

**The SAM Initiative Completes Annual Giving Cycle  
with Milestone \$320,000 in Grants to Four Local Nonprofits**

*Giving Circle Tops \$3.3 Million in Grants Since 2014*

The SAM Initiative recently completed its annual giving cycle, donating a total of \$320,000 to four grantees. Now in its 11th year, SAM is a giving circle, started by Los Angeles philanthropist and nonprofit strategist Mindy Freedman. SAM's mission is to passionately pool charitable dollars to fund and support programs committed to driving social change and promoting nonprofit sustainability.

SAM is fueled by Freedman's personal motto: "We can do far more together than we can alone." Since its first giving cycle in 2014, SAM has granted more than \$3.3 million to local nonprofits.

The primary focus for this most recent cycle was supporting local nonprofit organizations that work in mental health and food security. In a milestone achievement, SAM was able to fund each of the four grantees at \$80,000 each:

[Alzheimer's LA](#): Improving the lives of families affected by Alzheimer's and dementia by increasing awareness, delivering effective programs and services, providing compassionate support, and advocating for quality care and a cure.

[LA Food Policy](#) - With a mission to create a local food system free from hunger, LA Food Policy is rooted in equity and access, supportive of farmers and food workers, and guided by principles of environmental stewardship and regeneration.

[Open Paths Counseling Center](#) - Addressing the evolving mental health needs of the community through quality counseling for individuals and families at affordable fees Open Paths offers free therapy programs for at-risk children and youth in local schools; and a highly-respected therapist training program.

[Teen Talk App](#) - A mobile app that provides a free, anonymous, safe space for teens to request support from trained peers and learn from others with similar experiences.

SAM is appreciative and thanks the Jewish Community Foundation (JCF) for providing their expertise and advisory support to enhance SAM's process.

“SAM's support and generosity is inspiring and fills us with increased hope as we embark on Teen Talk App's new endeavors. Together, we are going to reach so many more teens during this heightened youth mental health crisis. We also want to thank you for fulfilling our funding request as it sets a precedent for future supporters while legitimizing our program, brand, and goals.” - Kendra Singer, Director of Teen Talk App

“On behalf of SAM and our newest grantees, I want to express my heartfelt congratulations to our entire community for embracing the spirit of collective giving,” says SAM Founder and President Mindy Freedman. “Every member, supporter, friend and grant recipient of SAM has played a role in making our community a better place.”

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### [About The SAM Initiative](#)

The SAM Initiative serves as a catalyst to improve the lives of women, children, and families in Los Angeles through engaged philanthropy. As a giving circle, SAM members believe that through collaborative giving we can do far more together than we can do alone. As of 2023, SAM has given more \$3.3 million in grants to the community. For more information, visit [www.saminitiative.org](http://www.saminitiative.org) and on social media @thesaminitiative: [Instagram](#) & [Facebook](#)