



My Story

Samantha Greenberg had an unconventional Jewish upbringing. In her Bay City/Saginaw/Midland area, there weren't too many Jews, but growing up in an actively-practicing multi-faith family allowed her to start her Jewish journey.

"I was living under a Jewish rock," said Samantha. "When I came to the University of Michigan campus freshman year, it really opened up my eyes to what Jewish culture was like. It was exciting, but there was a lot I didn't know that so many of my peers took for granted, like Jewish summer camp."

Samantha joined a Jewish sorority, which she helped re-establish on campus, and took a birthright trip. After graduation, she taught seventh grade in Tulsa, Oklahoma as part of *Teach for America*, and although she enjoyed it, public health and genetic counseling are what Samantha really wants to do.

"Helping educate providers and the public about how we can identify and better manage genetic conditions is something I'm passionate about," Samantha said. "The program at U of M is one of the best in the country, and when I'm done, I'll have two degrees, in public health and genetic counseling. But paying for it was a worry. When I worked in Tulsa, I saved, and I felt like I was doing everything right, but I happened to come across a mention of Hebrew Free Loan in a Hillel e-mail, and I never breathed such a sigh of relief. Dealing with HFL was so easy and friendly, and they were there for me."

"One of the things I love about the Jewish community is the investment in the future. HFL is another stop on my Jewish journey."

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