



DIFFERENCE MAKERS

The
2022-2023
Tzedek
Grant
Recipients

Founded in 2016, The Davis Academy Alumni Tzedek Grant recognizes and supports charitable initiatives by our graduates. These efforts exemplify The Davis Academy’s *menschlichkeit* value of Tzedek, a Hebrew word that means righteousness or justice. Open to high school and college-age alumni, the grant program provides an opportunity to advance the efforts of our alum who continue to carry our Davis values out into the world beyond their years at Davis. **This year, we proudly award the 2023 Tzedek Grants to three outstanding recipients: Leah Tuck ‘15, Annie Marcus ‘22, and Harris Unell ‘22!**

Our Davis Academy alumni are making a positive impact wherever their journey takes them. The Davis Alumni Tzedek Grant is a unique resource that we extend to help them continue to live the values we instilled during their years at The Davis Academy. Grant recipients receive a financial grant and marketing and media support that spotlight their good work.

A Spark of Art by Leah Tuck, Class of 2015

Leah Tuck ‘15, as a member of the Pre-Health Club at Georgia Tech, is starting a program called A Spark of Art, in collaboration with the William Breman Jewish Home. This program invites GA Tech students to participate in monthly arts and crafts activities with the residents.

The residents used to have a monthly art class, but unfortunately, it was canceled due to COVID. It was very well received when Leah and her peers met with some residents to share the idea of incorporating an art class into their monthly schedule. “Through A Spark of Art, we aim to offer the residents at the Jewish Home a monthly, student-led art class. This collaboration seeks to enhance the quality of life for the residents while also providing students with a meaningful volunteering experience. Additionally, we hope this program will help students build connections with the Atlanta Jewish community, regardless of their religious background.”

Leah plans to use the grant to provide the necessary materials and ensure the program continues. “I am grateful for the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the lives of the residents, and I look forward to the successful execution of the project.” As Leah works to establish a strong relationship with the Jewish Home, she hopes this program will continue to thrive in the years to come when passed down to future students after she



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graduates this spring. Leah's dedication and passion sets an excellent example for future students, and we can't wait to see how A Spark of Art will continue to flourish in the coming years.

Annie's Homeless Bags by Annie Marcus, Class of 2022

Annie's passion for helping those in need inspired her to launch a meaningful project when she became a Bat Mitzvah in 8th grade. Her project began by handing out bags of food and water to those in need while driving through town, and since then, she has grown this initiative into Annie's Homeless Bags to serve the larger community. "As someone who has never had to experience food insecurity, I feel a strong sense of responsibility to help those who are struggling," Annie shared. By expanding this project, she hopes to increase awareness about food insecurity and support those who need it most.

The bags of food that Annie distributes contain enough for at least one meal, and with the grant money, she plans to purchase supplies and expand her reach in the community by bringing bags of food and water to parents in the Sunday school program at her synagogue. With Annie's determination and compassion, and the support of a Tzedek grant, she has the potential to make a substantial impact on the lives of others.



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Recycling Tennis Balls by Harris Unell, Class of 2022

Harris Unell is a graduate of the Class of 2022 who now attends Riverwood International Charter School. He played on The Davis Academy tennis team and continues to be a passionate tennis player who is troubled by the fact that millions of used tennis balls end up in landfills each year, taking centuries to decompose. Driven by his concern for the environment, Harris took action during his Bar Mitzvah year, by collecting used tennis balls and sending them to RecycleBalls, a non-profit organization that recycles balls into useful materials. He's continued with the project, donating almost 20,000 tennis balls and earning recognition as one of the top 10 individual donors.

"By participating in this project, I hope to raise awareness about environmental issues and inspire others to make a difference in their community." Harris plans to use the Tzedek Grant to cover shipping costs as well as to create flyers and signs to promote the collection of used tennis balls by others at tennis matches. Harris sets an example of how we can all take responsibility for the waste we produce and work towards a more sustainable future.



Past Recipients of the Tzedek Grant



Nikki Berne
Class of 2010
Miracle Children



Zoe Light
Class of 2012
Sustainability



Emily Brothman
Class of 2013
Terps Against Hunger



Jacob Cohen
Class of 2013
JAM Bowl



Max Kamean
Class of 2013
JAM Bowl



Max Rubenstein
Class of 2014
Game Givers



David Antonino
Class of 2013
Homelessness



Amalia Haviv
Class of 2018
Nutrition Education



Maya Laufer
Class of 2018
Foster Care Support



Zoe Bober
Class of 2016
Services at The Refuge House



Josh Isaacs
Class of 2018
Pressure Wish



Alon Rogow
Class of 2018
Pressure Wish



Isabelle Mokotoff
Class of 2019
SteadyScrib



Caitlyn Pinkser
Class of 2019
Positive Morning