



Secure Community Network

2024 Annual Report



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Introduction Letter

A Year After 10/7: A Year of Resiliency and Action

As we marked one year since the 07 October 2023 Hamas terror attacks, the Secure Community Network (SCN) — the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America — was at the forefront of efforts to protect our people and institutions. We provided critical resources, support, and training while working with law enforcement to address the surge in hate crimes and terror threats directed at the Jewish community. This tragedy exposed the unique threat our community faces in an increasingly unstable world, but it also highlighted our strength and resolve.

Law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and federal, state, and local partners, have reported a sharp increase in hate crimes and potential terrorist acts against Jews.

Multiple planned attacks targeting the Jewish community have been thwarted through proactive law enforcement collaboration. Many of these perpetrators drew inspiration from the rhetoric and actions of Hamas and other

extremist terror groups. These individuals, who span the ideological spectrum, include white nationalists, neo-Nazis, Islamic extremists, and politically motivated actors, highlighting the complexity and severity of the threat environment we face.

In 2024, the Department of Justice reported prosecuting over 30 individuals for crimes driven by antisemitic hate, underscoring its commitment to combating this growing threat.

Despite the record levels of incidents reported to SCN and our law enforcement partners, Jewish life across North America has continued. This resilience speaks to the collective efforts of our Jewish Security Operations Command Center (JSOCC), security professionals working for and on behalf of the community, community partners, and law enforcement, who have worked together to prevent attacks and mitigate harm before it can occur, and where necessary, respond to incidents swiftly and collaboratively.

College campuses have emerged as a frontline challenge for our community, as Jewish students increasingly find themselves face-to-face with agitators and threats. In 2024, SCN logged 500 campus threat incident and suspicious activity reports as a direct result of violent and unlawful encampments, targeted harassment, and overt acts of intimidation that fostered a climate of fear and alienation. SCN is meeting this moment by not only providing students with surged security resources but also equipping them with the training needed to ensure safe and positive educational experiences. Our youth deserve nothing less than the opportunity to thrive in an environment free from fear.

SCN has continued to evolve our training

IN 2024

5,409

THREAT & SUSPICIOUS
ACTIVITY REPORTS

40,000

INDIVIDUALS TRAINED
THROUGHOUT THE U.S.

\$23.7M

FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS
AWARDED TO ORGANIZATIONS
WITH SCN ASSISTANCE

“We have responded not with fear,
but with action.”

curriculum, identifying additional needs and ensuring trainees are up-to-date on safety and security practices, with a particular focus on college campuses and summer camps. By providing comprehensive support to apply for public sector grants, we are helping institutions afford and install critical security hardening tools that have saved lives. These efforts have strengthened our communities’ infrastructure and readiness, underscoring the importance of impactful partnerships and SCN’s community-based security model.

Rooted in shared faith and an unwavering commitment to safeguarding our future, we have responded not with fear, but with action. Together, we are building a culture of vigilance and pride — the simple but powerful idea that the safety of our people and institutions today will allow Jewish life to flourish for generations to come. Through collaboration, innovative security measures, and a deep belief in our mission, we face each challenge with determination and hope.

In the spirit of partnership, we thank you for your continued dedication, collaboration, and partnership in this critical work. Together, we will continue to shape the future of Jewish life across North America — one marked by peace, prosperity, and growth.

Respectfully,



Michael G. Masters
Michael G. Masters,
National Director & CEO



Wendy A. Berger
Wendy A. Berger,
Chair, Board of Directors

OUR MISSION IS
TO ENSURE THE
SAFETY, SECURITY,
AND RESILIENCY
OF THE NORTH
AMERICAN JEWISH
COMMUNITY.



How We Serve The Jewish Community: 5 Pillars Of Action

Monitoring and Acting on Threats

Our team of analysts uses cutting-edge technology to proactively monitor for, identify, and investigate threats, disseminating actionable intelligence to respond to incidents and build a protective shield over the community.

Securing Facilities

Our security experts offer facility assessments and recommendations to protect facilities against threats. Our expert grants team guides you through the process start-to-finish to obtain government funding to make those security upgrades possible.

Empowering Communities Through Training

Led by safety and security experts, our gold-standard training curriculum empowers participants with hands-on training and life-saving skills to prevent, respond to, and recover from potential incidents.

Coordinating With Law Enforcement

We are the only faith-based entity with a direct line to the FBI. We work closely with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, facilitating two-way intelligence sharing, coordinating on threat response protocols, and serving as a bridge between Jewish communities and the public safety agencies dedicated to protecting them.

Responding to Incidents

Our local partnerships bring SCN's national expertise and best practices to your community by providing access to on-the-ground security professionals to ensure every community has comprehensive protection, including hands-on training, facility assessments, law enforcement coordination, and incident response.



SECTION 1

The Threat Environment

10
From The
Command Center





From The Command Center

SCN's state-of-the-art Jewish Security Operations Command Center (JSOCC) was established in 2021 to proactively monitor for, identify, and investigate threats, disseminating actionable intelligence to respond to incidents and build a protective shield over the community. Our team of analysts uses cutting-edge technology called Project RAIN (Realtime Actionable Intelligence Network), a proprietary technology platform that identifies and tracks threats to more than 13,000 Jewish facilities across North America.

Threat Environment

In 2024, SCN logged a record-high 5,409 threat incident and suspicious activity reports, surpassing a previous record of 5,404 set in 2023. With a heightened threat environment entering its second year for the community, SCN has fortified and expanded its network's reach and enhanced capabilities to adjust to this new normal.

SCN's expanding community presence has helped deliver more consistent and routine threat and incident reporting, giving our organization — in partnership with law enforcement and communal security partners — a more accurate picture of the threat environment, and with it, opportunities to address issues proactively to mitigate harm.

