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## 2012-2013 Newsletter - Tishrei 5773

Dear Friends,

In these days of cynicism, mistrust, and confusion of values, Elie Wiesel, the writer, Nobel Laureate, and Holocaust survivor, gives us guidance:

“To me the greatest commandment in the Bible is not the Ten Commandments. My commandment is ‘Thou shall not stand idly by’. This means when you witness an injustice, do not stand idly by. When you hear of a person or a group being persecuted, do not stand idly by. Where there is something wrong in the community around you, or far away, do not stand idly by. You must intervene. You must intervene.”

Back in 1988, two years after Adina’s death, we started this Fund with the hope that Adina’s values would be perpetuated in future generations. Thousands of donations have poured in, and we have now zoomed past the sum of a half million dollars (\$545,000) awarded to hundreds of young people. “Small acts of human goodness, multiplied by thousands of people are transformative.”

Our thanks to each of you who made contributions this past year giving over 80 individuals the opportunity to learn, to witness, to intervene, and to become involved in social justice. We highlight eight who: used the power of sports to breach cultural barriers, teach cooperation, and defuse tensions – Ultimate Frisbee with Arab and Jewish Israelis and soccer among warring tribes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; promoted micro-credit enterprises in Ecuador and Argentina; researched immigration law or assisted troubled youth in Israel; worked on environmental social change in India; and developed a guidebook for productive dialogue between advocates of differing positions in the United States.

All contributions go directly toward grants; the Schulman family covers all costs. Do take pride in knowing it is truly your donation that supports these endeavors. For those who may have read the article in the NJ Jewish News about the dedication of two new buildings at Camp Galil in memory of Amy Adina, the money raised for that project was entirely separate from this Fund.

With the 25th anniversary of the Fund occurring in 2013, we are in the process of locating past grantees to survey their current activities. We are also considering a networking conference for grantees and need their thoughts on how to make this useful for them in their current work, and when such a gathering would be most convenient. Parents, siblings, friends, and grantees: We need your help! Please send us current email addresses!

May this new year bring health and strength so as not to stand idly by, the ability to speak and to hear each other without rancor, an increasing sense of community, and a deepening of relationships, and may we all be bound in the Book of Life.

Joel, Nancy, & Logan

Ruth (& Mel z”l)

Dan, Jennie, Molly, & Jake

P.S. The U.S. Post Office now requires an address barcode on each envelope that uses a non-profit postal rate, a difficult task for our two-person “Ruth and Nancy Shop.” (Nancy Lewis is the Fund’s administrator.) So, we are trying a commercial mailing service this year, and therefore are not able to send personal notes, but please continue to send us the latest news of your family and your much-appreciated notes of support.

**Brief notes from a few grantees:**

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**Marcus B.** worked in Ecuador and Zoe S. in Argentina; both were involved with microfinance and micro-credit loans that address the needs of low-income entrepreneurs, many of whom are women with limited access to start-up capital.

Marcus, fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, graduated with honors in Political Economy and Latin American Studies from Pitzer College, CA. His previous experience includes anthro-ecological fieldwork among indigenous peoples of the Amazon for the Brazilian government on an NSF grant. He received a grant from us to serve as a Kiva Fellow in Ecuador, at a non-profit that raises money for individual borrowers from microfinance institutions. Kiva connects lenders to micro-entrepreneurs using the Internet. A network of Fellows is responsible to ensure accurate reporting and accountability. It was “more personally and professionally rewarding than I could have possibly anticipated. My main task was to conduct a ‘social performance audit’... ensuring that loans were being used for the people and purposes advertised on Kiva’s website; that details were portrayed accurately and honestly; that loans really did benefit families.”

Clients served by these loans are located in areas extremely remote from the credit union headquarters. Often to obtain the information meant nearly a full day on the back of a motorcycle on rocky, rooty, flooded roads in stifling heat, pouring rain, or visibility-inhibiting fog. Doing this for hours was physically taxing, giving me an appreciation for what practitioners of microfinance do on a daily basis.”

