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## **TEEN PHILANTHROPISTS AWARD \$21,855 IN GRANTS TO SEVEN NONPROFITS AMIDST THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN**

**SAN DIEGO – June 5, 2020** – The board of the Jewish Teen Foundation of San Diego (JTF), following a modified year-long experiential learning program about philanthropy, granted a total of \$21,855 to seven nonprofits. The return participants, known as Leaders, granted money to three organizations focused on environmental conservation and protection, while first-year participants, called Program Officers, allocated funds to four organizations that help children with special needs. JTF hosted a virtual Check Presentation Ceremony celebrating the accomplishments of the 2019-20 grantees and the teen participants on May 10, 2020.

During the 2019-20 school year, twenty-nine San Diego Jewish high schoolers collaborated to assess community needs, learn about nonprofit organizations, and identify opportunities to effect change through strategic philanthropy. The Leaders awarded grants to the Jewish National Fund, San Diego River Habitat Conservancy, and the San Diego River Park Foundation. Concurrently, the JTF Program Officers distributed funds to Friendship Circle, Miracle League, Shira Pransky Project, and Yachad.

Unlike previous years, the 2019-20 JTF Board was forced to confront the limitations and significant changes that COVID-19 created. Just as the teens were to begin their fundraising efforts and conduct site visits, JTF moved to an online platform for their meetings in accordance with California's stay-at-home order. Fundraising efforts were hindered as the teens recognized the sensitive environment in which they found themselves fundraising, due to concerns of employment, furlough, and market fluctuations. "Our JTF participants showed compassion and dedication to their missions in order to allocate funds to these organizations that were not anticipating their financial circumstance when they initially submitted a grant request," said Sarah Vigon, Teen Coordinator for the Jewish Teen Foundation. "While the teens were not able to end their year as they had wanted, they truly came to recognize the vital work JTF does in attending to real financial needs."

JTF is a program of the Jewish Community Foundation (JCF) of San Diego, which has a 24-year history of providing philanthropy education programs designed uniquely for teens. Teen participants are empowered as program officers to take a deep dive into the philanthropic process, embracing the Jewish value of *tzedakah* – a Hebrew word uniquely defined as both charity and justice. They develop a mission statement, research nonprofit organizations, and review grant applications requesting funding. Teens engage in numerous conversations with nonprofit professionals and community philanthropists. They are then entrusted with making grant allocations drawing from what they learned throughout the program.

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### **About The Jewish Community Foundation**

*The Jewish Community Foundation partners with individuals, families, and community organizations to help them achieve their philanthropic goals. During fiscal year 2018-19, the Foundation awarded and facilitated \$77 million in 6,900 grants to more than 1,800 Jewish and general organizations in San Diego, Israel and around the world. Since its inception over 50 years ago, the Foundation has granted over \$1.5 billion. Visit the Jewish Community Foundation at [www.jcfsandiego.org](http://www.jcfsandiego.org) or call (858) 279-2740.*