Expanded capabilities, including a unique intelligence partnership with Chicago's Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago (JUF) and further reach, and improved reporting have helped SCN surge resources and support to communities that need them the most amidst this unprecedented threat environment. SCN has also worked with the FBI to encourage improved hate crimes reporting, resulting in a more accurate

picture and leading to the 2023 FBI Hate Crimes Report showing 67% of religiously motivated hate crimes were committed against Jewish Americans. Part of that work in partnership with local, state, and federal law enforcement has been to identify and refer 1,364 suspicious individuals to authorities for investigation in 2024.

SCN also tracked 500 campus threat incidents targeting Jewish students and faculty this year, to include through our shared reporting platform with Hillel International and ADL (the Anti-Defamation League). At institutions like Columbia University and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), anti-Israel protests escalated into unlawful encampments, violent incidents, and targeted harassment. Additionally, SCN reported 870 bomb threats and swatting incidents targeting Jewish facilities — incidents that can force evacuations as people are abruptly forced out of their facilities. SCN continues to monitor for threats and suspicious activity, expanding reporting partnerships into new communities and constantly working to refine and improve data tracking efforts to keep the Jewish community safe, secure, and resilient.

Risk Events:

2023: 420,766

2024: 702,842

Incident Reports & Inquiries Received:

2023: 5,404

2024: 5,409

Active Alerts:

2023: 13,023

2024: 29,010

Persons of Interest Added to SCN's Database

2024: 798

Referrals to Law Enforcement:

2024: 1,364

Intelligence Products Disseminated:

2024: 112



Public-Private Analytic Exchange Program (AEP)

In September, SCN announced its membership in a distinguished cohort with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) as part of the AEP. Through the AEP, government and private partners collaborate to share intelligence and produce joint analytic products.

SCN is one of two faith-based nonprofits admitted to the AEP, marking a milestone that boosts the program's diversity and SCN's capacity to share and receive actionable intelligence. The AEP includes 60 government participants and 64 private sector representatives from organizations like the FBI, U.S. Armed Forces, National Security Agency (NSA), and companies like Amazon, Meta, Disney, and Citi.

SCN's participation enhances its ability to protect the Jewish community through stronger partnerships with ODNI and network organizations. This membership also improves SCN's JSOCC's accessibility and effectiveness, fostering collaboration and integration of intelligence among our security professionals and government partners.



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Enhancing The Security Shield

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A Law Enforcement-Designed Approach

Access to professional, best-practice, consistent security support is available to 100% of Jewish communities in North America through SCN's JSOCC. More than 60 full-time security initiatives cover Jewish Federations, national partners such as Hillel International, and coalitions of independent communities, including SCN-managed programs in 43 Jewish communities.



For the first time ever, SCN established a full-time security initiative in Canada, in December launching a program in partnership with the Hamilton Jewish Federation.

In 2018, SCN introduced a new, coordinated model for community security that saw individual security initiatives — which frequently worked independently — tied together into an integrated, best-practice network. Designed by security experts, law enforcement professionals, organizational design specialists, and community leaders, this model mirrors how best-practice public safety enterprises work, ensuring the integration of intelligence, protective security measures, training, and incident response.

2017: 5%

Percentage of Jewish communities in the United States with access to a professional security resource.

2024: 100%

Percentage of Jewish communities in the United States with access to a professional security resource either directly or through a regionally based professional as part of the Jewish communal security professional network.

100%

of Jewish communities are supported through the JSOCC.

100%

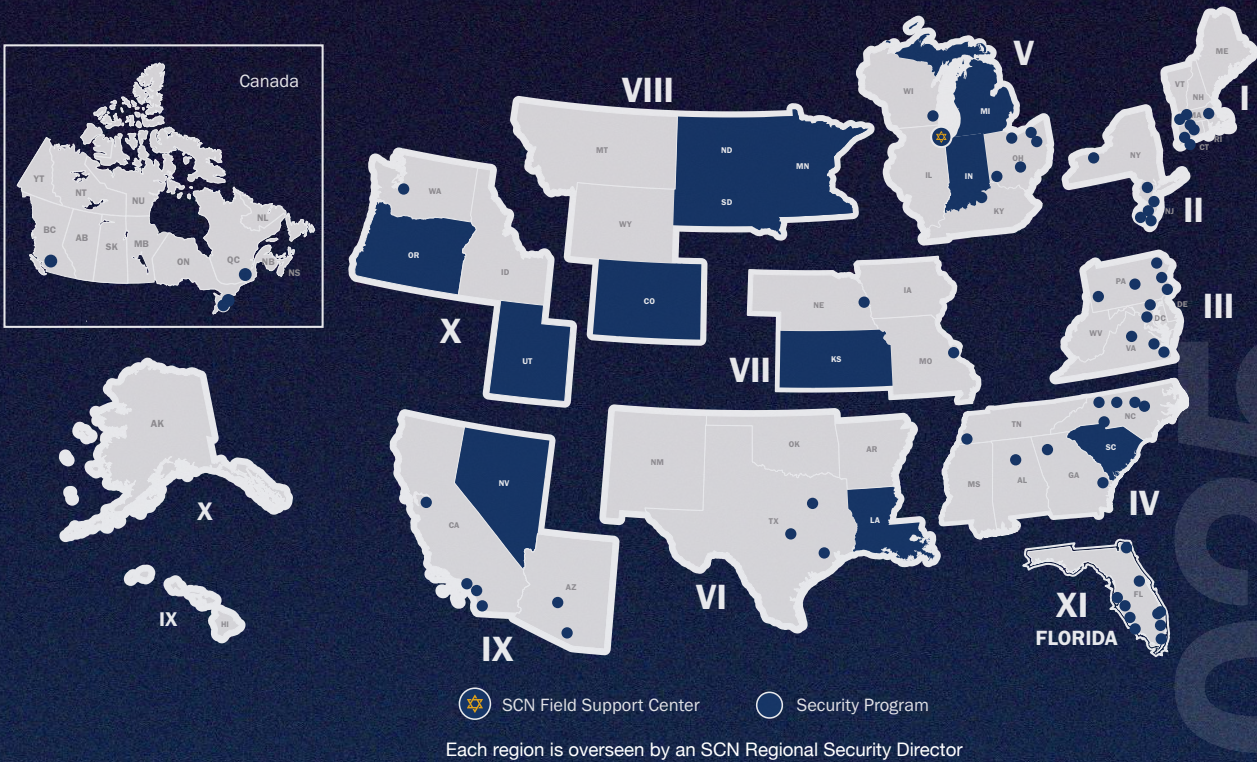
of the country is supported by SCN regional directors.

