



ADDRESSING THE RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM



The Jewish Federation
OF CHARLESTON, SC



The Charleston Jewish Federation's Strategy to Address the Rise of Antisemitism

The Charleston Jewish Federation (CJF) is the primary Jewish communal institution responding to antisemitism and all forms of hate and bias in the Charleston area. With the escalation of global and American antisemitism, the likes of which have not been reported or experienced since the Holocaust, **CJF is combatting this insidious threat from every conceivable angle**, including increasing resources and support to all of our Jewish communal partners while also fortifying our partnership with local, state and federal law enforcement. Led by the CJF, our Charleston Jewish community has become a model of both resilience and proactive planning. Our work consists of four strategies:

- 1. Secure Community Network (SCN) Regional Security Advisor**
- 2. The REMEMBER Program for Holocaust Education and Genocide Awareness**
- 3. The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Charleston (JCRC-GC)**
- 4. Responding to Incidents of Antisemitism and Anti-Bias Training in the Schools and Community**

Strategy #1: Secure Community Network(SCN) Regional Security Advisor

Through the work of your Charleston Jewish Federation and Secure Community Network, Charleston has created a security infrastructure to mitigate risks to our Jewish community members.

In 2015, Charleston Jewish Federation (CJF) created the Charleston Jewish Community Security Task Force immediately after the massacre at the Mother Emanuel AME Church. Representatives from all the Jewish congregations and organizations were tasked with creating an action plan to mitigate risks and decrease exposure to threats and boost our security infrastructure. Under the leadership of Charleston Jewish Federation’s Security co-chairs Jonathan Zucker and Jimi Horne, risk assessments, active security drills and an array of additional security measures were created – the first time in the history of our Charleston Jewish community that an effort of such magnitude was created. Because of these efforts, SAFETY AND SECURITY has become an integral part of all our organizational priorities. Over the past six years, the CJF provided emergency grants to all local Jewish organizational facilities to boost their security infrastructure and applied for a grant from the Department of Homeland Security on behalf of all our community congregations. Many consultants, law enforcement and volunteers have played a vital role helping to secure their respective facilities.

The massacre in Pittsburgh at the Tree of Life Congregation, followed by antisemitic attacks in Poway, Monsey, New York, Boston and other areas all served as painful reminders that we can always do more to proactively invest in the security of our children, community members and our Jewish institutions. Our community and Jewish communities all over the world have experienced an alarming uptick in anti-Semitic incidents, even our Holocaust Memorial was vandalized in 2020.

The Security Program:

The Secure Community Network (SCN), composed of current and former intelligence, law enforcement, homeland security and military officials, is the official security and safety organization of the American Jewish community. Just as Israel has an Iron Dome to protect its citizens from attack, SCN seeks to provide a “security shield” for America’s Jewish community.

Whichever Jewish organizations our community members visit, they should be secure in the knowledge that best practices are in place for all potential adverse events: fire, medical emergency, winter storm and worst-case scenarios, such as violent attacks. This partnership with SCN ensures access to educational and support services, as well as the creation of a network among institutions to ensure a

comprehensive best practice approach to safety and security across all centers of Jewish life. in South Carolina. The team consists of a Regional Security Advisor (RSA), supported by the Charleston and Columbia Jewish Federation leadership, SCN's national network of security experts, and the community-at-large.

The Charleston Jewish Federation and Columbia Jewish Federation joint safety and security initiative brings more than 25 years of law enforcement and security expertise to meet the needs of the Jewish community.

Secure Community Network (SCN), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, has served since 2004 as the official homeland security and safety initiative of the organized Jewish community in North America. Established under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, **SCN works to enhance the safety and security of those within 147 Federations, the 50 largest Jewish non-profit organizations in North America and over 300 independent Jewish communities.** SCN aims to foster a culture of empowerment, collaboration and vigilance, ensuring that Jewish organizations, communities, as well as life and culture can not only exist safely and securely, but flourish. Learn more at www.securecommunitynetwork.org

In 2021, we welcomed Jason Roebuck to our communities as our Secure Community Network (SCN) Regional Security Advisor.

Prior to joining SCN as the Regional Security Advisor, Jason Roebuck served in the Long Branch Police Department in New Jersey for **26 years**, ending his Law Enforcement career as the Chief of Police in 2021. He was also the tactical commander for the Monmouth County NJ SWAT team, supervising field operations for high-risk incidents and emergency management situations. While Chief, he chaired the School Safety Committee, Active Shooter Response Committee and Firearms/Use of Force Committee for the Monmouth County Chiefs Association and has been a long-time trainer in those and other disciplines.



