



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, security, and resiliency of the Jewish people. SCN is the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America. Just as the Iron Dome is a shield over Israel, SCN acts as a shield protecting Jewish communities across the United States.

The success of this initiative is based on comprehensive and best practices rooted in the areas of planning and preparation, training and exercises, intelligence and information sharing, and incident reporting. The safety and security of our community is a shared responsibility best achieved through close collaboration with key partners in law enforcement, Jewish nonprofit organizations, and local leaders. This collaborative approach ensures that we can leverage a diverse range of expertise, share critical information across the SCN network, and coordinate effective responses to threats and attacks.

By working together, we amplify SCN's impact and create a stronger shield of protection for our community and Jewish communities across North America.

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)
- **Secured \$350,000 in JFNA LiveSecure match dollars** to be used in implementation of our Community Security Initiative.

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

To meet the rising demands of our program and to ensure our community is secure and thriving in perpetuity, the Federation has launched an ambitious plan to create an \$8 million endowment to secure our community for future generations. An endowment will forever allow 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 investment we make in security today secures our Jewish future.**

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

We are grateful to Joan Alexander and Stanford, of blessed memory, Alexander for providing a lead gift to the endowment which will be named in their honor as the Joan and Stanford Alexander Family Community Security Endowment.

To date, we have raised \$3.4 million towards our \$8 million goal. We thank the following for their generosity and support of this Endowment:

- The Shirley and David Toomim Family Foundation
- Martha and Don Freedman
- Paula and Irving Pozmantier and
- Jay Steinfeld and Barbara Winthrop

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.