

# SOCIAL VENTURE FUND

FOR JEWISH-ARAB EQUALITY & SHARED SOCIETY



2013—2014 REPORT

MAINSTREAMING EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY  
AND SHARED SOCIETY IN ISRAEL



The Jewish Federations®  
OF NORTH AMERICA

THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.  
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

[JewishFederations.org](http://JewishFederations.org)

[f jfederations](https://www.facebook.com/jfederations) [@jfederations](https://twitter.com/jfederations)



# SOCIAL VENTURE FUND FOR JEWISH-ARAB EQUALITY & SHARED SOCIETY

A PROJECT OF THE JFNA PLANNED GIVING AND  
ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT

[www.JewishFederations.org/venturefund](http://www.JewishFederations.org/venturefund) [www.facebook.com/socialventurefund](https://www.facebook.com/socialventurefund)

# CONTENTS

Message from the Co-Chairs	4
Message from the Director	5
About the Social Venture Fund	6
Education	8
Economic Development	10
Emerging Issues	14
Convening and Planning	16
A Look Ahead	17
Leadership and Members 2013	18
2013 Fund Finances	19

# MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

“Beyond moral considerations, it is of fundamental importance for the future of Israel to offer the Arab population equal opportunities, upward mobility, good education and promising employment.”

—Professor Manuel Trajtenberg, May 20, 2013

Dear Friends,

We are excited to begin our terms as the new co-chairs of the Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society. We want to thank the previous co-chairs, Stuart Brown and Alisa Doctoroff, for their outstanding leadership over the past three years. They have helped the Fund evolve into an effective and well-respected organization in the field of furthering equality and shared society for Arab citizens of Israel.

The Fund has accomplished so much this past year, as described in this detailed report. Additionally, we commissioned a study to analyze the value added of the Fund. Among the many things we learned, two findings stood out.

First, the study confirmed that by acting together under the umbrella of The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), we can have a substantial impact on legitimizing the issue of equality and shared society in Israel as well as in Jewish communities in North America. Our competitive grant-making process, backed by a collective of North American Jewish funders, helps further legitimize participating NGOs in Israel. And in North America, our work with the Inter-Agency Task Force to educate Jews about equality and shared society and how crucial they are to the future of Israel has helped move these issues into the mainstream.

Second, we found that Social Venture Fund members greatly value the education and opportunities to connect and network with colleagues that are essential parts of our program. The study characterized the members as a congenial and respectful group that learns from experts, Government of Israel (GOI) officials and people working in the field as well as each other. The representatives of the 23 Federations, foundations and individuals who have worked together this year bring to the table different knowledge and perspectives, which enables the Fund to act strategically as a collective while enhancing the individual contributions of our members.

We know that, especially after a very difficult summer, we have a lot of work to do. Fortunately, we have outstanding members leading our three committees: Adina Dubin and Joelle Steefel in Education, Josh Arnow and Lauren Friedman in Economic Development and Sarah Silver and Howard Sohn in Emerging Issues. With the expertise and experience of our leadership and members, we know that we will continue to help further equality and shared society for the Arab citizens of Israel.

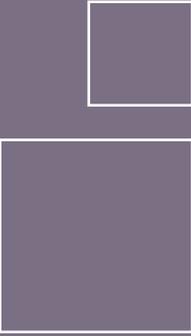
As we embark on our seventh year, we invite you to join us as a partner in the work of the Social Venture Fund.



**Bob Gordon**  
Co-Chair



**Wendy Rudolph**  
Co-Chair



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present this report, which covers the activities of the 2013 Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society (SVF) from July 2013 to June 2014 and highlights the accomplishments of our funding collaborative and the 22 NGO initiatives we have supported during our sixth year of operation.

The SVF members began the year with a thought-provoking retreat in the summer of 2013. Together with visiting experts, they examined trends and developments and explored opportunities for enhancing equality of opportunity and shared society. Building on those ideas, we established a strategic work group to review our grant-making goals and portfolio and formulate recommendations to deepen our impact and bring issues of equality of opportunity and shared society to national attention in Israel.