43

communities are covered with dedicated, full-time SCN security programs.

SCN acts as the first line of defense to protect Jewish life and culture — just as Israel has the Iron Dome.

2025 Coverage Map*





Bolstering Intelligence & Enhancing Coordination

A New ‘Red Cell’ Task Force

SCN, informed by law enforcement and other public safety partners, encouraged the community to remain open and active but also vigilant, particularly given the threats and hostilities from foreign terrorist organizations like Hamas, Hezbollah, and proxies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which the former Director of National Intelligence reported have been “opportunistically” inserting themselves in campus protests, posing as activists, promoting public demonstrations, and funding pro-Hamas efforts on campus.

To address these threats, SCN established the Red Cell Task Force, which monitors global developments and assesses their potential risks to North America's Jewish communities.

In April, SCN, along with partners such as Jewish Federations of North America, ADL, Community Security Service (CSS), the Orthodox Union (OU), and the Community Security Initiative of New York (CSI-NY), issued joint guidance in response to escalating tensions between Israel and Iran.

These efforts also included educating lawmakers and raising awareness among educators about the impact of the ongoing conflict on Jewish communities and students.

Through coordinated community action, we have created spaces to track, assess, and respond to acts of hate, intimidation, harassment, and violence.



JUF

In July, SCN established a groundbreaking partnership with the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago (JUF), marking the first direct integration of a local Jewish federation into SCN's JSOCC. Through this initiative, SCN has embedded a full-time Intelligence Analyst to focus exclusively on the security needs of Chicago's Jewish community. This partnership has revolutionized how JUF addresses safety by enabling real-time threat identification, improving coordination with law

enforcement, and integrating SCN's national expertise into local security strategies. JUF can now seamlessly access SCN's national partnerships and resources, ensuring enhanced security measures, early threat warnings, and comprehensive monitoring of special events. NBC Chicago also highlighted the initiative with a visit to SCN's Field Support Center, showcasing this first-of-its-kind approach to localized intelligence within SCN's national model to protect Chicagoland's Jewish community.



Incident Reporting



SCN logged a record-high 5,409 threat incident and suspicious activity reports in 2024 — surpassing a previous record of 5,404 (revised) set in 2023. With a heightened threat environment unabated for the community, SCN has fortified and expanded its network’s reach and enhanced capabilities to adjust to this new normal.

SCN’s expanding community presence has helped deliver more consistent and routine threat and incident reporting, giving our organization — in partnership with law enforcement and communal security partners — a more accurate picture of the threat environment, and with it, opportunities to address issues proactively to mitigate harm.

Partnership Tracks Increase In Reports Amid Rise In Campus Hate

After launching the Report Campus Hate tool in partnership with Hillel International and the ADL in 2021, SCN tracked a surge in threat incident and suspicious activity reports in a harrowing year on campuses across the country. SCN saw 500 campus reports in 2024, making up nearly 10% of all threat incident and suspicious activity reports logged by SCN in 2024.



Further Adoption of SCN-Led Standardized Threat Incidents & Suspicious Activity Form

In 2024, SCN partnered with 11 new Federations to adopt a joint standardized threat incident and suspicious activity reporting form that ties together local security initiatives and SCN as a national partner. Federations and partner organizations have integrated the form on their websites to make reporting threats, incidents, and suspicious activity more efficient and effective



than ever. Reports are sent immediately to Federation security professionals and the Duty Desk, where they are analyzed and actioned, as appropriate, to protect the community. Additional notifications with relevant partners, to include Anti-Defamation League (ADL) regional offices, are identified and handled locally.



Physical Security

SCN develops practical guidance such as low-cost and no-cost suggestions for how facilities can improve physical security.



Updated the Guide to Common Physical Security Solutions with a Physical Security Products, Services, and Systems Standards Appendix.



Updated SCN's Self-Assessment Tool to allow for uploading of facility photos.



Developed Bomb Threat Guidance, Bomb Threat Checklist, and Field Trip Safety Considerations guidance resources.



Increased Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) award dollars 28% for organizations receiving Threat, Vulnerability, and Risk Assessments from SCN from \$2.2 million in 2023 to more than \$2.8 million in 2024.

Assessments, Walkthroughs, Self-Assessments, etc.

2023: 790

2024: 1,095

National Webinars

2023: 18

2024: 32



Developed a Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA).



Developed a new tabletop exercise in support of the national camp program and conducted four tabletop exercises across the country in support of SCN Operations Team and external partners.



Launched the Personal Security Awareness Program, designed for members of the community with elevated public visibility, developed to help mitigate personal risk and make informed decisions about personal safety and security.





