

Strong. Secure. United. Jewish Federation of Greater Houston Community Security Initiative

Our Commitment to Safety and Resilience

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston (JFGH), in partnership with Secure Community Network (SCN), works to improve the safety and security of the Jewish people. The success of this initiative includes community support along with collaboration with law enforcement, Jewish nonprofit organizations, and local leaders.

Key Achievements:

- **Security Support:** Provided security consultations to more than **75 Jewish organizations** across Houston, including synagogues, schools, camps, and community centers.
- **Training:** Trained **more than 1,436 community members** on safety protocols and emergency preparedness since the program's inception.
- Nonprofit Security Grants: The Federation was instrumental in helping secure more than \$6.3 million (\$1M in 2021; \$700K in 22; \$1.6 M in 2023; \$3M in 2024) in national Nonprofit Security Grants for area Jewish institutions. The security program facilitates this process by conducting local assessments at no cost to the organization, so it has the necessary and complex supporting documentation to apply for these grants.
- Incident Reporting: Launched and maintained the online Incident Reporting Form (IRF) on the Federation's website enabling real-time suspicious activity reporting. Between the IRF and other methods there have been **274 reports recorded** since 2022.
- Law Enforcement Coordinated Responses: Interfaced with law enforcement on 69 incidents within our Jewish community to ensure quick, coordinated action. (January 2024 to September 30, 2024)

Security Practices and Protocols

Under the leadership of the Security Director, we adhere to strict protocols to safeguard our community:

- Threat Dissemination: The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston shares specific, credible threats with appropriate law enforcement, community partners, and impacted institutions, based on the Director's assessment.
- **Community Alerts:** Alerts are issued only when credible intelligence suggests an imminent threat to individuals or facilities.
- **Vigilance & Reporting:** A vigilant community is our best defense. Being aware of one's environment and reporting suspicious activity using our Incident Reporting Form, assists law enforcement in recognizing patterns in criminal activity and ultimately helps combat antisemitism.
- **Security Advisory Committee:** A committee of volunteer leaders affiliated with the Federation who review, evaluate, and advise around the security program's goals and achievements to ensure it meets community needs.

Endowing Safety and Security

The Federation is embarking on an ambitious fundraising plan to create an \$8 million endowment to safeguard our Jewish community for future generations. An endowment will forever cover the major expenses allowing us to ensure our community facilities remain secure; that we receive critical intelligence and alerts from SCN; that we maintain strong partnerships with law enforcement; and that our community receives appropriate security training on an ongoing basis. The time to secure Houston's Jewish future is now.

Program Expansion

In addition to the endowment and In response to growing needs, the Community Security program is expanding:

- Hiring a Deputy Director to further strengthen and scale our efforts.
- Launching new initiatives to provide additional resources, training, and security measures across the community. Including more tabletop training, scenario-based exercises, for crisis response, and additional critical incident planning.
- Expanding the geographic reach of our Community Security Program to include outlying areas who request assistance.

Our Supporters

The Houston Jewish Community Security Program is made possible through the support of our generous donors. Thanks to the generosity of Joan and Stanford Alexander, the Jewish Federation was able to launch the Houston Jewish Community Security Program and hire our first Community Security Director in 2022.

The Joan and Stanford Alexander Family have also provided a lead gift to the endowment along with the Shirley and David Toomim Family Foundation, the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation, and the Jewish Federations of North America's Live Secure Community Safety Initiative. We thank them for their generosity.

Join the Effort

You can participate in this effort by contacting Karyn Ullman, Chief Philanthropy Officer, at kullman@houstonjewish.org.

Together, we are strong. Together, we are secure. Together, we are united.

For more information or to report an incident, visit houstonjewish.org/security.

Jewish Federation of Greater Houston

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