It is encouraging to see the many positive changes occurring as a result of the Government of Israel's economic stimulus plans and commitment to integrate Arab Israelis into the workforce. These efforts include opening employment centers in 22 Arab towns and implementing a continuum of programs and initiatives, from career orientations in Arab high schools to the Council of Higher Education's comprehensive five-year plan to increase Arabs' access to higher education. Another major breakthrough this year is the Ministry of Education's new policy to integrate 500 Arab teachers into Jewish schools, which also offers teaching hours and incentives for participating schools. Implementing this initiative will be enormously challenging, but it has the potential to transform the culture of an entire school system.

Our SVF grantees play pivotal roles in implementing these and other government plans that address equality of opportunity and shared society within the spheres of education and economic development, and we are enormously proud of their contributions.

While the events of this past summer fall outside the scope of this report, we cannot ignore the impact of Operation Protective Edge on Jewish-Arab relations, and the potential for setbacks. The recent hostilities threaten the significant advances and major investments made in recent years by the Israeli Government and civil society to better integrate Arab citizens into the Israeli economy and bridge educational gaps. We expect there to be short-term challenges in such areas as job placement and integration of Arab teachers into Jewish schools. At the same time, we are encouraged by the courageous leaders who are reinforcing their commitment to address inequalities and seizing the opportunity to speak up about majority-minority relations, democratic values and the need for strengthening shared society.

Over the coming year, we will continue to monitor the situation, consult with our grantees and experts in the field and adapt our strategy as needed based on our goals and facts on the ground. At this critical time in Jewish-Arab relations, we urge you to join the SVF so that together, we can strengthen our collective response.



**Gail Zucker**  
Director

# ABOUT THE SOCIAL VENTURE FUND



## The Vision:

We are committed to a State of Israel that is based on the values of freedom, justice and peace, that guarantees social and political equality to all, and in which the benefits of economic development are shared by all inhabitants of the country, as envisioned in the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel. We see an Israel that provides equal opportunities and fair access to public resources and in which every individual is part of an inclusive society with a positive, shared future.

## The Mission:

The Social Venture Fund aims to leverage the collective resources of its members and stakeholders by supporting strategic initiatives in Israel that will:

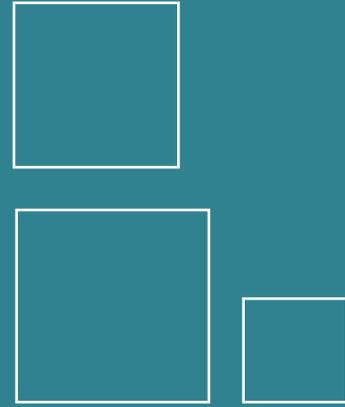
- build mutual respect and understanding between Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel;
- increase opportunities for Israel's Arab citizens to share equally in the social, educational and economic life of the country; and
- promote structural and institutional reforms that support the vision of Israel as a shared society that benefits all of its citizens.

## 2013 AT A GLANCE

■ **PARTNERING:** 23 members joined the Fund, contributing a total of **\$925,000**. Members include five large Federations, 17 foundations and philanthropists, and JFNA as operational partner.

■ **FUNDING:** The SVF allocated **\$860,000** to support **22** projects in the areas of education and economic development in Israel, and another **\$43,000** towards capacity building and planning efforts.

■ **CONVENING:** SVF grantees met in Israel in June 2014 for a day of learning and sharing, and participated in expert workshops on social change in the digital era.



**Overview:**

JFNA launched the Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society in November 2007 to strengthen and coordinate the Jewish community's efforts to address the unmet needs of Israel's Arab citizens by making strategic financial investments in nonprofit groups in Israel that focus on social change and promote equality and coexistence.

Operating as a funding collective, the Fund has raised over \$6.2 million since its inception and allocated \$5.4 million towards programs in the areas of education and economic development. These areas were selected in consultation with many Jewish and Arab Israeli thought leaders in the field and based on key research findings and a rigorous prioritization process.

The Fund aims to address three levels of intervention and change in its grant making: equality of opportunity, structural and institutional change, and shared society.