Funds To Safeguard Facilities

Nonprofit Security Grant Program

The federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) provides critical funding for security improvements at eligible nonprofits, including synagogues, community centers, schools, campus facilities, and other Jewish centers of life across the United States. Eligible expenses include equipment such as cameras, locks, and alarm systems; training for staff and community members; and contract security personnel. SCN has been a driving force in the creation and expansion of the NSGP since 2004. We provide essential resources for Jewish organizations and communities throughout North America to support their NSGP efforts, including in-person and online resources. SCN provides facility assessments, offers consultations on physical security solutions and strategies, conducts webinars, facilitates grant review and guidance support, and much more.

The impact of our work in 2024 is clear:

51%
of organizations that received SCN assessments were awarded NSGP funding.

62%
of the NSGP funds that Jewish organizations applied for with SCN's guidance were awarded.

40%
increase in Congressional appropriation for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

\$434.5M
allocated by Congress for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

NSGP Funds Awarded to Organizations with SCN Assistance:

- 2021: **\$10.9M**
- 2022: **\$20.9M**
- 2023: **\$27.4M**
- 2024: **\$23.7M**





Training & Exercise

Led by safety and security experts, SCN’s gold-standard training curriculum empowers participants with hands-on training and life-saving skills to prevent, respond to, and recover from potential incidents.

Over the course of the year, SCN held 1,193 training engagements reaching more than 40,000 community members. Also, in 2024, SCN expanded its training curriculum with multiple innovative courses to better serve the Jewish community.

1,193
Training Engagements

40,000
Community Members



“We are facing the most complex and dynamic threat environment that has ever faced the Jewish community or the United States in the nation’s history...”

SCN National Director & CEO Michael Masters told NBC News. “We’ve seen an alarming trend of [violent] language in online platforms. Sadly, it gave them a license and it gave them the inspiration to say, think, and potentially attempt to act on those things. Our job is to deny them the opportunity.”

Expanded Training Curriculum

In September, SCN launched Guardian, a course developed to help community members become active bystanders. Building upon SCN's foundational BeAware: An Introduction to Situational Awareness curriculum, this program provides advanced training specifically tailored for staff, leadership, and individuals who regularly work in or frequent Jewish community organizations. The training equips participants with skills in threat identification, emergency preparedness, de-escalation, and incident response. By recognizing people, items, and issues that may seem out of place, participants are empowered to act proactively to protect community centers, schools, and other facilities.

SCN also introduced De-Escalation training, designed to address the need for conflict resolution and tension management in community settings. Developed with input from mental health professionals, Jewish security leaders, and organizational representatives from across the country, this program equips staff, volunteers, and public-facing community members with essential skills to defuse hostility and reduce conflict safely and effectively.

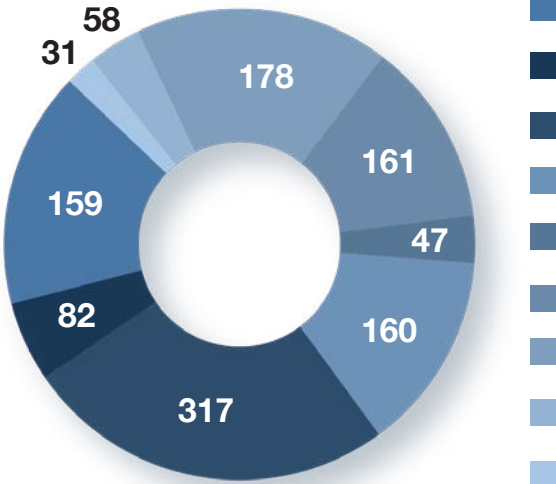


NEW TRAINING: GUARDIAN

Building upon SCN's foundational "BeAware: An Introduction to Situational Awareness" curriculum, this course was developed to provide a higher level of training specifically for staff, leadership, and community members who regularly work in or frequent Jewish community organizations. Recognizing that those who regularly visit and work in Jewish facilities, whether as paid staff or community members, may be in a unique position to recognize people, items, and issues that may be out of place or abnormal, this training helps participants be “Active Bystanders,” individuals with developed skills in threat identification, emergency preparedness, de-escalation techniques, and incident response to protect community centers, schools, senior centers, and other facilities.

NEW TRAINING: DE-ESCALATION

This course was developed by subject matter experts to provide Jewish community members with essential skills to defuse or reduce tension, hostility, or conflict in various situations. Recognizing that members of the Jewish community may encounter potentially volatile situations, this training equips participants with practical techniques to maintain safety and security in their communities and facilities.



COURSE	ENGAGEMENTS	PARTICIPANTS
BeAware	159	3,499
Camps	82	3,881
Countering Active Threat Training	317	8,077
Guardian	160	4,171
De-Escalation	47	1,468
Stop the Bleed	161	4,009
Other	178	12,459
Workshops/Seminars	58	2,227
Exercises/Drills	31	1,053
Grand Total	1,193	40,844



SECTION 3

Partnering To Protect

In response to the evolving threat landscape after 07 October, SCN has expanded resources through new and innovative partnerships across the law enforcement, community, government, and intelligence sectors. Central to this growth has been the substantial expansion of the Jewish Security Operations Command Center (JSOCC), including the addition of dedicated analysts focusing on threats in specific areas such as college and university campuses, camps, and other vulnerable settings to address emerging challenges more effectively.

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Additionally, SCN formalized multiple Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) with major synagogue movements and leading advocacy organizations. These partnerships have strengthened SCN's ability to deliver comprehensive safety and security services to Jewish communities across North America, fostering collaboration, improving preparedness, and enhancing the resiliency of Jewish institutions.





Creating A Stronger Network

Our mission to create a proactive, protective shield over the Jewish community in North America hinges on our ability to partner, communicate, and stretch our network across the regions we cover.



