

Teen Kula Mission Statement

Geri Topfer is the President and founder of a non-profit organization called Kula for Karma. Her mission, and the mission of all those involved, is to reach out to the "kula", or community, for help in providing "karma", or selfless service, to those in need. Through the art of yoga, this organization works towards healing the broken spirits of victims of illness, abuse, neglect, addiction, and other life obstacles.

Although Kula for Karma already has a tremendous group of dedicated, compassionate, and selfless people contributing, Geri dreamed of extending the open arms of this giving network to the younger generation of the community. She is asking teens to tap into their passions and put them to good use. Not long ago, Geri's dream came to fruition with the creation of TeenKula. Recently, a group of 20 high school teens met to discuss fundraising ideas and collaborated on the development of upcoming events.

TeenKula's major event will be a Kul-a-thon, a 5K run/walk in Franklin Lakes during the spring. A yoga class will be offered before the start, and live music will be performed at the completion of the walk/run. Additionally, the Starbucks in Midland Park has agreed to host TeenKula's kickoff event, an Open Mike Night at which teens can volunteer to perform, highlighting their musical talents.

Together, the TeenKula committee will determine to which youth charities the money will be allocated. In order for TeenKula to be a success, we are hoping for an overwhelming response. Although TeenKula is run by teens, the participation of people of all ages is encouraged. Any contributions made will be graciously accepted, whether it is attendance at events, monetary donations, or simply spreading the word about our blossoming organization! If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail TeenKula's President, Jocelyn Maturo at jocelynm9@verizon.net. If you simply want to learn more about Kula for Karma, you can visit their website:

<http://www.kulaforkarma.org/index.html>. In addition, there is a group on Facebook that will announce upcoming events. Members of Facebook that are interested in partaking in TeenKula are encouraged to join the group!