ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Rose Youth Foundation (RYF) is an initiative of Rose Community Foundation that engages Jewish high school students in collaborative grantmaking. The program is youth-led, empowering teens to use the tools of strategic philanthropy to make a difference. Members work together to discuss what it means to give in a Jewish way, explore community issues, determine a funding priority, meet with nonprofit leaders and ultimately determine how to grant $60,000 to improve the Greater Denver community. This is the 20th cohort of Rose Youth Foundation.

2022 GRANT AWARDS

Members focused their grantmaking on supporting organizations providing mental health services for survivors of sexual assault.

Mother House - $30,000
To support a mental health professional working with pregnant women and mothers experiencing trauma, particularly from sexual assault.

Servicios de la Raza - $30,000
To support the organization's mission to provide and advocate for culturally responsive, essential human services and opportunities, in particular, the Domestic Violence and Crime Victim Services (VISTAS) program.
This was my first opportunity to serve the community on such a large scale. I enjoyed learning about the amazing organizations that are working to help.
- Annika Aumentado, Fairview High School

Learning about new organizations opened my eyes to a variety of topics and will allow me to further invest in these issues in the future.
- Ben Avner, Denver Academy of Torah

I enjoyed working with people of different backgrounds and gaining the ability to step out of my comfort zone and take risks with my ideas.
- Avi Cohn, Denver Jewish Day School

I gained a deeper understanding of philanthropy, specifically the grantmaking process. I now understand the power I have to enact real change.
- Malka Engbar, Denver Jewish Day School

RYF made me think about what one voice can do. Helping others has been something I’ve enjoyed, but now this program has made it one of my core values.
- Samson Eschenbrenner, Broomfield High School

I appreciated being able to incorporate my Jewish values with peers of the same faith and come to similar conclusions.
- Cameron Kowitt, Prospect Ridge Academy

RYF gave me the opportunity to be a philanthropist at a young age. I feel so lucky because participating here is only the beginning.
- Molly Malek, East High School

I learned that there is an art to philanthropy. The need for help is so great in our community, and we first need to get in touch with ourselves to find what we value.
- Harris May, Colorado Academy

As a group, we were able to accomplish so much over a few months. I am grateful that I get to repay a community that has provided me with so much.
- Devin O’Connor, Cherry Creek High School

RYF gave me an understanding of what is happening in the Denver community. I learned how to look at organizations and see how they align with different goals.
- Yael Polotsky, Denver Academy of Torah
The program showed me the importance of taking a patient approach to making decisions, and that there is so much more to being Jewish.  
- Cole Protass, East High School

Learning about the suffering in our community is sobering, but seeing the passion from every person we worked with helped me feel confident in trying to make change.  
- Gabrielle Shapiro, Fairview High School

RYF gave me a greater appreciation for the organization, thought and work that goes into philanthropy and grantmaking.  
- Hannah Rossow, South High School

The experience taught me about philanthropy and how it impacts the world. I enjoyed learning about different organizations and issues.  
- Ben Sindler, George Washington High School

I enjoyed getting to meet new people and learn about all of the organizations. I am really happy about our ultimate grant decision.  
- Ryan Venturi, DSST Byers

I am thankful for the opportunity to connect with other Jewish teens and use our Jewish roots to make an impact on an issue we thought really needed our attention.  
- Sara Wexler, South High School

Help ensure Rose Youth Foundation will be here to engage and inspire future generations of young community leaders.

Visit rcfdenver.org/give and select Rose Youth Foundation Endowment.