

All the world is a narrow bridge... but the main thing is not to fear.

Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund

Dear Community, Friends, and Family,

You are an amazing group of people whose support has reached far beyond our grantees. Your donations have enabled more than 1600 young people to devote months of their life to volunteering in social justice activist programs throughout the world. After they complete their program and return to the U.S., most Amy Adina Fund grantees remain active social justice advocates. Some pursue careers guided by what they learned during their grant period. You and our grantees inspire with your generosity and vision.

Many of us can point to one moment when life changed forever. Our family experienced that life-altering moment thirty-six years ago when at age 20, our beloved daughter and sister Amy Adina died suddenly as an aneurysm burst in her brain. Overwhelmed by shock and grief, we were desperate to find a way to hold on to a sense of her presence in this world. Amy Adina was committed to the environment, to Israeli-Palstinian equality, and to refugee resettlement in the U.S. We believed she would want other young people to continue her social justice actions, so with the support of our communities, we established the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund. Thus, we emerged from our loss!

Our grantees extend and amplify the work Amy Adina could never complete. When we read about their endeavors and ensuing personal transformations, we feel Amy Adina's presence. The young people we support have volunteered in Cambodia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Greece, Guatemala, Ghana, India, Israel, Kenya, Nepal, Palestine, Peru, Uganda, Vietnam, and within the U.S. Every dollar you donate goes directly to grantees.

Thirty-six years ago, we could not have imagined the impact of this Fund. The few reflections we can print in this newsletter show how the Fund changes lives — of grantees, the people they serve, and even our supporters. One contributor wrote in October: "I have worked hard but never had to deal with poverty, racism, intolerance in all its forms. I have tried to give back and celebrate through this Fund and others, the young folk who carry on the struggle for justice. Amy Adina lives on. Thank you and your entire family for her ongoing presence in the world. It gives me hope." This note arrived with a donation on 12/12/2022: "The tradition of giving started by my (late) wife continues. Thank you for providing a cause I can support without reservation."

You helped us survive our loss, encouraging us to move forward by supporting this Fund in Amy Adina's memory. You helped us find purpose from our tragedy; you taught us how to survive. As we celebrate the many Festivals of Light, including Chanukah, the Miracle of Lights, we thank you for the miracles you bring into being through your generosity. Strength and health in your good work on this thirty-sixth anniversary year and for many years to come.

With love and gratitude for who you are and all you do as we work together to make a more just and livable world for all,
Ruth and the entire Schulman Family



Amy Adina's activism included the pursuit of civil rights, equity and justice in Israel/Palestine and throughout the U.S. The Fund is proud to support her legacy through its investment in young people at this critical juncture in their lives.

Our grantees embody the ancient Jewish aphorism: *Lo alecha ha'mlacha ligmor, V'lo ata ben chorin l'hibatel mimena. It is not your duty to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.*

—Rabbi Tarfon, *Pirkei Avot 2:21*

PORTLAND OR UNITED STATES

By Taking Responsibility for Her Happiness, She Empowered Herself

A gap year between high school and college provided **Grace H.** unexpected insight. Grace learned to build shelters, climb mountains, camp, evacuate tropical storms, live communally, and handle the bureaucracy of the US healthcare system while undergoing a health crisis far from home. As a first-year student at a major state university, majoring in social sciences, Grace says her nine-month experience at Tivnu changed her perspective on happiness, college, and personal responsibility.

Regarding how she would fare in college, Grace writes, "I had very low expectations for myself..."

Through Tivnu, Grace learned how to establish a healthy work/school/ life balance, juggling educational opportunities, internship, construction, and social life. She also gained more self-awareness. Today, Grace is confident in her abilities to be a "well-functioning young adult."

"I now know that college and having a stable career can be important for survival, but are not the end-all, be-all for personal happiness. There are plenty of ways for humans to find happiness, I'm on my journey to finding them."

CAMBODIA

She Gained New Perspectives on Teaching

"When I first arrived, I could already tell how valuable this NGO would be; never would I have thought how impactful it would be to me personally," writes **Kimi N.**, who worked as a Leadership Resident at Harpswell Foundation. Harpswell houses young women from around Cambodia while they attend one of eighteen universities in Phnom Penh.

Kimi taught classes, ran a Japanese club (in which she taught elementary Japanese), and encouraged students to speak English by facilitating critical discussions about current events of interest to the students. She also taught two dormitory core classes: Health and Nutrition and Civic Engagement.

Kimi soon discovered living with her students, young women close in age to herself, opened the door for mutual support. As a third-year college student herself, Kimi came to feel more like a sister than a teacher, especially as she noticed her students offering her the emotional support that helped her negotiate the challenges of living and working in a new country.

"I quickly learned how passionate and how determined the Harpswell sisters are. They all persevered and would fight with everything they had to learn and pursue higher goals. But when I felt homesick, they would let me rant on about my life in Boston... When I felt stressed or frustrated, they would take me on long drives around the capital; nothing is more relaxing than driving a motorbike around a large, free city. I made a promise to them that I will return. I cannot wait... Cambodia and the Harpswell Foundation will always be a part of me. Thank you to the Amy Adina Fund for allowing me to have this opportunity and for helping shape who I am today."

