

ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PHILANTHROPISTS

40 enthusiastic teens participated in this year's Young Philanthropists leadership program, a partnership program of the Merage JCC and the Jewish Community Foundation Orange County. This interactive program provides education on creating meaningful philanthropy and inspires teens to take responsibility for meeting the needs of various populations in our community. Through a series of four sessions, the Young Philanthropists visited local nonprofits and participated in hands-on philanthropic projects. At the conclusion of the program, the group collectively engaged in a process to determine how to allocate their own contributions, with additional funding provided thanks to a generous grant from an anonymous donor. We thank the JCC and their committee of volunteers for guiding and mentoring our teen philanthropists!



Jewish Community Foundation Orange County Executive Director, Wendy Arenson, spoke to the teens about meaningful and effective philanthropy. She also provided them with tools in how to assess nonprofits and discussed the different ways to get involved in charitable giving.



At Fresh Beginnings Ministries, they learned about veterans and newly-housed people who still face food insecurity and need social services. They packed food boxes and hygiene kits.



While visiting Heritage Pointe, the teens joined a group of residents to chat and make wind chimes to send to families who lost loved ones in the Surfside, FL, building collapse.



A group toured the new state-of-the-art therapy rooms at Newport Chabad Center and learned how Chabad is providing services for people with special needs. They learned about the Friendship Circle program and met with some program participants to cheer on the kids while they played soccer.



The Young Philanthropists made Chanukiot to be included in the Simchat Shabbat meal delivery boxes before Chanukah. The Simchat Shabbat program provides food and essentials for the Shabbat experience to families in need in our community as well as patients in the hospital.

During the site visit to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, they learned about environmental challenges and marine mammal conservation efforts. They also assisted staff in cleaning equipment used in recent animal rescue efforts following the oil spill off the Orange County coast.



TEEN TESTIMONIALS

"I really enjoyed being part of the Young Philanthropist program this year. I used to go to the Mammal Center for a summer camp when I was younger and it was cool to be back and help out. Thanks." - Ryan B.

"It was so amazing to feel like I had a hand in helping to make a difference in my community." - Maya L.

"Being in Young Philanthropists has shown me that a little community service can be a major help for many organizations. Many nonprofit organizations rely almost completely on community service and volunteers. Being able to help these organizations first-hand was an amazing experience and truly felt good inside. Thank you for this amazing program and I'll be sure to sign up next year!" - Riles K.

9TH ANNUAL ENDOWMENT BOOK OF LIFE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Each year we are honored to thank and celebrate our legacy donors at the Endowment Book of Life Community Celebration. To host an engaging in-person event while following COVID precautions, we got creative with our planning. On October 24th we safely gathered in an outdoor space at sunset to “Tailgate and Celebrate.” Guests were treated to stations with a fusion of delicious flavors throughout the community, guests of lawn games including foosball, basketball throwing and cornhole while relaxing with DJ’d beach rock music. In honor of the Foundation’s 40th Anniversary, those in attendance were the video (linked below), highlighting three families and the charitable nonprofits they benefit through endowment funds held at the Foundation. We hope to resume the special tradition of signing the Endowment Book of Life at next year’s celebration, but in the meantime, we are grateful we could enjoy this special event together in person this year. Thank you to our Life & Legacy partners and the individuals and families who have committed to leaving a legacy gift to the Orange County Jewish Community!



[Click here to view the Stories of Legacy Giving Video](#)



AND THE **WINNER IS...**



Congratulations to Debbie Meline, leader of the Life & Legacy program for the Merage Jewish Community Center. Debbie is the recipient of this year's Jewish Community Foundation Orange County's Founders Legacy Award.

WHAT WILL **YOUR LEGACY** BE?

If you are not yet part of the Life & Legacy program, join those who have already created over 839 legacy commitments for our community - and let us honor **YOU** at our next annual celebration in the fall of 2022. Contact Executive Director, Wendy Arenson, to learn more at wendy@jcfoc.org or 949.435.3490.