

Commission on Jewish Identity & Renewal: Youth & Young Adults
Letter of Inquiry

[REDACTED]

I am writing on the behalf of [REDACTED] to respectfully request permission to submit a proposal for \$ [REDACTED] to provide programs promoting the values of *chesed*, *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* in Jewish education for bnai mitzvah students through 18-year-olds for the next four years.

History and Background

Founded in September 2002 by a former teacher, [REDACTED] seeks to formally integrate the values of *chesed* (kindness), *tzedakah* (social justice/ charity) and *tikkun olam* (heal the world) into education for pre-teen and teenage Jews. The organization offers youth programs, teacher support and training and community outreach.

Although only a year old, the organization has grown considerably and already begun to establish important partnerships with day schools, members of the religious community and educators. Last year alone, [REDACTED] involved 100 youth in *chesed* projects, developed and launched its website, led or participated in numerous teacher training workshops and began an extensive outreach to youth through day and congregational schools.

Program Concept & Need

Confronted with limited resources and classroom time, day school and congregational school teachers are often limited to discussing *chesed*, *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*. By going into the schools and offering itself as a resource to teachers and students alike, [REDACTED] seeks to offer additional training and involve youth in hands-on community service.

Meeting with youth one-on-one, [REDACTED] staff help students identify their personal interests and community needs and work to create solutions and projects that truly integrate these values into the bnai mitzvah experience, the student's teenage years and beyond. For example, a teen who is interested in hunger will be assisted with volunteering for an anti-hunger agency or developing a canned food drive. By offering hands-on opportunities to put *chesed*, *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* into action, [REDACTED] seeks to involve youth in the hope that their active involvement will allow them to become socially aware and philanthropically active Jewish adults.

Second, cognizant that the school is one of the most important influences on a child's life, [REDACTED] is a mechanism for teachers to learn how to effectively integrate *chesed*, *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* into their curricula. By creating lessons that specifically cater to the needs of each classroom, as well as offering a website of resources, regular support group meetings and personal consultation, [REDACTED] directs and reinforces educational professionals in their mission of strengthening a student's Jewish identity through hands-on community service.

With funding from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] will bring its program to three middle school programs (one each Orthodox, Conservative and Reform) to involve youth in personalized community service projects and instruction in *chesed*, *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*.

██████████ will work with sixth grade classes in each school and continue to involve those students through out their three years of middle school. ██████████'s involvement will not end with the student's graduation, but will continue into their freshman year of high school by offering opportunities for meeting as a group for community service projects. This innovative and extensive program will help involve youth in regular community service and allow them to see the importance of incorporating *chesed*, *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* into their lives.

Target Population & Recruitment

██████████'s target population is pre-bnai mitzvah aged Jews through age 18. Recruitment of this group is through congregational and day schools and outreach to educational professionals.

Program Goals & Expected Impact

██████████ seeks to involve youth in personalized community service projects that will have a lasting effect on not only the youth, but also on his or her community and strengthen the youth's identity and involvement within the Jewish community.

Measurable Objectives & Plan of Activities

With funding from ██████████, ██████████ seeks to increase its outreach and involvement of young Jews in community service projects allowing for hands-on expression of *chesed*, *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*. As such, program goals are as follows:

- Involve sixth grade classes in three middle schools lessons and opportunities for hands-on practice of *chesed*, *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* for 300 youth.
- Create a community service opportunity that lasts beyond the three years of middle school and into student's high school experience
- Offer practice resources, training opportunities and support for 50 Jewish educational professionals

Expected Outcomes

██████████ seeks to "raise the bar" for what it means to be Jewish. This program will be a success if Jewish children, before they become bar or bat mitzvah, actively engage in meaningful community service projects that interest them, and continue to stay proactive in their *chesed* areas of choice. ██████████'s goal is achieved if it transforms children's encounters with social action and produces Jewish adults who remain active in their communities.

To that extent, ██████████ will utilize evaluation forms at the conclusion of every training session or project and is in the process of developing a way to track long-range effect through outreach to program alumni and participants.

Plan for Future Funding

██████████ recognizes that ██████████ funding is limited in both amount and duration. Prospect research for new and additional funding has already begun and proposals and letters of inquiry will be sent by the end of the calendar year. Additionally, the organization is also exploring fundraising through a Jewish values desktop calendar and has begun a direct mail campaign. ██████████ also relies on nominal fees paid by schools and earned through educational programs; as the organization grows and increases its outreach to schools, we expect this income to grow accordingly.

Project Budget

Personnel Costs	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Director (50% FTE)				
Staff member (75% FTE beginning in Jan '05)				
Fringe benefits & payroll taxes (18%)				
<i>Personnel total</i>				
Other expenses				
Consultants				
Office supplies				
Transportation				
Rent				
Graphic design				
Telephone				
<i>Non-personnel total</i>				
Total Expenses				
Projected income				
School participant fees				
Rent (in-kind donation)				
Graphic design (in kind donation)				
Board member and individual donations				
Total Income				

Total Organizational Budget: ████████████████████