We believe that sharing best practices, trends, and challenges serves to bolster our ability to protect and empower Jewish communities. To that end, the Secure Community Network has facilitated conversation and collaboration through:



Weekly calls between the network of professional security directors across the country.



Regional Security Working Group meetings to enhance SCN’s approach, improve operating procedures, and report on incidents, challenges, and best practices.



Monthly and quarterly regional calls to coordinate on safety and security measures and update Jewish community security professionals on the threat landscape and SCN updates.



Convening roundtable discussions in partnership with the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), to include examining the events on U.S. college campuses in the spring of 2024 and identify best-practice strategies and recommendations for the 2024 fall semester as well as hosting a convening on the subject of swatting and false bomb threats in the Spring of 2024.



AJC

In December, SCN and the American Jewish Committee (AJC) formalized a long-standing partnership through an MOA. This agreement strengthens coordination on key issues critical to Jewish communal safety, including hate crime reporting, best practices in security training, institutional security, and event-specific security planning and monitoring. This agreement builds on prior joint efforts, such as AJC’s [Law Enforcement Guide to Countering Antisemitism](#), which SCN helped develop alongside the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA).

Through this partnership, SCN will provide AJC with comprehensive support in safety, security, and resiliency. This includes intelligence and information sharing, physical security assessments, specialized training, incident response, and emergency planning. This cooperation not only bolsters efforts within the Jewish community but also extends to interfaith and broader policy-based initiatives.

“AJC has long had a critical role to play in the Jewish community, and as one of the four organizations that helped initiate and then supported the creation of SCN over 20 years ago, the partnership between us has always been a strong, and special one.

“The implementation of a formal Memorandum of Agreement is not only a natural next step in our relationship, but a reflection of the strong relationship between the organizations — and can be an example to others of the importance of coming together, particularly during these challenging times for our community.”

— **Michael Masters** | National Director & CEO, Secure Community Network



“This expanded collaboration between AJC and SCN will allow for our organizations to really lean into our joint work on the core policy issues of hate crimes reporting and faith-based safety and security. While all Jewish organizations have faced additional security issues this year, this partnership goes beyond everyday security — the partnership is about shaping the way we, as a society, move forward so that there are fewer of these threats and incidents to begin with. Good policy relies on good data, which is why improved hate crimes reporting — at all levels of government and law enforcement — is vital. Together, we can further engage with experts across the country to help build out best practices and bolster efforts to implement the changes we need to see.”

— **Ted Deutch** | CEO, American Jewish Committee



Campuses

SCN is proud to partner with Hillel International for its safety and security program. Our comprehensive approach addresses the unique security challenges faced by Jewish students, faculty, and staff on college and university campuses across North America and around the world amidst an increasingly challenging environment.

Operation SecureOurCampuses

The 2024–2025 academic year opened amid a heightened threat environment for Jewish students, faculty, and staff on campuses nationwide. Since 07 October, universities have become flashpoints for hostile protests and violent encampments, creating a climate of fear and intimidation. In 2024, SCN tracked 500 incidents of campus threats and suspicious activity, underscoring the urgent need for action. In response, SCN co-hosted a Campus Safety Roundtable, convening representatives from 92 universities across 24 states, including key law enforcement organizations such as the FBI and the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA). SCN coupled this national call with local roundtable meetings between law enforcement representatives and SCN Regional Security Directors to coordinate community-specific strategies in preparation for the 2024 fall semester. Based on these meetings, SCN developed 10 actionable recommendations to enhance campus safety through proactive planning, policy enforcement, and closer coordination with law enforcement. Building on this foundation, SCN and Hillel International launched Operation SecureOurCampuses, a comprehensive initiative



to safeguard Jewish communities at universities across the country. This initiative emphasizes the deployment of intelligence analysts, security assessments, direct consultations for Jewish campus facilities, and specialized training programs for students, faculty, and staff at 50 high-risk campuses. Leading these efforts was Kerri Reifel, SCN’s Director of Campus Safety and Security for Hillel International, who visited more than 20 campuses to conduct in-depth walkthroughs of Jewish facilities and strengthen partnerships with campus safety officials and local law enforcement. Reifel spearheaded nearly 80 training sessions, reaching over 2,500 participants and equipping them with critical skills to address potential threats. She also developed 40 tailored security plans for campus events and Hillel International programs while responding to 28 real-time incidents, providing vital support and guidance during crises. These efforts reflect SCN’s unwavering commitment to protecting Jewish communities and holding universities accountable for creating safe, secure, and law-abiding environments.

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Campuses
on which SCN conducted walkthroughs and meetings with campus safety or local law enforcement

2,500+

College students trained
through our Campus Security Initiative in partnership with Hillel International

40

Security plans executed
through our Campus Security Initiative in partnership with Hillel International

28

Real-time incidents
requiring immediate security support and guidance



Camps

With growing threats, SCN secured camps by strengthening perimeters, training staff, conducting threat assessments, and coordinating emergency plans.

Camp Security Initiative

In April, SCN and the Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC), supported by a challenge grant from the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation and an anonymous donor, launched a groundbreaking initiative to enhance the safety and resiliency of over 300 Jewish day and overnight camps across North America. This program has been particularly impactful for camps lacking local security infrastructure, offering crucial resources during the camp season. Led by Jim Tarasca, Camp Security Initiative Director, the initiative connected camps to SCN’s advanced intelligence and information-sharing system. SCN and FJC provided training programs and workshops to more than 60 camps, engaging 3,100 participants in 24 U.S. states and Canada. Camps received security assessments, physical security guidance, and specialized training tailored for counselors, administrators, and leadership, strengthening preparedness and response capabilities. The initiative began with regional kick-off events for FJC-affiliated camps, promoting collaboration and introducing updated safety guidelines. Comprehensive training sessions included core drills like Stop the Bleed® and Countering Active Threat Training (CATT). SCN’s security professionals conducted site walkthroughs and assessments to improve security measures, refine emergency procedures, and assist camps with state and federal nonprofit security grant applications.

