongoing philanthropy. Peter (of blessed memory) and Elaine Chortek created the Award to foster Jewish communal involvement by rewarding Jewish high school students who are practicing the value of *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world.

Below is information about each recipient's service project.

About the Winners



**Nina Church, Grade 12**

La Jolla Country Day School

**"I love the Jewish religion and this award is a great way for me to get involved in my community."**

Nika Water – Nika (Zulu for "to give") Water is a bottled water company created by Nina and her family where 100 percent of the profits go towards alleviating poverty and building water purification projects across the globe. Nika also sells an array of fair-trade goods here in the United States. Since its creation three years ago, Nika has donated over \$300,000 to Project Concern International, Free the Children and Millennium Promise. The money has gone to build wells, water catchment systems, micro-dams and sanitation programs in Kenya, Nicaragua, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Haiti.



**Liza Gurtin, Grade 12**

Francis Parker School

**"I am so grateful that this award will provide more funds to the water projects that make a significant difference in so many peoples' lives."**

San Diego Walk for Water, sponsored by Project Concern International – The Walk for Water project raises funds for clean water initiatives in Nicaragua and Tanzania. Liza helped secure corporate sponsorships for the walk, greatly enhancing the amount of money raised by the effort. She raised \$9,000 her first year and \$32,000 in year two. The money goes to Project Concern International to build wells in Tanzania and Nicaragua. Liza was also selected for the Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Award.



**Ethan Lew, Grade 12**

San Diego Jewish Academy

**"Receiving this award will give me the opportunity to serve as an example to other students of how easy it is to get involved in something they are passionate about."**

Play Structures for Orphanages is the non-profit organization that Ethan created. The organization sets up and delivers recycled play structures and playgrounds to orphanages in Tijuana, Mexico. The group finds families in San Diego willing to donate their play structures, disassembles them and then delivers them to needy orphanages in Tijuana.

**About the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego**

***With managed assets of more than \$246 million, the Jewish Community Foundation is one of the largest grantmakers in San Diego. During fiscal year 2010-11, the Foundation awarded and facilitated more than \$87 million in 5,000 grants to fund 1,200 Jewish and general organizations in San Diego, Israel and around the globe.***

Visit the Jewish Community Foundation at [www.jcfsandiego.org](http://www.jcfsandiego.org) or call 858-279-2740.