“Today we send a message with one voice which needs to be heard in Hebrew and Arabic and is targeted for all Israeli citizens, Jews and Arabs... We are all citizens with equal rights in the democratic State of Israel, a country of law.”

— Justice Minister Tzippy Livni

■ **NETWORKING:** SVF staff and members visited grantee projects in Israel and met with government officials, Israeli philanthropists, NGO leaders and experts in the field to assess and address select priority issues.

■ **INFORMING:** The SVF held educational sessions on Israeli Arabs at national and regional conferences, including a session at the 2013 General Assembly in Israel on “*Creating Shared Society in Israel: Courageous Leaders as Agents of Change.*”

# EDUCATION



Promoting equality in education for Israel's Arab citizens is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty, bridging economic and social gaps and ultimately creating a shared society. Educational gaps and inequalities between Israeli Jews and Arabs are evident from early childhood through higher education, and manifest themselves in unequal allocation of budgets, infrastructure (e.g. classrooms, laboratories or sports facilities), differences in dropout rates, educational achievements (matriculation rates) and funding for special education. It is well-established that education performance affects all aspects of quality of life and society including income, health, crime and GDP, weighing heavily on all of Israel. According to the Israeli Authority for Economic Development, the weakness of the formal education system and the absence of an informal education system are the main factors leading to inadequate integration of Israeli Arabs into the workforce and lower acceptance rates into the higher education system.

The 2013 SVF supported **nine** programs and initiatives totaling **\$335,000** that promote educational opportunity and foster a shared society.

#### Of these programs:

- two focus on **high school graduation** and **access to higher education**
- two encourage **volunteerism** and **leadership development**
- one supports the **integration of Arab teachers** of math, science, English and Arabic language in Jewish schools
- four cultivate **shared life education**

## EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

- **104** female Bedouin students in grades 10-12 participated in an empowerment, mentoring and tutoring program located at Ben-Gurion University. Nearly all of the 12th-grade students went on to pursue higher education.
- **210** Israeli Arab youth participated in a year-long volunteer and leadership program in **23** Arab towns and mixed cities in the north, and another **34** Jewish and Bedouin volunteers participated in a joint volunteer program in the Negev. These volunteer programs benefited **7,000** elementary school children, their families and communities.
- **153** full-time Bedouin engineering students—27 percent of them women—received academic and social support and funding towards their degrees.
- Contemporary Jewish-Hebrew cultural activities were implemented in 5th and 6th-grade classes in **18** Arab schools, reaching **2,500** students and increasing appreciation of Jewish culture and customs.



## 2013 FUND GRANTEES – EDUCATION

<b>AJEEC-NISPED—The Arab Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation and the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development</b> The Arab-Jewish Community Volunteer Year Program	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Alnuhud—The Association for the Promotion of Bedouin Women’s Education in the Negev</b> The Pre-Academic Project	<b>\$20,000</b>
<b>MERCHAVIM: The Institute for the Advancement of Shared Citizenship in Israel</b> The Integration of Arab-Israeli Teachers in the Jewish-Israeli School System	<b>\$40,000</b>
<b>Merkaz Ma’ase</b> Volunteer Year for Israeli Arab Youth aged 18-21 in the Israeli Arab Periphery	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Sami Shamoon College of Engineering</b> 100 Bedouin Engineers Program	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>The Abraham Fund Initiatives</b> Contemporary Jewish-Hebrew Cultural Activities in Arab Schools	<b>\$35,000</b>
<b>The Center for Educational Technology (CET)</b> Shared Life Training Programs for Civics Teachers and Social Coordinators	<b>\$40,000</b>
Shared Life Training Program for Jewish and Arab School Principals	<b>\$25,000</b>
Development, Training and Implementation of “Arab Labor” Online Educational Kit	<b>\$20,000</b>
<i>Additional programs funded through 2012 resources implemented in 2013-2014</i>	
<b>Tel-Hai Academic College</b> The Center for Peace and Democracy	
<b>Open University of Israel</b> Creating Conditions for Success	

■ **49** new and veteran Arab teachers of math, science, English and Arabic were employed in Jewish schools, reaching over **4,000** students.