300+

Day & Overnight Camps

3,100+

Participants

24

States/Provinces



“We greatly appreciate SCN’s increased efforts and investments to support our field, especially in preparation for the upcoming summer. Connecting Jewish camps to SCN’s Regional Security Directors — in addition to local Federation security programs — offers them access to expertise and resources that will make a meaningful difference for camp security and safety this summer.”

— Jeremy J. Fingerman | FJC CEO



Synagogue Safety

Secure Community Network's synagogue outreach program works closely with synagogue and movement leadership to address the unique security challenges of synagogues throughout North America, providing resources, guidance, training, and consultation.

Synagogue Outreach Program

In December 2023, SCN announced the creation of a Synagogue Outreach program, led by Director Larry Glickman, who spent 11 years with the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ), most recently as Director of Congregational Shared Services.

In 2024, the Synagogue Outreach program led to new or enhanced memoranda of agreement with several major Jewish movements and organizations, to include the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ), URJ, Reconstructing Judaism, and the Alliance for Jewish Renewal (ALEPH).

This outreach effort has also resulted in expanded programming in Jewish communities across the country, to include the screening series of A Tree of Life in partnership with HBO and local Jewish federations, and the development of several new resources specific to houses of worship, to include a checklist for Synagogue Conference and Special Event Security.



SYNAGOGUE CONFERENCE AND SPECIAL EVENT SECURITY



“SCN definitely provides a security blanket; it lets the community know that someone is watching their back. Sometimes some of these crimes can go unnoticed. [But] we need to stay hopeful and optimistic, and not only go on with our lives [but] increase in activities because you don't beat hate with hate—you beat hate with love, and you beat darkness with light.”

— Rabbi Avraham Kagan
Chabad River North








Jewish Day Schools

Field Trip Safety

In November, SCN and Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools partnered to develop a detailed set of field trip safety guidelines as part of an ongoing commitment to enhancing security measures for Jewish schools and organizations. The new resource, [“Field Trip Safety Considerations,”](#) provides comprehensive guidance for Jewish schools and organizations planning off-site activities by prioritizing the safety and security of students and staff.

The “Field Trip Safety Considerations” resource includes:

-  Pre-trip planning considerations
-  Transportation safety measures
-  On-site security protocols
-  Medical emergency preparedness
-  Communication and reunification plans

“Providing schools with the knowledge and resources they need to ensure a safe environment for students and faculty to learn and grow is essential. Jewish day schools enable their students and communities to connect to their Jewish identity and values, and to go on to lead full and meaningful lives, and ensuring their safety is the responsibility of the whole Jewish community. We are grateful to SCN for providing this resource.”

— **Paul Bernstein** | CEO, Prizmah

Field Trip Safety Considerations Resource



-  Contact your community or regional security initiative/ advisor/director to discuss the trip and address any concerns.
-  Develop a detailed field trip plan that includes: a schedule of events, transportation, contact information for the destination, emergency contact information for all participants, local security initiative, etc.
-  Select and properly vet group leaders and chaperones who will be responsible for participants and/or activities.
-  Identify participants with special needs.
-  Brief staff, group leaders, and chaperones on the plan.
-  Be aware of other local events and crime trends that may affect your trip.
-  In your plan, include a security component and utilize site-specific resources where possible/appropriate:
 -  Consider advising local law enforcement of your plans and request extra presence or patrols.
 -  Check to determine your destination’s security, including whether the site has law enforcement, armed, or unarmed security.
 -  Supplement any security efforts with those needed to ensure your group’s safety and security, including off-duty law enforcement or private security, if deemed necessary and/or appropriate.
-  Familiarize yourself with the destination’s entrance, exits, and parking and any nearby risks or hazards.
-  Develop communication, lost/missing children, medical emergencies, and reunification plans.

To view the full resource, visit [SECURECOMMUNITYNETWORK.COM/RESOURCES](https://securecommunitynetwork.com/resources) 



Mitigation & Preperation

**West Rogers Park Shooting On Saturday, October 26, 2024,
a Jewish man was shot while walking to synagogue
in Chicago’s West Rogers Park neighborhood.**

In response, SCN quickly coordinated with the Jewish United Fund of Chicago (JUF) and relevant law enforcement partners, including the Chicago Police Department and the FBI, to address the assault on the community member. After a thorough investigation, authorities filed felony hate crime and terrorism charges against 22-year-old Sidi Mohamed Abdallahi. On November 22, authorities disclosed that they found antisemitic content on

his phone, along with internet searches for local synagogues and a gun range around the time of the attack. On November 30, the suspect died in police custody. Though the case is still ongoing, this incident underscores the effectiveness of SCN’s integrated and localized security model, which enabled a rapid response, investigative support, and coordinated security protocols with local authorities and Chicago’s community security program.



“When my 50th Ward community was targeted by antisemitic hate, SCN stood with us—bringing national coordination, critical intelligence, and a steady hand in a time of crisis. I am proud to work with them to protect Jewish life in the City of Chicago and beyond.”

— Debra Silverstein
Alderman of the 50th Ward of the City of Chicago, Illinois

Preparing The Community



Election Preparedness

Intelligence gathering and government warnings suggested that ideologically motivated violent extremists and state actors might target election-related locations for violence or harassment.