Marcus also uncovered a persistent accounting error that was costing the credit union (Kiva’s partner) thousands of dollars a month. “Since the error has been fixed, it will allow between 10 and 20 micro-loans per month more than they could have given otherwise.” He is now working on “social performance metrics for Grameen America, a non-profit offering small loans for micro-businesses in the U.S. in New York, Indianapolis, Omaha, San Francisco, and soon others.”

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**Zoe**, a Boulder, Colorado native and a Tufts graduate, is “working for a world that lives at the intersection of empathy and action.” She detailed the launching of Argentina’s Fundacion PETISOS’ first micro-credit initiative. Partnering with a large bank, PETISOS gained access to an already-established micro-credit network and implemented a proven model of lending, making loans to 50 new small-scale entrepreneurs in four months. She also designed and implemented PETISOS’ first social impact assessment to be used annually to measure various administrative and impact criteria. To ensure these initiatives would endure, she “created mechanisms so each would be self-sustainable.”

“I am now moving to Mumbai, India...to participate in the IDEX Fellowship for Social Enterprise, a non-profit incubator that offers start-up support to social entrepreneurs to create solutions to India’s social problems. It allows me to continue the work that I love and for that I am infinitely grateful.”

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**Scott B.** played soccer for his alma mater, the University of Tennessee, and has coached the professional New York Red Bulls soccer team. He returns from eleven months in the Itari District of the Democratic Republic of Congo with Sports4Hope and its “Training Program to Unite Coaches from Warring Communities.” Despite ongoing conflict and past massacres, they trained 28 soccer coaches from 13 different areas in peace education programs, improved their abilities as coaches, and provided equipment for their communities – “building relationships and breaking down barriers dividing them.” Additionally, Scott gave training sessions in “sitting volleyball for people with lower body disabilities.” He notes the “huge physical and psychological strides by players who were shy and insecure about getting involved, but now can’t wait to get started.”

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**Rachel B.** graduated from Washington University and was the Senior Jewish Student Life Coordinator at St. Louis Hillel. She worked with the Jewish Dialogue Group this summer “researching articles, interviewing Jewish leaders, and drafting JDG’s forthcoming ‘Guidebook for Deliberation on the Israeli-Palestinian Con-

flict'. She also organized a multi-session pilot program in Chicago to actually use the Guidebook. "It was incredibly rewarding to see what participants were able to take with them from the guide...in a respectful and productive manner... This year, I will apply to rabbinical school... taking with me all the things learned from my summer with JDG.

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**Alisa Z.** was a research fellow with Adam Teva v'Din (ATD). She writes "the chance to work in current environmental and social justice issues allowed me to gain a better understanding of Israel... I was able to engage with specific issues that directly affect people's lives and see their dedication to justice for all citizens within the context of environmental and public health issues."

A graduate of George Washington University, Alisa had served as a development intern and research assistant for the World Resources Institute in Washington DC and the Urban Ecology Institute in Boston. She helped plan World Resource Institutes in Uganda and Brazil. "One of my major accomplishments was to support ATD's ongoing work by researching best practices from the U.S. and abroad and, through my networks, to introduce ATD to allies abroad.

"In addition, I volunteered on weekends with Ultimate Peace, an organization that promotes community building with Jewish-Israeli, Arab-Israeli, and Palestinian kids through Ultimate Frisbee. I was able to meaningfully engage with Arab communities in Israel for the first time... As a mentor coach I experienced Israel's diversity and began to see the breakdown of cultural and religious barriers through sports and new friendships."

