

THE ASSOCIATED'S JEWISH WOMEN'S GIVING FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION The Jewish Women's Giving Foundation (JWGF) is a program of The Associated. Guided by Jewish values and through a gender lens, JWGF is a giving circle that promotes lasting social change by transforming the lives of self-identified women and girls. As part of our collaborative grantmaking process, we educate and empower our members to be strategic decision makers and philanthropists. We focus our grantmaking in greater Baltimore, Israel and overseas.

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OUR HISTORY While women and girls make up 50% of the world's population, only 1.9% of all charitable dollars are donated to organizations focused on advancing their health, safety and rights. The Associated established the Giving Foundation in 2003 in response to a lack of resources being dedicated to the issues affecting women and girls, both at home and abroad. Today, JWGF stands with approximately 20 other Jewish women's foundations around the country, enabling women to have a powerful voice in championing their philanthropic values through collaborative giving.

OUR WORK Since 2003, JWGF has awarded more than \$2 million in grants to over 60 nonprofit organizations that help women and girls of all faiths and backgrounds live safer, healthier and more meaningful lives. The Giving Foundation awards grants through both a gender and a Jewish lens, honoring our cultural traditions of *tzedakah* (philanthropic giving) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

OUR MEMBERS JWGF convenes women who are affiliated with the Baltimore Jewish community. Each member contributes the same amount to our fund and each has an equal voice in directing our grant making. In addition to participating in our annual grantmaking process, Giving Foundation members learn about philanthropy, the non-profit sector and the issues and needs facing our community through educational programming.

JWGF members make a financial commitment of \$1,100 per funding year. Initial memberships are a two-year commitment and automatically renew as long as members chose to participate. The membership commitment deadline is October 15 of each year, with full payment due by November 15.

In addition to making a targeted investment in women and girls,

JWGF members are asked to make a philanthropic investment in the greater Baltimore Jewish community through The Associated's Annual Campaign. In the first year of JWGF membership, a member or member's household is asked to consider a donation of \$365 to The Associated. In a member's second year, a minimum gift of \$365 is required. This commitment increases to \$500 in a member's third year and beyond. Upon joining the Foundation, a JWGF member currently making a personal or household donation to The Associated's Annual Campaign in excess of any suggested or required gift is expected to at least maintain her annual giving.

OUR PROCESS The Giving Foundation has a two-stage, annual grant-making cycle that runs from September to May. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is sent via email to organizations in September requesting submissions of brief letters of inquiry. Via a democratic voting process, we select approximately 12 organizations from whom we request a full proposal. After a comprehensive review of the full proposals, including site visits, Giving Foundation members make a final decision in May. Approximately 7 to 10 organizations are funded. Grants are awarded in amounts between \$5,000 and \$20,000. We endeavor to allocate 50% of our funds in the Jewish community.

OUR SNAPSHOT In the 2024-25 program year, approximately \$131,000 was allocated to seven organizations through our annual grantmaking process. We currently have more than 90 members.

CONTACT US For more information, please contact our Director, Valerie Sheinker at vsheinker@associated.org or 410-458-9504. Visit our website at associated.org/jwgf or at Jewish Women's Giving Foundation Baltimore on Facebook.