In response, SCN implemented proactive safety measures, specifically supporting polling sites, organizations, and institutions within Jewish communities nationwide. In October, SCN released a security bulletin outlining potential threats, shared with law enforcement, Jewish communal organizations, and intelligence partners. SCN also distributed a specialized election safety resource to Jewish groups across the country.

On Election Day, SCN's Duty Desk monitored polling places in Jewish neighborhoods, leveraging advanced geofencing technology and localized intelligence. SCN also worked closely with major synagogue movements and partners like the OU and ADL to promote a coordinated election security approach.

2024/5785 High Holidays Safety & Security Webinar Series

In 2024, SCN hosted twenty-three national safety and security webinars and trainings ahead of the High Holidays — aimed at empowering and equipping the Jewish community across North America with the tools, guidance, and best practices to keep their communities safe amidst a time of heightened importance and security concerns. A record of nearly 15,000 participants signed up to attend this year's webinar series.

Each webinar covered a unique area of safety, security, and other High Holidays considerations, and was led by SCN's team of security professionals and national security experts, joined by expert guest speakers and faith leaders.

FY 2024/2025 NSGP Webinar Series

Our Nonprofit Security Grant Program team hosted its annual webinar series to assist nonprofit organizations through the NSGP grant application process. A six-part series across six months, this series walked participants through critical steps like award implementation, strategic planning, grant application writing, threats and risks under the NSGP program, and guidance and updates to help navigate a changing process.



Passover Security Briefing With FBI Director Wray

In preparation for Passover, SCN hosted, in partnership with Jewish Federations of North America, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and ADL, a holiday security briefing featuring keynote remarks from FBI Director Christopher Wray. The event offered an in-depth analysis of the threat landscape and practical measures for safeguarding Jewish institutions ahead of the holiday.

FBI Director Wray underscored the gravity of the post-07 October threat landscape: "Today, we remain particularly concerned about lone actors targeting large gatherings, high-profile events, or symbolic religious locations as Passover approaches." He highlighted a threefold surge in anti-Jewish hate crime investigations since 07 October, reaffirming the FBI's unwavering commitment to our communities' safety and zero tolerance for hate crimes.

SCN National Director & CEO Michael Masters shared during the briefing, "Unprecedented threats do not need to equate to unnecessary fear or panic. Let's focus on empowerment, ensuring our families can walk to shul and our children can proudly express their Jewish identity." Thanks in part to these efforts and the vigilance of communities and law enforcement, Passover was observed without incident.



SECTION 4

Action. Achievement. Impact.

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2024 Homeland Security
Summit

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Homeland Security Summit



SCN is proud of its role as a national convener of communal security professionals and law enforcement partners across North America. Each year, SCN's Homeland Security Summit provides a forum for vital conversations that strengthen the bonds of our network and exchange best practices to protect our communities.



Keynote speaker and former Mossad Director Yossi Cohen spoke about strategies for protecting Jewish communities in a post-07 October world, highlighting the importance of intelligence sharing and proactive defensive measures.

In October, SCN convened over 150 Jewish communal security professionals, law enforcement officials, and security experts in Las Vegas for our 2024 Homeland Security Summit. The summit covered pressing safety and security challenges facing the Jewish community, particularly in light of the 07 October Hamas terror attacks on Israel and their impact on the Jewish diaspora across North America.

SCN's partners, including Jewish Federations of North America and the ADL, also contributed their insights. ADL Center on Extremism Vice President Oren Segal provided insights into the current threat landscape on a panel with several experts, including FBI Special Agent in Charge



Jewish Federations of North America President and CEO Eric Fingerhut discussed the importance of Federation security and effective community engagement.

Spencer Evans.

A highlight was a keynote panel revisiting the January 15, 2022, Colleyville hostage crisis, featuring Congregation Beth Israel President and survivor Jeff Cohen, retired FBI Dallas Field Office Special Agent in Charge Matthew DeSarno, Former FBI Supervisory Special Agent on the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team and current SCN Deputy Regional Director Ryan Short, and Colleyville Police Chief Michael Miller. Former White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer presented strategies for effective crisis communication, and Lieutenant Colonel David Grossman (Ret.) delivered the closing keynote address.



U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen and Representative Susie Lee (pictured), Congressional leaders committed to Jewish safety and security, delivered remarks to summit attendees.



Community Education

Screening Tour of HBO's 'A Tree Of Life' & Accompanying Training



SCN, in partnership with HBO and local Jewish federations, organized nearly a dozen screenings of the documentary A Tree of Life. Each screening was followed by a panel discussion featuring survivors of the 2018 Tree of Life synagogue attack, who shared their personal experiences, alongside leaders from local and national safety and security organizations, law enforcement officials, and Jewish community representatives. The program engaged approximately 1,100 attendees across communities in Atlanta, Cleveland, Jacksonville, Norfolk, Omaha, Orlando, Park City, Philadelphia, and more.

During the tour, SCN also provided Countering Active Threat Training (CATT) sessions at each location. This training, modeled on the techniques credited with saving lives during the Pittsburgh tragedy and Colleyville hostage crisis, drew nearly 500 participants across the host communities. Notably, CBS Nightly News attended the Orlando training to produce a segment for the CBS Evening News with Norah O'Donnell.





SCN In The Media

Through strategic media engagements and focused campaigns, SCN enhanced its visibility, solidified its role as a thought leader, and amplified awareness of critical security initiatives.



High-profile features in outlets such as The Wall Street Journal, CBS Evening News, and NBC News spotlighted SCN. Op-eds by SCN’s executive leadership addressed pressing issues, including post-07 October security challenges and escalating tensions on university campuses.

