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Contact: Craig Fifer
Phone: 773-754-1738
Email: cfifer@securecommunitynetwork.org

Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida
and Secure Community Network Condemn Recent Antisemitic Incidents,
Announce Partnership to Enhance Community Safety and Security

Initiative Will Help Protect Jewish Community in Greater Jacksonville Area

The Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida today joined with the Secure Community Network (SCN) to reiterate their condemnation of several recent antisemitic incidents in the region, mostly recently the unauthorized projection of an antisemitic message at the 29 October football game at TIAA Bank Field in Jacksonville between the University of Florida and the University of Georgia and antisemitic chants by some members of the crowd. The Federation also announced a new community security initiative in partnership with SCN, which serves as the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America.

“Recent incidents in our community like the despicable message at Saturday’s Florida-Georgia game are a sad reflection of the dramatic increases in antisemitic threats and incidents across our country, and underscore why Jewish communal security is more important than ever,” said Federation CEO Mariam Feist. “We know these incidents do not represent the spirit of our growing and welcoming region, and we cannot allow them to define us. Through our expanded partnership with the Secure Community Network, we will enhance our commitment to security and ensure we are applying a comprehensive, best-practice approach.”

The security program, which follows nearly a year of extensive community engagement and planning and will formally launch in the coming weeks, is designed to significantly increase safety and security for all those who participate in synagogues, day schools, community centers, service organizations, and other centers of Jewish life throughout Northeast Florida.

SCN and the Federation will recruit a public safety expert and law enforcement veteran to serve as the community’s full-time security executive, leveraging the national resources and tools of SCN, to develop and administer a comprehensive program that provides risk mitigation, security consultations, assessments, and training to Jewish institutions throughout the region. The director will also serve as the Jewish community’s main liaison to local, state, and federal law enforcement in the region.

An integral part of the security initiative will be community education and awareness training through
SCN’s flagship training courses such as Be Aware: Introduction to Situational Awareness; Countering Active Threat Training; and Stop the Bleed®.

Northeast Florida joins dozens of Federations and communities in an expanding network that has partnered with SCN to launch community-wide security programs to ensure the safety, security, and resilience of the Jewish people. Each program is connected to SCN’s national operations, providing direct access to SCN’s National Jewish Security Operations Command Center and Duty Desk, as well as best practice security resources and support related to physical security, facility assessments, life-saving training, critical policies, and incident response.

The Northeast Florida security program is being made possible through professional support from the Federation and SCN; funding through the collaborative efforts of the Federation and other local donors; and national donor support from SCN and LiveSecure, the partnership between The Jewish Federations of North America and SCN to fund and create a collective security framework.

“SCN strives to ensure the safety, security, and resiliency of the Jewish people by creating a security shield over the Jewish community in North America,” said SCN National Director and CEO Michael Masters. “The heart of this effort is the establishment of a comprehensive security program in each Jewish population center, led by a full-time security professional. We are honored to partner with the Federation in this critical work.”

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The Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida mobilizes volunteer and financial resources to inspire engagement in Jewish life and assure a Jewish future in the local community, Israel, and around the world. Every day, the Federation helps Jewish life thrive in Northeast Florida, in Israel and in 75 countries through the support of an annual campaign and Foundation. Learn more at jewishjacksonville.org.

The Secure Community Network (SCN), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the official homeland safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. Founded in 2004 under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, SCN serves as the central organization dedicated exclusively to the safety and security of the American Jewish community, working across 146 federations, 50 partner organizations, over 300 independent communities, and other partners in the public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors. SCN is dedicated to ensuring that Jewish organizations, communities, life, and culture can not only exist safely and securely, but flourish. Learn more at securecommunitynetwork.org.