Jason Roebuck, SCN RSA

Some benefits of the program include but are not limited to:

- **Security Advice and Consultation** - SCN meets with the organization's leadership to identify needs and to develop a roadmap towards building a strong safety and security posture and culture.
- **Safety and Security Training** - SCN provides classes in situational awareness, active threat response, and Greeter-Usher practices, customized to the needs of each organization, build personal confidence, preparedness, and resilience in the face of a crisis or emergency.
- **Information & Intelligence Sharing** - Nationally, SCN maintains a Duty Desk with on call analysts available to the Jewish community leaders and government partners.
- **Threat, Vulnerability & Risk Assessments (TVRA)** - SCN provides physical audits, reviews of policies & procedures, observations, and options for consideration and security recommendations.
- **SCN Alert Mass Notification System** - Local Jewish organizations will have access to the SCN Alert Mass Notification System, which notifies facilities of threats in the area in real time.
- **Security Grant Consultation & Support Guidance** - SCN will provide resources and support for federal and state grant programs.
- **Liaison with Local, State and Federal Law Enforcement** - SCN personnel will be the conduit for information sharing, gathering, and reporting to Law Enforcement.

Strategy #2: REMEMBER Program for Holocaust Education & Genocide Awareness:

Antisemitism so often finds a home in the minds of those uneducated about Jewish people, our history, and the consequences of unchecked hate.

CJF's REMEMBER Program for Holocaust Education and Genocide Awareness educates about the horrors of the Holocaust, builds community amongst all races, faiths, and ethnicities in Charleston, and inspires citizens to take a stand for what is right.

Examples of our work include the Annual Holocaust Remembrance Program on Yom HaShoah, Seven City and County Council Holocaust Proclamations, Holocaust Teacher Workshops in partnership with the SC Council on the Holocaust, Holocaust Survivor Network & Speakers Bureau, and so much more. Last year alone, in the middle of a global pandemic, the REMEMBER Program reached approximately 6,500 citizens.



Our REMEMBER Program:

- Cares for our local living survivors
- Provides critical resources to schools and teachers including teacher training opportunities, lesson plans, the Creative Arts and Literature Competition, and most importantly connects our survivors and their descendants to schools and communities to share their heroic and harrowing stories of survival and hope
- Engages the greater Charleston community and government in our mission through strategic partnerships for educational programming and issuance of Proclamations to remember the Holocaust at city and county council meetings yearly across the Lowcountry.

CJF and Jewish Family Services are taking the support of our Holocaust Survivors to the next level.

Together, we are prioritizing and ensuring that every one of our community Holocaust survivors are able to live out their lives with dignity, comfort, and with the individualized support and services that they need. This includes a wide array of services including monthly financial stipends, paying for caretakers, and



connecting them with the next generation of leaders to ensure that their stories are never forgotten.

We provide Holocaust Education in the schools, churches, and community centers through experienced speakers, resources, and trainings for administrators, teachers, and students-- support that they would not otherwise receive.

Remember Project

In 2019, CJF launched our inaugural cohort of **The Remember Project**. After meeting with the heads of curriculum for our county school districts, we learned that one of the most effective ways to ensure that the Holocaust is taught is to motivate the students to want to learn more about this dark time in our history, and the lessons that are relevant for today. Our inaugural cohort was represented by twelve diverse students from seven different schools. This initial cohort proved themselves to be leaders in their schools-- bringing in resources from the Daffodil Project, Speakers Bureau, and Anne Frank Project to their schools and taking on a leadership role in our virtual Holocaust Remembrance Program for Yom HaShoah.

COVID-19 provided a unique opportunity for the 2020 cohort to engage representatives from our national partners including Centropa, the ADL, the Daffodil Project, the Anne Frank Project, and our local Speaker's Bureau. In 2020 the cohort was represented by twenty students from seven public and private schools. These students quickly demonstrated their leadership skills by putting together a meaningful Daffodil Project ceremony, writing a proclamation to local city/county councils to mandate Holocaust education, participating in the ADL's Edward Brodsky Fellowship, advocating for hate crime legislation through CJF's Stamp Out Hate initiative and much more.



Strategy #3: Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Charleston (JCRC-GC)

One of the most effective methods of combating antisemitism is in our communal refusal to isolate and remain silent. Presence in the public square, civic engagement, and relationship building help create a united front against antisemitism that stretches outside of Jewish communal organizations.