SCN made headlines after organizing major security forums featuring FBI Director Christopher Wray and the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA). These briefings highlighted SCN’s role in fostering dialogue between Jewish communities and law enforcement agencies. On a local level, SCN engaged broadcast and print outlets in cities and regions like Chicago, Orlando, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City, Northern New Jersey, and Jacksonville, leveraging programs like our screening of HBO’s A Tree of Life to spotlight the life-saving impact of our training curricula and localized security programs, while national advocacy campaigns like petitions to Congress played a pivotal role in helping restore and increase funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP).

NBC News:

“With direct lines to the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, and state and local law enforcement agencies, this 24/7 operation scrapes data from 18,000 sources – everything from social media to the dark web to utilities... if it impacts the Jewish community, whether it's an active shooter, vandalism, or even a weather event, it's all tracked by analysts here in this room.”

CBS News:

“In this Chicago command center, threats to the nation’s Jewish community [are] mapped coast-to-coast...Most simply, the Secure Community Network is the Jewish community’s own FBI and Department of Homeland Security.”

Major National Outlets:



Major Jewish Outlets:



Local Media:





THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

“The lesson is that you build the ark before it rains,’ Mr. Masters says. It pays off. Before an armed intruder took a rabbi and three men hostage at the Congregation Beth Israel synagogue in Texas in 2022, SCN had held a training session there. At the session, someone asked how to defend yourself if you have nothing but a chair. ‘Throw the chair,’ the SCN trainer said.”



“Unprecedented threats do not need to equate to unnecessary fear or panic,’ said SCN national director and CEO Michael Masters, who added that the public can ‘rest assured that those focused on the safety and security of the community are maintaining a laser-like focus on this so Jewish life can exist and thrive.’”

The Washington Times

“Grant-funded security equipment was credited with helping save lives at Margolin Hebrew Academy in Memphis last summer when a gunman unsuccessfully attempted to enter the premises, according to the Secure Community Network.”

NEW YORK POST

“The unacceptable threat environment for Jewish students, faculty, and staff on campuses across the country demands an immediate and robust response,’ said SCN National Director and CEO Michael Masters. ‘We are committed to ensuring that members of the community feel safe and supported as they pursue their education — they should be able to walk across our campuses free from fear, harassment, or targeted violence.’”

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

“We are all the eyes and ears. We are all a little bit of the light that needs to come together to make a very bright light to protect our community and dispel the darkness,’ said Masters.”



“Amidst this year’s unprecedented threat environment, SCN and FJC are emphasizing greater preparedness for administrators, counselors, and campers through an updated, targeted camp training curriculum for leadership, staff, and campers while bolstering the physical security of rural and urban camp facilities,’ said SCN national director and CEO Michael Masters. ‘The program has also already secured \$2.1 million in federal grants to enhance physical security for camps, which often require unique tools given the size and location of camps. This proactive, protective shield for camps will continue to expand as the initiative grows and develops.’”



SECTION 5

Making It Possible

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In Recognition





In Recognition

Thank You, Harold



With the election of Wendy A. Berger as SCN's new Board Chair, we all share a profound appreciation for outgoing Board Chair Harold Gernsbacher for his exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment. Under Harold's stewardship, SCN grew from a nascent operation with just a handful of staff into a nationally respected organization with over 100 employees and a budget exceeding \$25 million.

Thanks to Harold's vision and guidance, SCN expanded its physical security presence to more than 40 Jewish communities across North America — ensuring that Jewish institutions now benefit from full-time, on-the-ground protection. He championed the creation of SCN's state-of-the-art Jewish Security Operations Command Center, which now operates 24/7 to monitor, track, and respond to threats, suspicious activity, and incidents across the continent.

Harold's leadership also helped transform SCN's training curriculum into the gold standard for Jewish communal security, equipping professionals and volunteers alike with the tools

and knowledge to keep our communities safe. Through his tireless efforts, SCN has forged deep, trusted partnerships with law enforcement and intelligence agencies at the local, state, and federal levels — cementing its role as a critical player in the security and protection of Jewish life.

"I want to express our deepest gratitude to Harold Gernsbacher, whose transformational leadership has expanded SCN's impact and reach from nascency to cement its leadership in Jewish communal security," said SCN National Director & CEO Michael Masters. "With this exceptional team, we are well-positioned to advance our mission of protecting and safeguarding Jewish life across North America."

Remembering Bernard 'Bernie' Marcus z"l



His legacy is defined by his unwavering commitment to philanthropy, driven by his profound sense of duty and compassion.

Bernie Marcus (1929-2024) was more than a visionary entrepreneur. He was a steadfast guardian and champion of the Jewish community whose recent passing is deeply felt across our entire network. As an integral figure in the founding of the Secure Community Network, Bernie recognized early on the vital importance of communal safety and resilience. His leadership and foresight provided the foundation upon which our organization stands, enabling SCN to grow into a robust and essential resource safeguarding Jewish communities throughout North America.

Bernie was the co-founder of Home Depot and coined the term "do it yourself" — which became not just a phrase but an approach to life that Bernie embodied through his work and generosity. His legacy is defined by his unwavering commitment to philanthropy, driven by his profound sense of duty and compassion. His generosity was instrumental in establishing SCN in 2004, reflecting his determination to proactively address emerging security challenges and equip

our community with resources, preparation, and empowerment. His involvement and support consistently underscored his belief in our mission.

As we honor Bernie Marcus, we reaffirm our dedication to the mission he passionately championed. His enduring impact inspires each of us to uphold the highest standards of safety, unity, and preparedness. SCN remains profoundly grateful for Bernie's vision and generosity, committed always to honoring his legacy through our continued service and dedication to securing a safe and vibrant future for the Jewish community he loved deeply.