

## Newsletter

Summer 2012

In order to give our Donor's the opportunity to see their philanthropy in action, our newsletters will now feature organizations which have received grants through the Foundation. We hope you enjoy learning about how your participation in our Jewish Community Foundation directly impacts and benefits our local organizations.

### The Bureau of Jewish Education

Cultivating Jewish pride, participation, and leadership in Southern California teens and youth is the focus of the Bureau of Jewish Education (Bureau). Almost 10,000 Jewish kids in Orange County have experienced a youth program run by the Bureau, and the local bureau has earned a reputation as one of the most innovative in the county. The Bureau emphasizes combining "fun" with "Jewish friendship," leading to lifelong Jewish pride and community participation among our youth.

At the forefront of the Bureau's programming are Community Shabbatons. Each year, over 300 Jewish youth from across our region attend weekend retreats which foster a love for being Jewish. These weekends bring together children from a variety of Jewish agencies and synagogues for a transformative Jewish experience with their peers and role models.

Jewish youth who participate in the fun and experiential programs of the Bureau develop a strong Jewish identity through dance, music, drama, outdoor experiences and sports. These activities are used as the



lightning rods to inspire creative learning and deep expression of who they are as Jews and as people. They carry these experiences with them to high school, college, and beyond. At Bureau Shabbatons there are no desks, no whiteboards, no lectures. There is the freedom to express one's identity, find their inner voice, and choose their path to understanding their culture and heritage.

Our Orange County Jewish Community Foundation has provided grants to the Bureau to support these Community Shabbatons for Jewish children ages 9 to 14. Over 56 campers have received scholarships totaling over \$8,000, and our Foundation is proud to be a part of helping kids who would not otherwise participate in these outstanding programs to facilitate their love of Judaism and development into future Jewish leaders within Orange County.

# What's New at the Jewish Community Foundation?

Over the years you, our supporters, have made various suggestions of how the Jewish Community Foundation could better meet your Philanthropic needs. We have been listening, but until now we have not had the opportunity to put your suggestions into action. Now we are in the process of streamlining our back office business processing by converting to a more efficient



administrative system. The Foundation's daily administrative tasks will continue to be handled professionally, accurately and promptly without additional staff support. This staffing restructuring will allow the Foundation

to focus on its mission and growth. In addition, this conversion will finally enable us to meet all of your expectations.

1. You will be given a private login ID and password to give you online access to your fund account.
2. You will be able to check your fund account balance online at any time. You may still call the Foundation office for your balance, if that is your choice.
3. You will be able to make online requests for distributions to your favorite charities from your fund account. For those of you who want to continue to Fax or mail Donor Request Forms to the Foundation that is perfectly fine.
4. You will be able to make online changes to your fund account – such as change of address, change of phone number and new email address changes.
5. You will have the choice of continuing

to receive a hard copy statement mailed quarterly to you or you will have the ability to view and print your statement online any time you wish.

Then to make things even more exciting, the Community Foundation will also have a new Website. Through this new Website you will gain your online access to your fund account within the Foundation. In addition there will be new information available on our Website.

Now, you are probably wondering when all of this will happen? As you can imagine, there is a lot of work and detail to create a new administrative system and a Website all at the same time. We are on schedule and making good progress. It is our plan to have everything ready for you to experience by the end of the year 2012.

It is also our plan to ask some of you to participate in a pilot program to test the system before we open it up to everyone. We will be in touch with the selected individuals during the month of August and September for your consent and participation in this pilot program.

And that's what's new at the Jewish Community Foundation. We are very excited to offer all of these new benefits to our supporters and we hope you will share that excitement.

For more information contact the:



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