



JEWISH FEDERATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
PALM BEACH CENTER
TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM & HATRED

Building Tolerance. Providing Safety. Leading the Way.

Palm Beach Center to Combat Antisemitism & Hatred

Palm Beach County's foremost leader, strategist, convener, and practical problem solver in the fight against antisemitism.

Background

Established to proactively address the escalating local antisemitism, the Palm Beach Center plays an integral role within Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. Its primary purpose is to offer strategic, financial, and advisory support to grantees and partner organizations, with a focus on fostering tolerance, ensuring safety, and taking the lead.

Building upon the substantial efforts of Federation's J-Secure Community Safety & Security (J-Secure) and the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) in combatting antisemitism, discrimination, and bigotry, the Center assumes a significant leadership role within and beyond the Jewish community.

Now is the Time

According to published reports on Florida by the FBI and ADL:

- Palm Beach County has the most antisemitic incidents of all Florida counties.
- Florida ranks fourth for antisemitic incidents in the United States.
- Remarkably, despite Jews representing only 3.1 percent of the state's population, antisemitic hate crimes make up 80% of religiously motivated crimes in Florida.

Mission

The Palm Beach Center leads a county-wide strategy to counter antisemitism, ensuring a secure Jewish future and nurturing a tolerant community. Through collaboration, we provide strategic and financial assistance to Jewish partners and others, exemplifying local leadership.

Palm Beach Center Initiatives

The Palm Beach Center's relationship-building and community-security efforts include strategic and advisory services as well as education and training for Jewish and non-Jewish communities. Offering monetary support through grants that align with the Center's mission, the new Center enables the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County to expand its goals and reach more people.

Grants to Combat Antisemitism

The Palm Beach Center, an innovative initiative of Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, has recently been launched with the aim of strengthening our local efforts and resources in combatting antisemitism. Its primary objective is to cultivate a more robust collective response by fostering collaboration, coordination, and partnerships to address the urgent needs of Jewish Palm Beach.

The Center is poised to make significant progress in its initial priority areas of building meaningful relationships with individuals across all corners of Palm Beach County and ensuring the safety and security of Jewish community institutions and synagogues.

We are thrilled to announce the allocation of initial grants through our grantmaking program, representing a significant advancement in our mission:

- **Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC):** Palm Beach Center funding supports the expansion of JCRC's professional team, enabling them to advance community and government relations at both the state and municipal levels to address antisemitism.
- **J-Secure Community Security and Safety Program:** With generous support from the Palm Beach Center, J-Secure, our community's Jewish safety and security office, has significantly bolstered its professional team, extending its services to cover all 39 municipalities in the county, along with over 40+ Jewish institutions. J-Secure continues to offer a comprehensive suite of proven safety and security resources and services to organizations within our community, free of charge, with a strong emphasis on fostering partnerships and preparedness.
- **ADL Center on Extremism:** This grant will establish an intelligence analyst role focused on Palm Beach County, embedded in both the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and J-Secure. This collaborative effort aims to enhance the monitoring and understanding of extremist activities in our region.
- **inSIGHT Through Education, Inc.:** We've made a grant to inSIGHT Through Education to expand our work in Palm Beach County schools including the following two initiatives:
 - Over five weeks, 6,500 Palm Beach County students from eight schools will visit a replica World War II cattle car, imparting knowledge, and empowering action. This collaborative effort involving InSIGHT Through Education, Hate Ends Now, and the School District aims to foster tolerance and combat antisemitism in a district with 189,000 students.
 - We're bringing the play "Martin & Anne: The Kindred Spirits of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Anne Frank" to Palm Beach County public schools. This powerful narrative of two inspirational figures, born in the same year, promotes love and faith in humanity while addressing prejudice and violence. It's a significant educational resource in our efforts to promote tolerance and understanding.

These strategic initiatives represent significant steps forward in our ongoing mission to combat antisemitism and ensure the safety and well-being of our community.

Our First Six Months: Impact Highlights

September 2023

Leading with Purpose

- **Empowering Change:** Officially established by the Federation Board in May 2023, publicly launching in December 2023. Our mission is crystal clear: to lead a county-wide strategy against antisemitism, secure a thriving Jewish future, and foster a tolerant community.
- **Legislative Victory:** Led a coalition to pass the Florida Public Nuisance Act, escalating penalties for antisemitic activity, such as distributing hate-filled flyers and displaying threatening images on buildings to third-degree felonies. This vital law now safeguards all 39 County municipalities and law enforcement is already arresting people as a result.
- **Granting Impact:** Launched the Grants Program to find and fund the most promising projects.

Promoting Tolerance

- **Holocaust Education: Empowering Palm Beach County Students:** Over five weeks, 6,500 students from eight local public schools will visit a WWII cattle car replica. This immersive exhibit imparts knowledge and empowers students to combat antisemitism and hatred in a district with 189,000 students.
- **Shining a Spotlight: Unmasking Antisemitism in Palm Beach County:** Through two impactful partnerships, we aired nine TV episodes on two stations, including three on Mosaic, Federation's ABC show, reaching over 32,000 viewers across TV, online, and podcasts.
- **Unifying Communities: Taking a Stand Against Antisemitism:** Forged bonds with diverse communities, engaging 32,000 Spanish-speaking viewers, representing the 450,000 Spanish speakers in the County.

Enhanced Community Safety

- **Strengthening Our Defense and Offense:** We are now initiating the search for an intelligence analyst to join Federation's J-Secure office. This new addition will strategically monitor, expose, and disrupt extremist threats in the Palm Beaches, significantly enhancing our capacity to detect and counteract sources of hate, working closely with the ADL Center on Extremism.
- **Volunteer Vigilance:** Introduced Community Security Service (CSS) in Palm Beach, equipping nearly 30 volunteer protectors of local Jewish organizations with non-lethal security training.
- **Expanded Leadership:** Strengthened our response capabilities by transitioning the Community Security Director role to full-time, ensuring security for 40 Jewish institutions serving almost 200,000 individuals.

These are key accomplishments, all made possible because of your generous support for the Palm Beach Center. Your commitment to our mission drives our success, and we deeply appreciate your dedication.

Support the Palm Beach Center for Antisemitism & Hatred Now

Donation Information:

The Center is affiliated with the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, a registered 501(c)(3) organization. You can contribute in the following ways:

- Online: Make a donation today by visiting Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County's website at <https://jewishpb.org/donate>.
- Phone: Contact Kate Lester at 561-242-6668 to discuss your donation over the phone.
- Mail: Send your contribution by mail to the following address: Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, 1 Harvard Circle, #100, West Palm Beach, Florida 33409. Please make your check payable to "Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County" and write "Palm Beach Center" on the memo line of the check.

Donor Recognition:

To honor your generous support for the Palm Beach Center, we've established a recognition program:

- Cornerstone Founders: Commit \$25,000 or more annually for five consecutive years.
- Annual Founders: Make a yearly commitment of \$25,000 or more.

Both groups will receive recognition through the Palm Beach Daily News, our website, emails, and events. Your contributions shape our mission, and we deeply appreciate your support.

Questions? Contact Kate Lester, Assistant VP for Development, at kate.lester@jewishpalmbeach.org or call 561.242.6668.

Volunteer:

To volunteer and get involved:

[Jewish Volunteer Center \(jewishpb.org\)](http://jewishpalmbeach.org)

Join Our Mailing List:

To receive more information about the Center and to stay connected:

PBC@jewishpalmbeach.org