

“A SINGLE ACT OF **KINDNESS**
THROWS OUT ROOTS IN ALL
DIRECTIONS, AND THE ROOTS
SPRING UP AND **MAKE NEW TREES.**”

- AMELIA EARHART

Individuals and groups of any age can make a difference, and the young people in our community are becoming the next generation of changemakers. These young philanthropists prove that giving back to those less fortunate is the perfect way to foster meaningful connections to the Jewish community.

Continue reading to discover how their immense creativity and generosity support JF&CS clients.

Marsha's Downtown High School Class

Meet Marsha's high school class at Downtown Jewish Community School. To introduce her class to JF&CS and teach them about the agency's impact on the community, Marsha organized a summer camp-related fundraiser for her students. She wanted to demonstrate the importance of philanthropy and giving back to the community.

Marsha's class began exploring tzedakah projects in September of 2021, choosing to contribute to initiatives that were meaningful to them. For their final project, the class decided to put together backpacks full of camp necessities for children in JF&CS's Jewish camp subsidies program, facilitated by Kits for a Cause. Kits for a Cause is an organization that connects charities across North America with groups and individuals looking to get involved, give back, and make an impact.

After the students collected donations for the project, Marsha's class filled the backpacks with beach towels, water bottles, sunscreen, and sun hats. The students also wrote thoughtful notes for the recipients to read. Even though they did not know the recipients of these backpacks, each student felt they forged a personal connection with the person receiving the gift. This project was so meaningful to the students of Marsha's class that they have decided to repeat it again for next year!



“Thank you so much for the gift cards and camp gear! I was amazed to see how many items my husband brought home and it will definitely help with all our camp prep!

It was lovely to get a personalized card from the student who packed all the camp gear for JF&CS - such kindness!”

- JF&CS client

Mothers and Daughters of Ulpanat Orot Girls School

Meet the mothers and daughters of Ulpanat Orot Girls School. A group of grade 12 students were the driving force behind a Chessed project designed to give back to the community. The students donate to and volunteer at a variety of different organizations and wanted to contribute in a meaningful way.

The grade 12 students were tasked with coming up with a school-wide program for students and their families. After looking into several organizations, JF&CS seemed to align perfectly. The agency focuses on providing a multitude of supports to strengthen families, and the girls at Ulpanat Orot decided it was a terrific choice for this family-oriented program.

In addition to hearing from Rabbi Mordechai Chemel, Manager of Chaplaincy at JF&CS, about the history of women and their involvement in the Jewish community, the students and their families helped create Grief Kits for JF&CS clients in our Grief



and Bereavement Program. The students collected monetary donations, purchased items for the kits, and then packaged and delivered the kits to the JF&CS office. The Chessed project was a beautiful opportunity to have the girls at Ulpanat Orot showcase their leadership skills, bond with their families, and give back to those in need.

Jordy Finegold

Meet Jordy Finegold. Due to the pandemic, Jordy could not honour her Bat Mitzvah in the way she had planned. However, this did not stop her from finding ways to connect with the Jewish community. While thinking about what she could do to contribute, Jordy found examples online of Mitzvah programs that interested her. One of the organizations she discovered was JF&CS.

Jordy spent a lot of time reviewing JF&CS's website, looking for ideas and ways to help. She considered donating her time as a volunteer or involving her family and friends in some way. She also wondered if she should raise money to donate or buy supplies needed by JF&CS clients. Eventually, with the help of the team at Kits for a Cause, Jordy decided to donate to JF&CS's summer camp program.

Jordy has been going to summer camp since she was five years old. She has a robust connection with camp as a place where she feels safe and supported. She knows how expensive camp supplies can be, on top of camp fees, and decided to help provide a similar positive experience to other children. To honour her Bat Mitzvah, Jordy donated 44 brand new sleeping bags for children to take with them to camp. "I know how fortunate I am, but I also know that many families cannot even afford the basic necessities for camp for their kids. I am thrilled and proud that I was able to help make one of these challenges a little bit easier."



Thank you for reading these inspiring stories. Marsha's high school class, the Ulpanat Orot grade 12 students, and Jordy Finegold are all remarkable examples of alternative meaningful ways to contribute to JF&CS. You can help make a difference in the lives of so many of our clients by organizing your own fundraiser!

Consider donating gifts in kind, such as new craft supplies or children's toys to be used as birthday gifts throughout the year. For more information, please [click here](#) to read our Give Back Guide or call us at 416-638-7800 x 6999.