

### **What goals do you have as Social Action VP for the 2020-2021 year?**

As SAVP, I want to support the caring and connected community already established in our region as well as see to it that it continues to grow. Social action is the combination of programmatic passion and making a difference in the world. I know that we can utilize knowledge of our past to impact our present and create our future. Because of this, my main goal as SAVP is to teach about the ideas of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and *midat ha'dor* (history), as I believe that the only way to make sure that we continue to exist as a community is to teach about these two principles. This goal includes ensuring that each and every member of NFTY-STR has the ability to look at action and advocacy through my "past, present, future" framework. I hope that throughout the following year, everyone is able to find their place as change agents in this community, and help create the future that we all envision.

### **Why have you chosen to run for Social Action VP?**

My own "past, present, future" realization happened in my freshman year of high school. In 2005 my younger brother was diagnosed with cancer, and this completely changed my family's world. Understandably, this changed our relationships with each other, as we spent most of my brother's first months of life in a hospital. At the time, I was only about 3 years old, and I didn't know much about what was going on. I didn't fully understand the magnitude of the situation until I was older. My past experience, although very distant, impacted me greatly, and when I got to high school, I chose to create a Relay for Life team, where we raised money to support cancer research. Through this experience, I was able to provide the 8 other members of my team with a better understanding of how to advocate for those who may not be able to advocate for themselves. For me, the idea of creating a better world for the future generations, even if you don't see the results, is the biggest reason that I want to be SAVP. I am excited to help the community that established my passion for social action create that change for future generations, and ensure our future as a Jewish community. I think that a lot of people are afraid of initiating change because of the large amount of work that needs to be done, but the most important thing to remember is the words of Pirkei Avot 2:16, which state that "it is not your duty to complete the work [of repairing the world], but you are not free to ignore it". No matter who you are, you have the ability to change the world.

### **List what experiences make you qualified to be Social Action VP.**

Over the last 5 years of my life, being involved in NFTY, I have gained some of the leadership skills and roles I never could have imagined I would have. I have served on my TYG board for the last 2 years, as well as serving as a Regional Songleader this past year, and have learned to work with a board, in all different aspects. I also attended the URJ Kutz Camp this past summer, and learned how to take on a leadership role, as well as ways to fight some of the issues that our movement is trying to face. I have also attended Camp Jenny the last 2 years, gaining leadership skills while working with members of another region. And lastly, as mentioned before, I served as a team captain for my Relay for Life team, in which I was able to run a team of high schoolers in raising money for a cause important to me.

### **What is your experience with Camp Jenny?**

Starting in 6th grade, at Hatikvah Kallah, I heard about Camp Jenny, and immediately felt a connection to the program that was providing underprivileged kids with a summer camp experience that I was so lucky to have for 3 years at that time. As I went on in NFTY, I anticipated being able to be involved with the program, until the summer of my freshman year, when I went as a Staff In Training, and was able to learn about all the amazing ways to get involved with Camp Jenny. The following year, I went back as a counselor for junior boys, and again, had the same enriching experience. As SAVP, I want to help TYG SAVPs bring the magic of Camp Jenny back to their communities, and get more teens involved in this great opportunity.

### **Name one Social Action initiative you would like to bring to NFTY and explain how you would implement it.**

For all events, NFTY STR requests that participants bring a tzedakah item, but often times, participants don't know how the charity is decided. As SAVP, I would introduce a new program in which you can submit the name of an organization that you are involved with, either as an individual, or as a TYG, along with a little bit of information about that organization, to be considered to receive the tzedakah item for each event. After all the names are submitted, the SAVP, along with the rest of the Regional Board, would review the organizations submitted, and identify the top 10, unless there are 10 or less names submitted. These names would be put into a poll on social media, and the top 3 organizations would receive the tzedakah for that event. This would allow for TYGs and participants to become more involved, while also creating a large bank of organizations to use in the future.