



Giving Circle participants put Jewish values into action



Emma Dunn, YALA Twin Cities; Otis Zanders, president and CEO, Ujamaa Place; Shai Avny, Mount Zion Temple; and Gabe Flaum, Giving Circle participant.

Our second Giving Circle, sponsored by the St. Paul Jewish Federation and Mount Zion Temple, wrapped up in October. Ten young adults convened for seven meetings and explored tzedakah and how Jewish values influence their giving.

They determined how to allocate a total of \$5,400 from a fund that included their contributions and a match from Federation and Mount Zion. Participants were originally asked to contribute a minimum of \$100 to the allocation fund but ultimately the group was so inspired by the organizations they wanted to support that many participants contributed more funds.

They granted [Ujamaa Place](#), which provides holistic support for young African American males who were formerly incarcerated, \$3,600 for sustained program support. They also allocated \$1,800 to [Family Tree Clinic's](#) "We Are Family Fund" which provides health care cost assistance for Family Tree Clinic patients who identify as LGBTQ and are facing financial hardship.



Alissa Light, executive director and Nathalie Crowley, associate executive director, Family Tree Clinic; Jon Socha and Sarah McVicar, Giving Circle Participants; Shai Avny, Mount Zion Temple.

The Jewish values the group identified as their most important collective values for philanthropy were: *Kavod Habriot* (Personal Dignity), *Ahavat Ger* (Love the Stranger), *Lo Ta'amod Al Dam Rei'echa* (Do Not Stand Idly By), *L'Dor v'Dor* (From Generation to Generation), *Tzedakah* (Give in Pursuit to Justice). These values guided the decisions the group made to support Ujamaa Place and Family Tree Clinic, which they felt addressed needs for vulnerable Minnesotans and protected the dignity of all they served.