"Following my time in Israel, I served with the American Jewish World Service in India for three months... I worked for a sustainable development NGO to strengthen the rights of rural communities and their access to natural resources... While the quality of life is dramatically different between India and Israel, the core issues of citizens' rights and access to a clean and healthy environment remain the same." Alisa is now studying Environmental Management at Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

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**Keren R.** graduated from Highland Park (IL) High School and spent a "gap year" volunteering with BINA, an Israeli non-profit that "gives community members tools to survive and empower themselves." She lived in the "underserved neighborhood of south Tel Aviv – home to migrant workers, refugees, and Jewish immigrants, an area where I could not choose to ignore the unjust reality surrounding me. This constant meeting with reality served as a reminder of the urgency and importance of my work... two days a week volunteering at a public school that serves children of migrant workers and refugees; two days a week volunteering at an after school program with children who came from 'broken homes' and struggle with various behavioral issues; and once a week teaching English to a 16-year-old boy under house arrest...

"I learned to see myself as a change-maker; as one individual who can team up with many other committed individuals to positively engage with and give to a community. I learned to recognize the immensity of my own power to change my surroundings and myself... This empowered sense of being will definitely continue to fuel my decisions and actions at Wesleyan, in my Habonim-Dror community, and beyond... This year was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I am sincerely grateful for the generosity and support of the Amy Adina Fund."

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**Ben K.**, a graduate of Williams College, had extensive theatre experience acting, directing, staging, and playwriting. He interned for seven months at the Israeli daily Ha'aretz with only one guideline. "Write about anything but the conflict." Three excerpts from his articles:

At a medical clowning conference in Jerusalem: "In a room with 100 medical clowns from all over the world...to me, this was Israel and Jewish tradition at its best – innovative, irreverent, and sensitive to human needs...Jerusalem, the City of Peace, serving as an international center for healing, not a center for conflict..."

At a Flash Mob in Beit Shemesh protesting gender segregation where “women gathered in a city square and ‘spontaneously’ danced to Queen’s ‘Don’t Stop Me Now’ to protest their exclusion from public life...an ecstatic, triumphant moment...”

“After a day in Susya, visiting Palestinians in caves, of drinking tea with Bedouins pushed off their land, of seeing the most devastating poverty I had ever witnessed, I would return to Tel Aviv...Susya was an hour and a half away, but you would never know it existed.”

“My initial impulse was to resolve everything, to try and impose what I think should be...(but) I became a better listener...wanting to explore and understand (people’s) emotional and intellectual reasoning more than arguing with or dismissing them... How crucial it is to listen to all voices – particularly those of the silenced minority...The skills and experience I gained over the past months will be invaluable to me as I move forward and none of this would have been possible without the help of the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund. I am deeply grateful for your encouragement and support and I am honored to join this community of people that believes we can and must usher in a better reality, despite – or in spite of – the facts on the ground... Soon I will be looking for ways to return and to reengage.” This summer Ben continued his study of Hebrew at Middlebury College.

In conjunction with the Yale program, Bulldogs in Israel, Nicole E. interned with the Ministry of Justice in Jerusalem as Project Assistant for the National Coor-

dination Battle Against Trafficking of Persons. “Raised in South Texas by my Vietnamese mother, I have direct experience interacting with displaced populations and an understanding of the complexity of cultural interactions... My internship exposed me to the workings of law, government, and general politics in Israel and the greater Middle East and Africa. I was able to participate in meetings with NGOs and international ambassadors and attend committee meetings at the Knesset regarding human trafficking and prostitution. I wrote analyses of the 2011 Israel and Egypt Trafficking in Persons Report, which were then circulated among the staffs of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I observed the interactions between NGOs and governments and became inspired by those dedicating their lives to fight for the dignity of all peoples. I became aware of the immense problem of modern slavery and international human trafficking.”

I conversed with settlers, various orthodox rabbis, Catholic and Coptic priests, Israeli Arabs, and Palestinian shopkeepers. I participated in meetings of the Interfaith Encounter Alliance... I swiftly lost any sense of voyeurism or orientalism and acclimated myself to the most liberating sense of independence and adventure that I’ve ever faced. My experience was, in all sincerity, one of the most exciting and fulfilling periods of my short life...absolutely transformative.”

**\*And these are only eight of the 80 individuals who received funding in 2011-12. All of them thank you for your generous support!**