

tions,” said Rabbi Joshua Bennett of Temple Israel, which has been instrumental in evolving the program to a full community partnership.

“Setting our individual issues aside, we came away with far more than we expected in a beautifully integrated plan. We have hired a full-time employee designated to the program, supported by two outstanding lay chairs, Phyllis Pilcowitz and Michael Berger, and a working committee that functions well and meets on a regular basis.

“All are in agreement on the bottom line,” Bennett said, “that the most important thing is for us to work together to give our teens more opportunities to travel and connect with our community here in Detroit and in Israel.”

Steve Engel, CEO of Tamarack Camps, agreed.

“Certainly there are distinctions between the missions of each of our organizations, but when it comes to our children, we are not competitors,” he said. “We each share the mission of building community, strengthening Jewish identity, engaging our youth, mentoring future leaders and developing philanthropic support to the benefit of Jewish Detroit and Israel. In combining our resources and organizational expertise, we will engage Jewish teens at that moment when we can make a huge impact on their Jewish identities.”

HOW IT WORKS

With the new co-partnership, Teen Mission 2016 will continue to be a powerful connecting point for participating congregations in the business of engaging teens in Jewish life and community

building. Community synagogues will continue to bring the rabbinic leadership, the Jewish learning, thinking and strategies that always have been strong points of the program.

Tamarack will now bring what they do best — the logistics of recruitment, travel, organizing activities on the go, supervising and creating outstanding teen experiences on a minute-to-minute, day-to-day basis in the field. The Teen Mission experience now will be fully integrated into Tamarack summers as its pinnacle teen travel opportunity, ideally suited to teens returning to the camp before their junior or senior years of high school.

As an essential link, Federation will continue to do what it does best through its Israel and Overseas Department, marketing and Annual Campaign, reaching out to the community, raising awareness and funding, providing ease of access and expertise in mission planning, and connecting Jewish Detroiters to partners and family in Israel.

Through the Sue & Alan J. Kaufman Family Foundation, Teen Mission 2016 is generously subsidized, reducing the cost to just \$5,949.13 for the 4½-week trip. The fee covers round-trip flights, land travel, room and board, and all programs and activities. Additionally, need-based scholarship funding is available through various organizations.

Registration for the Detroit Teen Mission to Israel is now open online. Go to www.teenmissiondetroit.org for details or call Jackie Yashinsky, Teen Mission coordinator, at (248) 952-9030 or email her at jyashinsky@teenmissiondetroit.org. *



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