

Bernstein Leadership Group: Shaping Charlotte's Next Generation of Young Leaders

By Don and Bobbi Bernstein

When a "young leadership program" was first proposed 18 years ago at a Federation board meeting, we were inspired and excited at the prospect of funding it. We believed that identifying and educating young leaders was not only in the best interest of our Jewish Community, but it gave us a perfect avenue to replace ourselves. It has been a spectacular success due to the vision and hard work of both the professionals and lay people who have been involved. It has educated, inspired, and motivated hundreds of young adults in our community. It has fostered commitment to Jewish values, lasting friendships, and awareness of leadership opportunities. It has fulfilled its promise, as graduates of the Bernstein Leadership Program are, today, in leadership positions throughout the Jewish community and beyond. We couldn't be more proud.

In recent years, our focus has been on perpetuating our charitable giving through endowments. Bernstein Leadership has been such a successful component of our Jewish Community and so satisfying personally, that we wanted to make sure it would continue even when we're gone. Young leaders are our future and to have had a part in shaping their values is a legacy for which we are most grateful and proud. Our hope is that others will be inspired to leave a legacy gift to their program or institution of choice. It will make a real difference for future generations.

We are excited to announce the



Bobbie Bernstein, Jason Spiegler (YL Recipient), Don Bernstein.

August graduation of the ninth class of BLG under the leadership of chair Lisa Blau. We ask you to take note of this year's graduates, listed below. Share these names with your chairs, your directors and your agencies. Let our entire community rejoice in the fact that these young people have stepped forward to make an important statement and commitment through their activism and generosity of time, spirit, and resources.

- Sara Abadi, Camilla Bahr, Jason Boschan, Evan Brown, Eric Cohen, Elana Congress, Rachel Couchenour, Tali Dippold, Katie Drucker, Tamara Friedlander, Brad Kirchenbaum, David Krusch, Andrew Rosen, Jennifer Rosen, Jessie Sachs, Mark Schreiber, David Sheffer, Julie Sheffer, Adam Silver, Marc Sokolowicz, Diana Warth, Aaron Weiner, David Weiss, Evan Weiss, Sean White, Martha Yesowitch, Joe Zeibert, Marisa Zeibert

Recruitment for Class X of the Bernstein Leadership Group will take place this winter. For more information on how you or some-

one you know can take part in this exciting program, please contact Tair Giudice, Director of Outreach & Engagement, tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6759. ☆

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This year's Bernstein Leadership Group graduation. Graduates listed above.

The Donald H. and Barbara K. Bernstein Leadership Development Group has been shaping our community's next generation of leaders for close to twenty years. This 18-month program of the Jewish Federation offers young adults (ages 21-45) a unique opportunity to gain a more intimate view of our Jewish community. During the 18-month program, BLG participants delve into the Jewish tradition of social responsibility and learn valuable leadership skills that will help them contribute to improving our community.

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