

THE HADASSAH FOUNDATION



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For Immediate Release

Hadassah Foundation Awards *Bernice S. Tannenbaum Prize* to Jessica Nare, Director of Leadership Programs at Jewish Family Service of San Diego

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San Diego, CA – On June 8, 2015, the Hadassah Foundation, headquartered in New York, NY, awarded the Bernice N. Tannenbaum Prize to Jessica Nare, Director of Leadership Programs at Jewish Family Service of San Diego (JFS), in a ceremony at the UJA-Federation of New York.



Photo (L to R): Rabbi Ellen Flax, Director of the Hadassah Foundation; Jessica Nare, Director of Leadership Programs at Jewish Family Service; Rabbi Suzanne Offit, Board Chair of the Hadassah Foundation

The Bernice S. Tannenbaum Prize recognizes emerging professionals who have made innovative contributions to advance the status of women and girls in Israel and the United States. Awardees demonstrate a high degree of talent, commitment, and accomplishment in their work. The prize honors Bernice S. Tannenbaum, z”l, for her lifetime of service to the

Jewish People; the State of Israel; and Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

Jessica Nare was awarded the prize for her work directing the Girls Give Back teen leadership program at JFS. Supported by the Hadassah Foundation, Girls Give Back empowers the next generation of female leaders to create meaningful change in the world around them. Teens learn about issues that impact women and girls, and develop leadership skills by planning service projects. Girls Give Back promotes Jewish values and the importance of *tikkun olam* while developing social-mindedness, critical thinking, healthy self-esteem, and empathy in high school girls.

"Jessica Nare is a young woman with great potential, and has already achieved so much in her leadership role with Girls Give Back," said Rabbi Ellen Flax, Director of the Hadassah Foundation.

In the last year, under Nare's leadership, Girls Give Back teen leaders have:

- Volunteered more than 1,200 hours, earning the Presidential Gold Volunteer Service Award.
- Hosted a Teen Gender Equality Conference for 60 teens from Carlsbad to Baja California.
- Created and facilitated an empowerment program for 12 girls in grades 6, 7, and 8.
- Launched the blog "Wisdom for Womanism" in December 2014, created 19 original posts, and garnered close to 3,000 unique views from across the world.
- Partnered with the *Hand Up* Teen Leadership Program at JFS to host, "Rock Out to Give Back", which raised over \$7,000 for JFS's food pantry and domestic violence programs.

Girls Give Back advances JFS's work to *Foster Community Connection & Engagement* across San Diego, one of the agency's three impact areas.

"We are still living in a society where women are underrepresented in positions of power. Girls Give Back develops community among high school Jewish girls and provides them with the skills and confidence they need to be the next generation of leaders," Nare said. "I'm honored to be recognized by the Hadassah Foundation, an organization with a long-standing commitment to the advancement of Jewish girls and women."

The intent of the Bernice N. Tannenbaum Prize is to make the field more effective by supporting the development of future leaders. The prize provides \$500 in general operating support to Girls Give Back at JFS, as well as \$2,500 to Jessica Nare to further her professional development.

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About Jessica Nare

Jessica L. Nare holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Ohio Wesleyan University and a master's degree in women's studies from San Diego State University. Jessica has traveled widely to study women's issues with scholars and community organizers throughout Europe and Asia. She brings these experiences to her work as Director of Leadership

Programs at Jewish Family Service, as well as a core faculty member in the College of Letters and Sciences at National University and a lecturer in Women's Studies at SDSU. Jessica also serves on the Human Relations Commission of the City of San Diego and is an alumna of the San Diego Leadership Alliance.

About the Hadassah Foundation

The Hadassah Foundation is an investor in social change to empower girls and women in the United States and Israel. The Foundation is a philanthropic pioneer in the fields of improving economic security for low-income Israeli women and developing leadership and self-esteem programs for adolescent Jewish girls and young women in the United States. Since 2000, approximately \$6.8 million has been awarded to nearly 80 nonprofit organizations. To learn more, visit www.hadassahfoundation.org.

About Girls Give Back

Girls Give Back, a program of Jewish Family Service of San Diego, generously supported by the Hadassah Foundation, is designed to address the challenges faced by Jewish teens by engaging them in meaningful, self-directed, and ongoing service-learning and leadership development activities. Through the use of a high quality year-long curriculum—designed by Jewish Family Service with Jewish teens in mind—Girls Give Back builds social connections among Jewish peers who learn about gender inequality, develop concrete leadership skills, and actively engage in their community through ongoing volunteer work.

Girls Give Back is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 School Year Program through August 1, 2015. Visit www.jfssd.org/ggb to learn more and apply online.

About Jewish Family Service

Since 1918, Jewish Family Service of San Diego has been a trusted community resource for individuals and families in times of need. Our wide range of integrated services *Empower Individuals & Families to Move Toward Self-Sufficiency*, *Support Aging With Dignity*, and *Foster Community Connection & Engagement* throughout San Diego County and the Coachella Valley. Many people turn to Jewish Family Service with a specific need, such as hunger. And that first contact often leads to a wide range of services, including counseling, education, job coaching, transportation, and more. Our message to every person who turns to Jewish Family Service in search of a better life is: WE'RE WITH YOU. To learn how JFS transforms lives in our community, visit www.jfssd.org.