■ **100** Jewish and Arab teachers and social education coordinators and **24** elementary, junior high and high school principals participated in advanced shared life training to reduce stereotypes, increase trust and enhance their capacity to introduce shared life activities in schools.

■ The Education Ministry officially recognized the Arab Labor Online Education Kit as an in-depth civics program for junior high schools, and **300** Jewish and Arab civics, homeroom, English and Arabic teachers were trained in the use of these materials.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



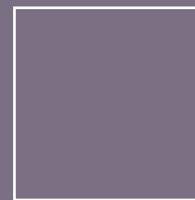
Enhancing the rate and quality of Arab employment is viewed as key to closing socioeconomic gaps and strengthening Israel's economy as a whole. Illustrating the high priority of the issue, the government has adopted several large-scale resolutions with serious investments in public transportation, employment opportunities, crime reduction, education, the private sector and job training benefiting the Israeli Arab community throughout Israel. These initiatives will have a transformative impact on improving the quality of life and enhancing economic development opportunities in the Arab sector. The SVF is working to complement these efforts and, where appropriate, provide matching funds to leverage government dollars.

Within the field of economic development, the SVF targets initiatives that integrate Arab university graduates and trained professionals into public, academic and private sectors, provide job training and placement services and increase representation of Israeli Arabs in business and economic development activities.

The 2013 Social Venture Fund allocated **\$405,000** to support **nine** economic development projects.

#### Of these projects:

- two focus on **recruiting, training and integrating** Arab graduates and professionals into the workforce
- one program concentrates on **training and placing non-professionals** into the workforce
- one program helps unemployed and underemployed Arabs gain **access to higher education** opportunities
- one supports a **microenterprise loan fund** for Arab women
- one promotes **municipal leadership, cooperation and regional economic development**
- one addresses **barriers to equal distribution of government resources** and advances policy recommendations
- one advances an innovative **sustainable farming program** in the Negev
- one provides **entrepreneurship** training and mentoring



“The Arab population in Israel contains immense untapped potential from the standpoint of the Israeli economy’s growth capability.... Integrating the Arab public into the labor market in particular, and into the economy in general, is a very important, even essential, component of the Israeli economy’s ability to continue to grow, and to support a higher standard of living for all Israelis.”

—Karnit Flug, Bank of Israel governor, Prime Ministers Conference, October 2013

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



“Much of our future growth will come from integrating Israeli citizens from the Arab sector in the country’s economy.... It’s a rocket engine for growth and that’s the policy that guides us when it comes to budget appropriation.”

—Prime Minister Netanyahu, Prime Ministers Conference, October 2013



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **258** Arab college graduates and professionals were placed in positions commensurate with their skills in major Israeli companies and public sector positions in collaboration with human resource agencies.
- **595** Arab university students and graduates benefited from career center activities on campuses, and **1,300** high school students were provided with career orientation training in 52 Arab high schools.
- **475** unemployed and underemployed Arabs were placed in vocational, technical and first-time jobs.
- **99** graduates (including 13 women) of advanced high-tech training courses and 8 from high-tech support training courses were placed in leading companies.



## 2013 FUND GRANTEES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

<b>American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)</b> TEVET: Access to Higher Education Program	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>ITWorks</b> Securing Israel's Future through Employment	<b>\$35,000</b>
<b>Injaz</b> Regional Networking, Strengthening the Economic Base of Arab Towns	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Kav Mashve: Employers Coalition for Equality for Arab University Graduates</b> Career Training Center	<b>\$70,000</b>
<b>Koret Israel Economic Development Funds (KIEDF)</b> SAWA Microenterprise Loan Fund for Arab Women	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>NEW PresenTense Israel</b> Development of Entrepreneurship in Israel's Arab Community	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Tsofen</b> High Technology Centers	<b>\$65,000</b>
<b>Wadi Attir</b> A Joint Initiative of the Hura Municipal Council and the Sustainability Laboratory: Sustainable Development of Bedouin Community, Development of an Organic Medicinal Health Brand	<b>\$25,000</b>
<i>Additional programs funded through 2012 resources implemented in 2013-2014</i>	
<b>Academic College of Tel Aviv-Jaffa</b> StartHub Accelerator Program	
<b>AJEEC-NISPED The Arab Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation and the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development</b> Anchoring the Negev	

■ Over **1,000 microenterprise loans** were distributed to Arab women in the Negev and northern Israel, and 3,800 hours of business training and technical assistance were provided to loan recipients.

