

Jewish Foundation Says Thanks for a Great Year

By Julianna McClatchey

It's been an incredible year in grant making! Once again, the Jewish community has been there to support programs vital to the community of Jewish life within Oregon and southwest Washington. On behalf of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation board of trustees and staff, we'd like to say thanks to all who chose the OJCF as the administrator of their philanthropic activities in 1999.

OJCF donors recommended \$500,000 in grants in December alone, and grants disseminated from our grant book increased by 63 percent from the previous cycle. We are proud of the role we play in serving as a community reserve fund.

We have come a long way since the foundation was created in 1990. OJCF disbursed \$1.9 million to several nonprofit groups in fiscal 1998-99. This is an amazing amount of money considering that in fiscal 1994-95, the first year of OJCF disbursed funds the amount was \$192,000.

OJCF helped realize 32 life-changing trips to Israel and 48 educational scholarships for Jewish education for children and adults with

support provided by Kailes, Krichevsky and our Israel Fund Experience scholarship funds. We have received numerous letters from the recipients of these scholarships detailing the wonderful experiences they had that might otherwise not have been available to them.

In the words of one Krichevsky scholarship recipient who visited Israel last summer, "As a Jew, I have never felt so centered. Looking back on what I learned, I cannot imagine living my life without visiting the land of my ancestors."

The parent of a scholarship recipient who attends Portland Jewish Academy wrote, "My son can hardly wait to get to school in the morning, I can't thank you enough".

Oregon Jewish Museum Executive Director Judy Margels said, "OJM is enormously gratified by the response of OJCF donor funds, which will provide support for a variety of activities including the Jews of Kaifang, a traveling exhibit from the Sino-Judaic Institute in Menlo Park, California. That exhibit will open April

6." Another OJM project partially funded through OJCF is a photo essay highlighting the Jews of the former Soviet Union by photojournalist Sharon Faulkner that opens June 13. Donor funds also provide for museum archives, OJM's newsletter Art and Artifacts, and an archivist consultant.

OJCF funds have also supported Jewish Family and Child Service programs. The Yad Tikvah program provided money for a low income woman, assisted a child with the cost of Hebrew school, provided a mentally ill man a bus ticket and food to get back to his home state after visiting his elderly father, and a disabled child was helped to obtain prescribed exercise equipment not covered by insurance.

The JFCS Lifeline Program provides older adults with various limiting conditions such as severe arthritis, chronic pain, and beginning memory loss with services to help them remain safely at home and enjoy a better quality of life. These are just a sample of the services provided by JFCS.

The Oregon Jewish Film Festival also re-

ceived funding from OJCF donors. "Films are one of the truly important cultural mediums of our time and we are delighted that the Jewish Film Festival has reached great proportions and ranks high among festivals in the U.S. We are proud of the festival and grateful to our supporters," said Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, Director of the Institute for Judaic Studies, one of the festival sponsors.

We, the staff, think that our donor grant makers are a very special group. They continue to respond to our community's needs, and because of that, they touch many lives in a positive way.

Article thanking the Jewish Community for a great year in philanthropic giving.
Writer



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