

# JEWISH REVIEW

Published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Oregon, USA

December 15, 2005: Local News

## Teen givers attract notice

By Paul Haist

*Jewish Review*



K'vod Wieder

A program for Jewish teenagers in Portland attracted a specialist in youth philanthropy all the way from Massachusetts this month to discuss how they might extend their reach into the future.

K'vod Wieder is the director of the B'nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy Program within the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in West Springfield, Mass.

He was in Portland Dec. 11-13 to meet with members of the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation, a project of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, and Jewish community leaders here.

The OJCYF brings together Jewish teens each year to raise money for charitable giving, assess communal needs and then decide among themselves, with an adult advisor, how best to distribute the funds.

Wieder and the program he heads encourages such groups to take a next step in philanthropy and create individual endowments that can become lifetime vehicles for personal giving.

The B'nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy Program encompasses four objectives: • To help every Jewish teen in his or her community establish an endowment fund in their name. • To provide Jewish teens with skills and knowledge in the area of Jewish sources on giving, financial literacy and modern philanthropy. • To help Jewish teens establish relationships with Jewish organizations in their community and abroad. • To offer the opportunity to network with other Jewish teens locally and nationally.

OJCF Executive Director John Moss said 11 teenagers in the youth foundation expressed interest in attending B'nai Tzedek's National Jewish Youth Funders Conference this spring in Denver.

Moss said that when he introduced Wieder to key Jewish leaders in Portland, they responded very favorably to the program that Wieder outlined.

"Across the board, this idea is capturing imaginations," he said.

In brief, teens who elect to create their own endowment are helped with local matching funds from interested community members who share the values underlying the goals of the program.

Moss called this initial contact with Wieder and the teen philanthropy program "the genesis of what we hope will become an institution of Jewish Portland."