The Women of Vision Society makes a lasting gift and a meaningful impact on women in our community. Women in our community have a wonderful opportunity to become lifelong philanthropists through the Women of Vision Society, which is a permanent, restricted endowment fund dedicated to helping and enhancing the lives of women in our community. The endowment was originally created in 1996 with its founding 100 members and has doubled in its membership and giving since then. Since 1998, over $180,000 has been distributed in grants to a wide variety of agencies and causes ranging from employment and literacy to acculturation and health issues.
Women of Vision Society: 2018-2019 Grant Recipients

ISRAEL

The Jewish Agency for Israel: Alma Pre-Army Academy for Female Leadership
Alma prepares young Israeli women from socially and economically marginalized communities for meaningful assignments in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), paving the way for future opportunities. Alma offers a six-month curriculum that develops each participant’s self-confidence, sense of purpose, and understanding of the important place in Jewish history.

The Jewish Agency for Israel: Youth Futures Afúla-Giilboa
Youth Futures supports at-risk children and families who live in Israel’s geographic and social periphery through an innovative model of in-depth engagement. Youth Futures provides participants with guidance and services that assist them in succeeding in school and addressing emotional and social issues, so that they can achieve their goals.

GREATER NEW HAVEN

JCC of Greater New Haven: Women’s Food Schmooze Series
The Food Schmooze Series is a collection of events that bring Jewish Women from all walks of life and all spectrums of affiliation for a community celebration of Food and Jewish culture, as well as Tzedakah and Tikkan Olam. These events will include a Great Big Challah Bake as part of the global “Shabbat Project”, “Baking for Good” to benefit local Jewish charities, presentations by food writers and chefs, and cooking classes that blend traditional Jewish dishes with modern spin. The series will provide an opportunity for Jewish women to share customs and cultures as well as fun and friendship through a host of culinary experiences.

Towers Foundation: Holiday Services for Families with Members Suffering from Cognitive Impairment
As our family member’s age, many experience cognitive impairments, memory loss and dementia or significant physical deterioration. It is increasingly difficult for these seniors to participate in their beloved holiday rituals, especially Kol Nidre/Yom Kippur services and the Passover Seder. The Towers program will provide community wide Kol Nidre and Passover services appropriate for loved ones with cognitive loss. These short, but meaningful services will enable families to celebrate together.

Ezra Academy: Mayyim Hayyim – Water and Jewish Tradition
Ezra Academy will sponsor a community trip to Mayyim Hayyim in Newton, MA, a 21st century mikveh rooted in ancient tradition. Participants will be teenage girls between the ages of 13-15 and their mothers, grandmothers or female guardians. The trip will be followed up during the school year with relevant classes and Rosh Chodesh encounters.

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, Congregation B’nai Jacob and Westville Synagogue: Elm City Kallah Spring Scholar-in-Residence, Featuring Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum
This three synagogue collaboration will bring an internationally known Rabbi/scholar from Israel to present 3 formal learning sessions between Friday evening through Sunday morning. In addition, participants will be encouraged to pray at one another’s shuls, and partake in two communal, Kosher Shabbat meals as well as Sunday breakfast, giving participants a chance to visit each others’ spiritual homes for conversation with one another.

University of Connecticut Hillel: Jewish Women Across Campus
Spearheaded by a New Haven student and corresponding with Rosh Hodesh, UConn Hillel is creating a series for college women to come together for learning, Jewish crafts, inspiration and friendship. Throughout the 2018-19 academic year, these programs will cover important topics, such as health, self-image, women’s leadership and personal safety.

Women of the Wall: Claiming What’s Ours
To fund Women of the Wall initiative to grow their social media presence in order to increase visibility in private and public forums, strengthen bonds in communities, and encourage bat mitzvah age girls as well as women to partake in a bat mitzvah at the kotel or in another venue while reading Torah and participating in aliyot.

Women of Vision Grant Funds Projects at Towers to Assist the Homeless and Support for those with Dementia

Thanks to last year’s Women of Vision grant, Towers residents were able to turn 600 plastic bags into something beautiful, meaningful, and impactful to our community. Through the Plarn Project, made possible by our grant, Towers residents and volunteers recycled 600 plastic bags and created sleeping mats, which the New Haven police department helped to distribute to women’s shelters and the houseless throughout New Haven. The Plarn Project enlisted community members, young and old, to come together—community outreach, partnership and tikkan olam all in one ongoing project of love. This special project was featured on WTNH. You can access the link on The Towers website, towerone.org.

This year, the Towers received a Women of Vision grant to provide another cutting edge and exciting program; this one meant to help families and caregivers across the Greater New Haven area. Thanks to our grant, the Towers will be providing a dementia-friendly Kol Nidre Service for families touched by cognitive impairment. Dr. Michael Kligfeld will lead the service, which will include meaningful elements in a dementia sensitive setting. The service is free and open to the greater community. To learn more about these programs, please contact Jennifer Bayer, Director of Development and Community Relations at The Towers. 203-772-1816, ext. 290 or at jennifer@towerone.org. To learn about volunteer opportunities, please contact Sarah Moskowitz at 203-772-1816, ext. 410 or sarah@towerone.org.