

# Just Teens



## TRANSFORMING TZEDAKAH\* INTO GRANTMAKING

A STUDY BY THE JEWISH TEEN FUNDERS NETWORK

\*tzedakah, charitable giving, comes from tzedek, meaning **justice**.

upholding human dignity

saving a life

building community

repairing the world

learning



Values listed are among those most commonly found in teen foundation mission statements.

*Values at the root of giving*

With Jewish values by their side, teens come together to make decisions by consensus and grant real dollars to issues they care about.

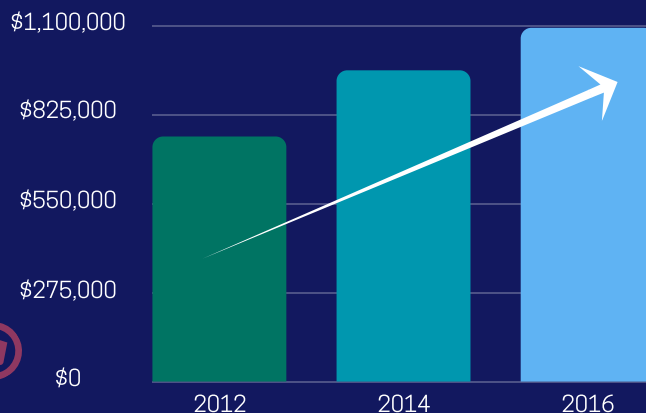
In 2015-2016, teens in the Jewish Teen Funders Network

GRANTED OVER **\$1,000,000**

*"I've learned that my giving makes a large impact on other people's lives, but most importantly, the experience I've gained along with my peers ensures a future of giving."*

-Ilana, Grade 10, AZ

Total grant dollars continue to rise each year.



# Turning Values into Action

## 2015-2016 GRANTMAKING

"After spending four years in a Jewish teen philanthropy program, I have the knowledge and experience to continue philanthropy throughout my life."  
- Quincy, Grade 12, IL

### Top 5 Grant Themes

**52 grants**  
Social Justice

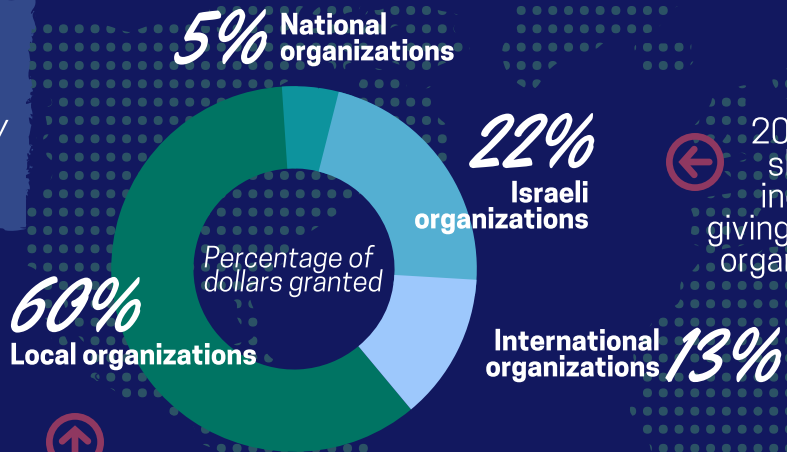
**42 grants**  
Education

**33 grants**  
Jewish Identity

**32 grants**  
Children & Youth

**23 grants**  
Poverty

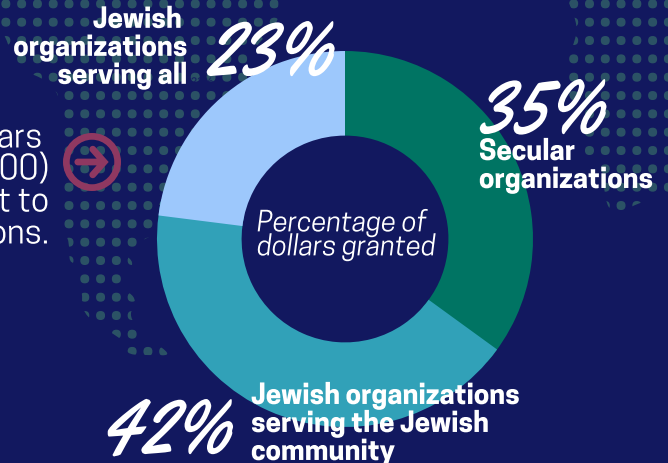
➔ **200+** additional grants allocated to issues including abuse prevention, hunger, chronic illness, mental health, & special needs.



⬅️ 2015-2016 showed an increase of giving to Israeli organizations.

⬆️ Local giving continues to be a priority for teens.

➔ 65% of dollars (over \$675,000) granted went to Jewish organizations.



⬅️ From 2014 to 2016 the numbers of grants allocated that focused on Jewish identity nearly tripled.

"Local giving is important because of personal connection. Being able to give back to my community is very rewarding, and this is a sentiment many Jewish teens share."  
- Joanna, Grade 12, OH

"It is so logical to me that teens would want to help youth and education because that is who we are."  
- Rebecca, Grade 11, MI

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The mission of the Jewish Teen Funders Network (JTFN), a program of the Jewish Funders Network, is to strengthen and grow Jewish teen philanthropy programs in North America and around the world. JTFN provides training, networking opportunities, resources and curriculum materials, conferences, and one-on-one consultations to support the growing field.