

## GRANT DISTRIBUTION AND PRESENTATION

making procedure you'll be using. While there are a number of voting models that may work, the most equitable and realistic option is a proportional, winner-take-all model. Here's how it works: Assuming you've narrowed the list down to ten choices, each student would be allowed to rank the ten proposals on a secret ballot, giving ten votes to his/her top choice, nine to the next, and so on down to one. After all of the ballots are collected, votes are tallied and the proposals receiving the highest number of votes receive their full grant requests until the foundation runs out of money.

(For example, assume your foundation has \$8,000. The proposal receiving the highest number of votes gets its full grant request of \$3,000. The second place proposal gets its full grant request of \$4,000. The third place proposal, which requested \$2,500, receives a partial grant of \$1,000.)

This method insures not only a fair and democratic process, but also has the added benefit of allowing participants to represent the intensity of their feelings about particular proposals. (NOTE: Another variation on this method is to give each student ten votes to allocate among the proposals however he/she wants. This insures that students who have a particular proposal that means a great deal to them can show strong support for that organization while ceding some authority on other decisions.) The most important aspect of this process is that the students know in advance how the voting will take place so they feel fully in control of the decision.

AFTER THE DECISIONS have been made, you'll need to notify both the organizations that received grants and those that did not. You'll find sample letters on pp.92-93. Note that the sample letter for grant recipients asks that the person responsible for administering the grant sign and return a copy of the letter. This is just a good way to maintain accountability before sending off large checks. It's also important to follow through once you receive the organization's summary of its progress on the terms of the grant. This is a good way to stay involved with the organization and also an important form of accountability. Once you receive the signed letters back, have the checks cut and mailed and you're almost done!

Now that the decisions have been made and the checks mailed, be sure to end on a very positive note. Plan a presentation ceremony, preferably associated with an end-of-year service or graduation. Invite the grant recipients to attend and welcome them into the community with which they are entering into this covenantal partnership.

Ask students to prepare speeches about their experiences in *Tzedakah in Action*. This isn't only about good public relations and publicity. It's about honoring and celebrating young people when they commit themselves to making the world a better place. That positive reinforcement is a crucial element of helping them grow up with a deep sense of the role of Jewish values in their lives.