

# Foundation Initiatives in Action



## Center for Innovative Philanthropy

Education and hands-on support is another way the Foundation makes a difference. Our Center for Innovative Philanthropy (CIP) helps strengthen organizations, provides data and research, and educates the community – all with the goal of increasing the impact of every philanthropic dollar in our community.

### Dashboard Tracks Community Progress

The JMAP community study collected perspectives of hundreds of community members across Greater Hartford. Based on their shared priorities and needs, the JMAP dashboard was born. The dashboard is a way for us to track progress on key goals over time, including volunteerism, community fundraising, and programming for interfaith families.

For example, pride in Israel was important, so the dashboard measures how many institutions sponsored trips to Israel (10 trips last year). Next year, we expect there will be even more, including students who receive scholarships through the Foundation's new Israel Experience Travel Scholarship.

visit:

[www.JMAPCT.org](http://www.JMAPCT.org)



### JTConnect Creates New Strategic Plan

The world of teenagers changes at lightning speed, and JTConnect, a local educational nonprofit that educates Jewish teens, knows it needs to think strategically to stay a step ahead. With a grant from the Foundation and consultation from CIP staff, JTConnect has embarked on an organizational assessment and planning process to chart its course for the next three years. The plan that emerged reflects the findings of the assessment, trends and best practices in Jewish teen engagement, and opportunities in the local community for greater participation among teens.

"The plan builds on JTConnect's unique capabilities and assets, particularly in the areas of education and program delivery," said Eric Maurer, JTConnect Executive Director. "We are already seeing the results; we had a surge in teen participation last year, with more than 400 teens. That's an 83 percent increase from the previous year. While we have lots of work ahead of us, we are energized by the process and excited about JTConnect's direction."

### Israel Travel Scholarship Recipients

In January the Foundation awarded the first round of Israel Experience Travel Scholarships to 10 high school students in the Greater Hartford area. Among the largest of its kind in the country, this program awards each student up to \$6,000 for an immersive Israel travel experience. Students participate in pre- and post-travel education sessions and local community service projects which, in combination with their travel experiences, will help each teen form a strong sense of Jewish identity and lifelong connections to the state of Israel.



*"My trip to Israel was nothing short of life changing. I returned with new intelligence, a group of incredible friends, a stronger love for Israel, and a deeper understanding of my Jewish roots. One month there has significantly changed me in so many ways, such as boosting my independence and even solidifying my career path – international relations with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I am even considering making Aliyah in the future! I cannot thank the Foundation enough for giving me this extremely meaningful opportunity; it has truly shaped who I am as a person."*

— LEAH LERNER