

The Impact of Your Gift Investing in the Next Generation Report on Fiscal Year 2019

Thanks to the enthusiastic support for the Bridge to the Future Fund and other significant gifts, CJP is reimagining the model for engaging young adults more deeply in Jewish life and redefining how we build and sustain Jewish community.

Helping Young Adults Connect, Engage, and Discover

You are a young adult, new to Boston, and curious about the Jewish community; or a recent college graduate who misses the friendships and programs at your Hillel. Maybe you are a young couple who is eager to build a life in a Jewish context. Where do you start? CJP's Community Connectors are the relational glue of our young adult engagement work. Equal parts community organizer, concierge, friend, and advisor, it is their mission to reach out to and/or follow up with people in their 20s and 30s to find pathways of connection throughout our Jewish community. They work closely with our YA community partners to understand the landscape of opportunity and provide guidance and resources to link people to that menu or support small groups who are interested in creating Jewish activities on their own terms.

Building Community

CJP and our partners are expanding opportunities to build the relationships, shared experiences, and expanded networks that create sustainable communities, especially among young adults.



CJP has partnered with **One Table** to create a network of regular, community-based shabbat dinners across Greater Boston. Since January, **1,500** unique young adults have participated in **150** shabbat dinners that are helping build community and shape Jewish identity.



Honeymoon Israel (HMI) and CJP have now sent **140** young couples to Israel. On HMI trips across the country, participants reflect local demographics and are given a safe and supportive space to explore the role Judaism plays in their lives. In Boston, alumni and non-traveling applicants alike benefit from an alumni network, long-term follow-up, and support in building and finding Jewish community.



With support from CJP, **Moishe House** opened two new locations—in the South End and in Somerville. In just the last six months, the South End house has become a hub of activity: **584** young adults have participated in **48** different meaningful home-based Jewish experiences alongside their peers.



Our **Community Connectors** interacted with more than **500** young adults in last year. Small group opportunities like a “Friendsgivvukah” meet-up that attracted 45 people and a monthly Rosh Hodesh group for 12 women are just a few examples of the targeted ways we are responding to the needs articulated by the young adult community.

Jewish Learning, Young Adult-Style

Young adults want to engage with the meaning and purpose found in Jewish learning—and they want to do it in ways that connect with other parts of their life. CJP is opening the door to their growing involvement, Jewishly and communally, by supporting experiences that are accessible, tailored to their interests, and that illuminate the relevance and vibrancy of Jewish life.



An Evening of Un-Learning brought together more than **94** young adults last fall to explore a common Jewish text in uncommon ways—through art, movement, and food. The evening culminated with a presentation by Christian Picciolini, a former white supremacist, on unlearning hate.



Open Circle Social Action combines text study with hands-on service to the community. Launched this spring, **62** students in five classes explored topics that apply Jewish thought to contemporary issues including what our tradition teaches about healing the world in difficult times.



CJP's on-going partnership with **Hadar** inspires young adults to delve into the meaning and lessons of our holidays. This year, **444** participants joined pop-up *batei midrash* in advance of Rosh Hashana and Passover to explore holiday liturgy and other text and deepen the power of their celebrations.

Spurring Innovation

This year, CJP piloted a new grant program to encourage organizations to test new ideas for programs, outreach, and engagement. From the 36 organizations that submitted proposals:

10

Grants were awarded to organizations focused on Young Adults or Families with Young Children

\$175,000

In grants were awarded; grants ranged in size from \$10,000 to \$25,000 each

Among the highlights were grants to support:

- **Uprooted**, a new initiative to support couples in the Jewish community experiencing infertility, a population which has received little attention
- A **three-way collaboration among Temple Beth Shalom of Needham, Temple Emunah of Lexington, and the Vilna Shul in Boston** to develop and implement a hands-on *tzedakah* curriculum for Families with Young Children