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Jewish legacy giving program secures \$16 million in commitments

A two-year legacy giving program in Tampa, Orlando and Pinellas County has secured more than 400 after-lifetime commitments with an estimated value of \$16 million dollars in future financial gifts to the three communities.

The commitments are part of a collaboration between the Tampa Orlando Pinellas Jewish Foundation (TOP) and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to preserve vibrant Jewish life for future generations by ensuring the long-term financial health of Jewish community organizations.

Nationally, the Grinspoon Foundation has helped its partner communities secure more than 14,000 after-lifetime commitments, valued at more than a half-billion dollars.

TOP was invited to participate in the Life & Legacy program in 2014 after submitting an application and following a rigorous interview process. TOP partnered with the Grinspoon Foundation to help start a community-wide legacy giving program, creating a shared goal for the organizations to work toward.

As a part of the collaboration, TOP coached local organizations as a part of the two-year program in an established program of training and incentive grants to ensure that legacy giving becomes a normal part of the philanthropic culture of the community.

Organizations participating in the program were:

Hillsborough County



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Congregation Beth Am, Hillel Academy of Tampa, Hillels of the Florida Suncoast, Tampa Jewish Family Services, and the Tampa JCC and Federation.

Pinellas County

Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, Temple Beth-El, the Florida Holocaust Museum, Congregation B'nai Israel, and the Jewish Federation of Pinellas & Pasco Counties.

“TOP was established nearly 40 years ago with this function in mind: to create a secure future for the Jewish community of central Florida,” said Emilie Socash, executive director of TOP. “Joining together with the Grinspoon Foundation on Life & Legacy was such a fulfilling and sensible next step in our service to the community.”

The three communities celebrated their success in completing the two-year program in May, and each organization completing the program received an unrestricted grant of \$6,000 each year of the program from TOP.

“The result is not in the immediate sense,” added Ellen Weiss, TOP’s senior development director, “but rather is in the long-term relationships that we are developing with hundreds of community members who otherwise would not have considered themselves in a position to leave a legacy.”

“Providing Jewish communities with proven tools and training to help them secure their long-term financial goals is absolutely vital. Through the Life & Legacy program, I’m hopeful that we will be able to help sustain vibrant communities that allow future generations to enjoy our rich



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Jewish culture and heritage,” said Harold Grinspoon, the founder of Grinspoon Foundation.