**LEADERS IN THE FIELD**

The Alumni Venture Fund was the first of its kind: a peer-to-peer grant program for and by alumni. Over the past 10 years, Jewish organizations have turned to us for advice on how to start their own alumni giving circles. We led panels, facilitated connections, and inspired leaders: in both Israel and North America.

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**LAUNCHING JEWISH PROJECTS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR INNOVATION**

Here are a few projects that benefited from early AVF support: Keshet, Machon Hadar, The Kitchen, the Kavana Cooperative, Kevah, Sefaria and YidLife Crisis.

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**FAST FACTS**

$245,000 distributed in grants

501 Bronfmanim have donated to the fund over the past 10 years

59 Callers participated in 3 years of annual phonathons

25% of Bronfmanim gave to the AVF in 2014

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A diverse array of alumni-led projects receive funding each year. In 2013, we especially solicited projects in the ARTS and in 2014, in memory of Edgar M Bronfman’s commitment to improving the world for the next generation, we focused on ADVOCACY. What’s next for 2015? You tell us!

To vote for our next theme, please visit: http://tinyurl.com/AVF2015

The Bronfman Venture Fund aims to grow projects that serve the wider community and perpetuate the spirit of BYFI, inspire Bronfmanim to put their talents into action and leverage the power of peer support with capacity building from our network.

With ten years of grants & support from the community, Bronfmanim have made an impact in:

DIRECT SERVICE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS
- A reading and literacy program for 50 female parolees in East Cleveland (Books@Work)
- An alternative spring break that brought 12 college students to the Makah Indian Reservation
- An organization dedicated to recording and preserving testimonials of Rwandans (Voices of Rwanda)

MAKING JEWISH RITUALS ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE
- An online store that, within its first year, sold 75 sets of tzitzit designed for women
- A dynamic new machzor for high holiday services for a “spiritually alive” Jewish generation in San Francisco – which drew a crowd of 250 in its first year (The KITCHEN)
- An online setting for girls to take their Bat Mitzvahs into their own hands – for unaffiliated and interfaith girls, too (MyBatMitzvahStory.org)

INVESTING IN ARTISTIC EXPRESSION FOR CHANGE
- The translation and production of a play about the HIV-AIDS crisis for an Israeli audience (“The Normal Heart”)
- A creative writing group for eleven high school-aged adoptees to explore transnational adoption in the Jewish community (Beginning & Belonging)
- A film festival in St. Louis that drew 50 students into conversations about the Arab Israeli conflict (Washington University Jewish Film Festival).

What’s next for the Venture Fund?

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- INNOVATION IN JEWISH RITUAL
- MENTAL HEALTH / EMOTIONAL WELLNESS
- BRIDGING DIFFERENCE
- POVERTY