UGANDA

In a Culture Where All Women Aren't Free, Her Eyes Opened

Lauren J. began her "magical, life-changing" six-month stint in Kampala, Uganda by observing and taking part in the many projects run by Set Her Free. By engaging in field work Lauren gained a firsthand understanding of how the organization empowers vulnerable women and girls to break the cycle of poverty and choose their own paths, free from male oppression. That knowledge prepared Lauren to assist with reports and fundraising at Set Her Free and helped her appreciate the importance of her work.



ISRAEL

She Found Danger & Fulfillment Serving Children in Marginalized Communities

During a BINA Gap Year, **Talia Z.** spent much of 2021 and 2022 in South Tel Aviv working with Israeli children and children of refugees and asylum seekers.

Weekday mornings, Talia supported teaching assistants and three and four-year-old students at a pre-school. Evenings until 9:00 pm, Talia volunteered at a children's community center in a public park nicknamed "Junkie Yard." There, children played unattended near drug dealers and addicts conducting business. "It was incredibly challenging to witness the complications of the area, but I was able to meet kids who were really looking for structure and role models."

Talia came to view Junkie Yard as her second home, a place where she felt meaningful and learned about injustice firsthand. She writes, "Standing up for the marginalized against social injustice means... looking at the neighborhoods that cities want to hide and listening to the people there. It can mean just trying my best to make the invisible feel seen and heard."

"I absolutely would recommend this program for those who wish to experience Israeli society firsthand and contribute with rigorous social service. It's an invaluable opportunity to step out of your comfort zone and discover new things about yourself in the process. I want to thank the Amy Adina Schulman Fund for their support."

PALESTINE

He Recognized His Privilege While Fighting the Structural Classism & Racism that Created It

"I believe in building bridges between progressive Jewish communities in the U.S. and Jews and Palestinians resisting occupation," writes **Zak W.**, who worked in the South Hebron Hills region Masafer Yatta, with the Center for Jewish Nonviolence. Through their sustained solidarity project, *Hineinu*, the organization employs nonviolent direct action to protect people and increase international awareness of how systemic racism affects Palestinians.

One of Zak's "embodied solidarity" tasks was to accompany local residents as they shepherded, farmed, commuted, or engaged in other activities where they risked suffering military or settler violence.

"While people of relative privilege can and do serve the cause of people from an oppressed group, no one can entirely abolish their inherent self-interest. Even while I'm making personal sacrifices to do this human rights defense project, I'm also benefiting from the experience: honing my skills as a political organizer, learning Arabic, and starting a newsletter: *What is Solidarity, Field Notes from Palestine*. This project likely improves my social standing as a movement leader and could help with job prospects. That's not why I'm doing it, but I recognize these rewards as another outgrowth of my personal privilege in a world structured by classism and racism."

EIGHT YEARS LATER

Beyond Funding, Our Legacy Stems from Showing Grantees Their Ideals Matter

We know that receiving funding enables our grantees to follow their dreams and explore how they can be of service in the world. Yet, I recently received a note from **Rebecca C.**, who shared the surprising effects of our financial gift. It allowed Rebecca to work with children and adults with disabilities at Camp Shutaf in Israel. The Adina fund also validated Rebecca's belief in the work's importance and enhanced her personal commitment.

Thus inspired, Rebecca earned an advanced degree in Education Policy and Management. Her focus on marginalized communities led to a position at the Department of Education in a major city. There, she prepared teens with disabilities to transition from high school into college or the job force.

Now employed at a School of Education, Rebecca guides undergraduate and graduate students through the process of getting their teaching certification. She also helps them gain student teaching and clinical opportunities. Just as Rebecca serves youth with differing physical abilities and from all economic strata, she encourages her students to explore opportunities to teach children who struggle with physical challenges, marginalization, poverty, and other issues.

Reflecting on how Amy Adina's legacy has shaped her life, Rebecca writes, "I will never forget my experience at Shutaf. Your daughter lives on through the work that you have funded and the deep impact that you have on those you choose to fund."

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING AMY ADINA FUND GRANTEES

To make a gift using a credit card or PayPal, click the donate button on our website, www.AmyAdinaSchulmanFund.org. (International contributors: Please donate using our website. AASMF cannot accept checks from non-U.S. banks.) The Fund accepts employer matching gifts, as well as direct IRA donations and bequests. 100% of your contributions go to support AASMF grantees.

If you'd prefer to give appreciated stock rather than cash, contributing from your IRA, or a bequest or legacy gift, contact Ruth at ruth@amyadinaschulmanfund.org.

We appreciate any gift to the Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund that is meaningful to you. Much thanks for all your moral and financial support.

The 36th Annual Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Lecture

Save the Date: April 30, 2023

A Call to Action

After a long COVID19 hiatus, we look forward to welcoming Bishop Dr. William J. Barber as our annual speaker on April 30, 2023. Bishop Barber pursues justice and equity from within the grassroots community to the halls of political power. Regarded as a visionary leader with a concise and urgent view of what is needed, Bishop Barber builds broad coalitions to foster lasting racial and economic justice in this country.



Further details about registering will be forthcoming.

We at The Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Fund hope to connect with you before the next in-person lecture. Please keep a look out for an announcement in the coming weeks for a zoom gathering engaging past grantees whose work today remains an inspiration.

Please share the Fund's work and our website with young people who might be interested in applying for a grant.