HEKDESH

Using collective giving to build community and leadership among geographically, chronologically, and ideologically diverse program alumni.

contact
Julie Sissman

email
jsissman@yahoo.com

phone
917.714.0034

website
www.hekdesh.org

twitter
n/a

address
n/a

year founded
2006

board chair(s)
Max Socol

2014 expenses
$3,500

project of:
Dorot Fellowship in Israel

parent org founded
1990

HEKDESH has pioneered the adaptation of a giving circle model in order to engage its alumni. Fellowship organizations throughout the Jewish community face a similar problem: while many participants desire to continue their intense and meaningful experiences post-fellowship, geographic realities and the responsibilities of new careers and resumed lives create roadblocks to ongoing relationships. A group of Dorot Fellowship in Israel (DFI) alumni has solved this problem of ongoing engagement through HEKDESH, a replicable giving circle for young DFI alumni.

> 66 HEKDESH empowers [its] alumni to pool small gifts to support causes they collectively care about – this is philanthropy at its best!

Through a low buy-in of $180, HEKDESH engages alumni immediately post-fellowship when they still have strong memories of their experiences. HEKDESH also empowers small dollar donors by allowing nominations from all members and asking members to allocate their own grant dollars among the finalist organizations. HEKDESH helps alumni pool these gifts into a giving circle, which enables them to pool their donations and make collaborative decisions about how to direct those funds. HEKDESH has made several unique updates to the classic giving circle to meet the needs of its alumni. The organization sponsors one-time events as well as a two-year Tzedakah Learning Pod program, which connects participants and provides grant making and leadership education. DFI alumni remain geographically widespread, but HEKDESH allows them to remain in contact and convene annually to make grant decisions and engage in collaborative learning and growth.

hekdesh.org

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