■ An **innovative Negev-based program** identified procurement needs of anchor agencies, mapped local businesses and capacities and developed a website of them to promote employment and wealth sharing benefiting the local Bedouin community.

■ A sustainable desert farming operation in the Negev developed an **organic medicinal health brand of products** utilizing traditional Bedouin knowledge to support economic independence.

# EMERGING ISSUES

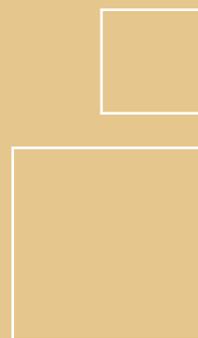
Following a planning retreat in July 2013, the Social Venture Fund established a Strategic Work Group, co-led by Sarah Silver and Jeffrey Solomon, to study select emerging issues and trends in depth and develop a plan of action to adapt the Fund's strategy accordingly. The Fund adopted an overarching goal to "mainstream equality of opportunity and shared society as an issue of national importance in Israel." This will be accomplished by supporting an envelope of services, identifying opportunities for NGO partners to help with relevant major government initiatives, developing leadership and capacity for shared society at individual, local and regional levels and supporting innovative efforts to address emerging issues.

The 2013 Social Venture Fund allocated \$120,000 to support four emerging issues projects—two in education and two in economic development—that will help further our goal of mainstreaming the issue.

#### Of these projects:

- one amplifies the Arab teacher integration initiative through online training, resources and support
- one promotes the Israeli academic sphere as a shared society arena by convening academic coordinators at colleges and universities to exchange information and best practices for shared campuses
- one provides mentoring to newly elected Arab mayors
- one promotes economic cooperation by bringing together Arab and Jewish municipal leaders to engage in joint economic development efforts and economies of scale.





## 2013 FUND GRANTEES – EMERGING ISSUES

<b>NEW The Center for Educational Technology (CET and Merchavim)</b> Amplifying Arab Teacher Integration through Online Training to Promote a Shared Society	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>NEW The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute</b> The Israeli Academic Sphere as a Shared Social Arena	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>NEW American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee–JDC</b> ELKA: Beit Hakerem Cluster	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>NEW Injaz</b> New Mayors Training and Mentoring	<b>\$15,000</b>

# CONVENING AND PLANNING



The Social Venture Fund professional and lay leadership visited Israel in November 2013 and June 2014 to meet with Government of Israel officials, NGO leaders and Israeli philanthropists and to visit projects to see the impact of our funding. In addition, the Fund convened several strategic conversations with key stakeholders to gather information to inform our planning and grant making.

In June 2014, Social Venture Fund grantees gathered at the CET in Tel Aviv to network, learn and collaborate. Attended by over 55 NGO partners, the grantee gathering included a presentation entitled “Social Change in the Digital Era: The Game Changer,” by Paz Cohen of the social change organization ANU, and several media skills-building workshops.

## JOIN THE SOCIAL VENTURE FUND

### To join our work, you can:

- Become a member of the Social Venture Fund.
- Fund joint projects involving Jews and Arabs that promote equality of opportunity and shared society.
- Allocate funds to worthy education and economic development projects that bridge educational and socioeconomic gaps and build a shared society.
- Incorporate Israeli Arab issues into Federation missions.
- Support the expansion of Partnership2Gether programs benefiting the Arab community.





## A LOOK AHEAD

Given events of the past summer, 2014-2015 is bound to be a challenging year for Jewish-Arab relations and shared life in Israel. While the community of NGOs dedicated to fostering equality of opportunity and shared society has grown and evolved, and the Government of Israel's commitment to and investment in narrowing gaps are gaining traction and having an impact, many of our grantees and other key opinion leaders in Israel have expressed concerns about potential setbacks. There is a great urgency to speak up about our values and intensify our efforts to help Israel realize its vision of a democratic, equal and shared society.

