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Wishing you a successful year

# Shana Tova



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ORTHODOX  
UNION  
תורה ומצוות



With the end of the Jewish year approaching, we take the opportunity to reflect on the past year.

## **Cohort IV Selection:**

The year started with our selection process for our fourth cohort. Over 70 organizations applied from 9 states, 5 countries, and 4 continents. Clearly, people are starting Jewish nonprofits, and there is a need for the Impact Accelerator to help!

## **Goodbye Jenna:**

Five years ago, Jenna Beltser joined the OU to create an innovative space to support and advance Jewish nonprofits. This summer, Jenna stepped down as the Founding Director of the Impact Accelerator to become the Director of the Jewish Woman Entrepreneur. We are so appreciative of the dedication and force Jenna brought to the Accelerator and wish her much luck going forward. Abigail Rochlin, previous Accelerator Associate, is now the Interim Director for the Accelerator.

## **Cohort IV Education:**

We are currently in the midst of education for [cohort iv](#). We have already had over 30 hours of seminars and trainings, and there are more to come! Before Rosh Hashana, we are looking back on some of the lessons we've learned.

### ***People. People. People.***

We are grateful for our amazing network of mentors and lay leaders who make this all possible. As **Yoni Cohen**, OU Chief of Staff and Director of Special Projects, shared at one of our seminars, "people will be happy to help you, especially if they believe in your mission." It is humbling to be connected with so many incredible people who believe in our mission to advance innovative nonprofits in the Jewish community.

### ***Credit where credit is due***

**Katie Katz**, Senior Director of Strategic Partnership at Teach Coalition, taught

cohort iv that a donation is an opportunity for the donor to be part of the organization's unique and exciting mission. We know this is true for the people in our network who have donated their time, energy, expertise, and more to the Accelerator. You are part of the success of our program, and we credit you for our wins.

### ***Challenges are Opportunities***

This year has been full of successes as well as challenges. Two that we had been facing were how to increase awareness about our programming as well as how to better commend our lecturers for sharing their expertise within our program. **Meira Spivak**, Director of NCSY Oregon, framed it best when she taught cohort iv that challenges are opportunities for growth. Meira recommends using creative constraints when problem-solving to find sustainable solutions that don't break the bank. With careful thinking, we found a solution that addresses both of the challenges we were facing. We have started educational campaigns on our social media platforms using the expert knowledge shared while crediting our presenters. With one new project, we were able to find solutions for two separate issues. Now that is innovative!

There is still much more in store for the Accelerator and we are excited for what this new year is going to bring!

Be sure to follow our updates on [Linkedin](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#)!

Thank you for partnering with Impact Accelerator!

May this be a year full of growth, innovation, and continued success for us all!

Wishing you a shana tova and a ketiva v'chatima tova!

Thinking about where to give your tzedakah before the end of the year?

Consider investing with the Impact Accelerator



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