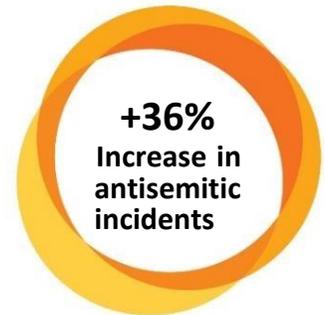


ANNUAL CAMPAIGN IMPACT: ANTISEMITISM

An alarming increase in antisemitism

Every year, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation conducts an audit of verified antisemitic incidents in Wisconsin. Sadly, in the most recent audit, Wisconsin saw a 36% increase in incidents from the previous year. Activity on social media doubled, and it increased by 75% on college campuses. MJF is actively addressing this crisis in Milwaukee and throughout Wisconsin.



Preventing and responding to antisemitism

The JCRC pursues a coordinated program of education, action, and advocacy for the Jewish community. They address antisemitism by building relationships across faith, civic, and community groups. They also monitor, evaluate, and respond to acts of antisemitism. Last summer, when a Kenosha synagogue was vandalized with anti-Semitic graffiti, JCRC worked with synagogue leaders to address the property, security, media, and interfaith community issues related to antisemitic violence.



Community members gather outside Beth Hillel Temple respond to antisemitic graffiti in Kenosha in August 2020.



Teaching the lessons of the Holocaust

Education about the Holocaust is one of the most effective ways to tackle antisemitism and other forms of hate. The Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center (HERC) and the Jewish Community Relations Council – both programs of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation – worked to enact a law mandating Holocaust education in middle and high schools. HERC will serve as the main resource for teachers throughout the state.

HERC has already partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and held its first ever weeklong virtual workshop for Wisconsin educators to help educators teach about the Holocaust in the classroom. Forty teachers representing 40 school districts participated in the workshop.

HERC will continue to offer training workshops throughout the upcoming year. Altogether, HERC's programs reached over 40,000 children and adults last year.



Governor Tony Evers signs a bill to require Holocaust education to Wisconsin students.

Sharing Jewish culture

The Federation's Jewish Museum Milwaukee (JMM) fights antisemitism by enhancing the greater community's understanding of the Jewish experience. About 3,000 students, more than 90% of whom are not members of the Jewish community, tour the museum each year. One seventh grader at Vieau Elementary School said, "This experience is going to affect me in life because whenever I see something that's wrong or I see an individual infecting people's minds, I will speak out against it."

Advocating for just public policy

Funded by the Federation's Annual Campaign, the Wisconsin Jewish Conference (WJC) is the public policy advocate for the Jewish community in the state and federal government. To combat antisemitism, WJC focuses on raising awareness and understanding of the Jewish community to the greater community. Antisemitism can be connected to Israel, which is why WJC has coordinated efforts to educate lawmakers. The WJC worked closely with JCRC to organize a study mission to Israel for a bipartisan group of state legislators. The trip established relationships between local Jewish leaders, lawmakers, and the State of Israel.