Over the past two years, as a direct response to rising anti-Semitism and hate crime, the Charleston Jewish Federation oversaw the rebuilding of a **Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Charleston (JCRC-GC)**.

Consisting of Jewish community voices and directed by a Federation professional, this council has effectively advocated for legislation to combat hate crime and anti-Semitism on a state and local level. Our coalition-building efforts with other faiths, ethnicities, and interest groups have dramatically expanded, along with our community's relationships with community and government leaders.



The JCRC-GC is a resource to all of Charleston's Jewish community members and organizations, and serves as a central address for our neighbors for outreach to our Jewish community.

No Hate No Fear Rally

In January of 2020, our Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC-GC)

held the No Hate, No Fear Rally at Synagogue Emanu-El, featuring speakers from every community targeted by hate, government leaders at the local and state levels, and 500 community members. All of these speakers came to speak out against antisemitism and stand in solidarity with our Jewish community.



Stamp Out Hate SC

Following the rally, the Stamp Out Hate SC coalition to pass hate crime legislation in South Carolina was formed, led by our JCRC-GC, the Alliance for Full Acceptance, the Mother Emanuel AME Church, and others. Coalition members include

more than 100 South Carolina nonprofits, faith communities, and businesses, including every synagogue in the Charleston area. **South Carolina is one of only two states in the nation without any state hate crime law, and in 2021, as a coalition, we helped drive the South Carolina House of Representatives to pass a hate crime bill for the first time in SC history.** We're optimistic that in 2022, with community support, an historic hate crime law will pass the South Carolina Senate and be signed into law by our Governor.

Building Bridges & Feeding the Hungry through Food Distribution



The JCRC-GC's Jewish communal response to hunger has moved to the Lowcountry's "food deserts." **Last year, we distributed over 100,000 pounds of food, impacting an estimated 6,600 families.** Our impact is deepened through meaningful partnerships with local grassroots neighborhood organizations working in our area's most vulnerable communities.

National Partnerships

JCRC-GC works with JFNA's Washington Office, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the Anti-Defamation League and others. JCRC professionals and lay leaders have served on national committees and working groups on a variety of issues facing Jewish communities around the country. In less than two years, our JCRC has become a prominent voice among the national network of 125 JCRCs, the JCPA. Our Federation is the Charleston Jewish organization bringing these national resources to the Charleston Jewish community, and are also regularly called upon by the JFNA, JCPA, and the ADL to assist with national efforts.

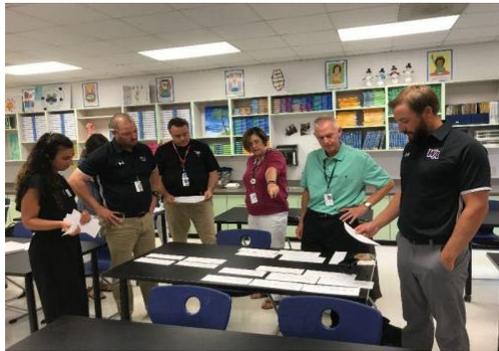
Strategy #4: ADL Partnership, Anti-Bias Training in the Schools & Community

One of the most important ways we respond to antisemitism in the Charleston community is through active partnership with our nation's historic authority on antisemitism, the Anti-Defamation League.



When there is an incident of Antisemitism in the schools or in the greater community, the victim's first call is to the Charleston Jewish Federation. The CJF fields and responds to an average of 5 incidents per month in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). As there is not one representative from the ADL in the entire state of South Carolina, CJF works as a liaison with the ADL to meet the growing needs.

With our efforts to respond to the growing threats, many schools have already been recipients of ADL training. These have included full-day trainings with entire schools



from North Charleston to James Island, as well as training with 100+ teachers in both Berkeley and Charleston counties. However, from their Atlanta office, they are unable to meet the growing demands. **That's why with your help, this year, Charleston Jewish Federation has hired a Director of Education Initiatives, who will bring the ADL's most up-to-date resources to our children, teens, and young adults where they are: in our community's schools.**

A KEY CJF STRATEGIC PRIORITY FOR OUR COMMUNITY

No other organization in our Jewish community has the connections, relationships or is as uniquely positioned to strategically address anti-Semitism and other forms of hate as the Charleston Jewish Federation.

These community-wide efforts are made possible by donations to the annual community campaign or the Shirley and Michael Mills Endowment for Holocaust Remembrance. Contributions to this fund will sustain the work of the REMEMBER Program and educational resource to the greater Charleston community.

Every contribution is meaningful.