Over the coming year, we are committed to building on the success of our accomplishments and fulfilling our long-term vision and goals through:

- **Examining** trends and developments in Israel to assess the current situation and adapt our strategies and tactics as needed to capitalize on opportunities and minimize setbacks;
- **Identifying** areas for strategic investments aimed at mainstreaming equality of opportunity and shared society;
- **Funding** a portfolio of impactful projects that will leverage government and philanthropic matching funds and catalyze structural and institutional change;
- **Promoting** networking and capacity building, and fostering collaborative action among our grantees and other NGO, GOI and philanthropic partners;
- **Raising** awareness of and engagement with our work through national and regional events, strategic marketing and social networking; and
- **Expanding** the reach of the SVF by cultivating a diversified membership and network of partners.

“I call on each and every one of us, Arab or Jewish...  
to choose the joint path and to believe in our ability to  
live here together, on this soil. We have no other option.  
We have no other country.”

—President Rivlin, July 6, 2014

# LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERS 2013



## LEADERSHIP

Stuart Brown and Alisa Doctoroff, Co-Chairs

Adina Dubin and Joelle Steefel, Education Committee Co-Chairs

Bob Gordon, Economic Development Committee Chair

Sarah Silver and Bob Gordon, Emerging Issues Committee Co-Chairs

Carol Smokler, Founding Chair

Gail Zucker, Director

Joseph C. Imberman, Associate Vice President, Planned Giving & Endowments

Rochelle Ben Dov, Danny Labin and Talya Levin, JFNA Israel Office

## MEMBERS

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

Robert and Joshua Arnow

Mandell and Madeleine Berman Foundation

The Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies

Naomi & Nehemiah Cohen Foundation

Combined Jewish Philanthropies

Alisa and Dan Doctoroff

The Moses Feldman Family Foundation

Fohs Foundation

Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties

Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ

Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, DC

The Jewish Federations of North America

The Klarman Family Foundation

The KMD Foundation

Frankel Family Foundation

Lippman-Kanfer Family Foundation

The Morningstar Foundation

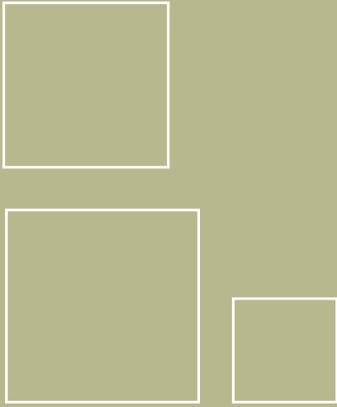
Sylvia L. and Melvin Morris Memorial Fund of the Foundation of Jewish Philanthropies

The Rashi Foundation

Alan B. Slifka Foundation

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto (affiliate member)

Carol Van Wijnen



# 2013 FUND FINANCES



## FUND INCOME

Membership Fees	\$925,000
Reserve from 2012 Fund	
Education	\$50,072
Economic Development	\$52,525
Emerging Issues	\$84,500
Capacity Building	\$4,541
<b>Total Income Available for Distribution</b>	<b>\$1,116,638</b>

## FUNDS ALLOCATED

SVF Operating Costs	\$92,500
Education Grants	\$335,000
Economic Development Grants	\$405,000
Emerging Issues Grants	\$120,000
Capacity Building, Planning & Evaluation Grants	\$43,000
Reserves for 2014	\$121,138
<b>Total Funds Allocated</b>	<b>\$1,116,638</b>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the Social Venture Fund, please check:

Our website at [www.JewishFederations.org/VentureFund](http://www.JewishFederations.org/VentureFund)

Our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/socialventurefund](https://www.facebook.com/socialventurefund)

or contact Gail Zucker at [gail.zucker@JewishFederations.org](mailto:gail.zucker@JewishFederations.org)



The Jewish Federations®  
OF NORTH AMERICA