



Kol Chadash

a project of Kol HaNeshamah
Seattle, WA

Briefing Document | Kol Chadash is funded through

Program: *By & For* Community Response to Victimization Program
Award: \$500,000 over 3 years, 10.1.19-9.30.22, eligible for renewal
Awarded by: Office of Crime Victim Advocacy,
an office of the WA State Department of Commerce

Kol Chadash is one way that KHN is engaged in practical efforts to “re-vision public safety”, foster transformative justice and mutual aid, and create non-carceral responses to harm.

For this program, Washington State’s Office of Crime Victim Advocacy sought applications “by and for” community-based responses to various types of crime victimization. OCVA’s RFP was a result of decades of education and activism by a diverse coalition of grassroots anti-violence community organizers seeking to center community voices to foster innovative, meaningful, transformative responses to harm while de-centering carceral logics, tactics and institutions.

Every day, I was dealing with antisemitism on the job. Jokes about Hitler, ‘final solutions’, turning a German Shepard loose...I was scared and stressed out. Kol Chadash helped me make a plan, and now things are much, much better at work.

In the development of the Kol Chadash project, KHN built on our community work in responses to antisemitic violence, our deep community connections with formal and informal anti-violence organizations in the region, state and nation, as well as KHN’s long-time Tikkun Olam work in opposition of ICE detention and in support of asylum seekers.

KHN’s project addresses antisemitic bias, harassment and hate incidents and includes activities that promote healing, community visibility and cohesion, positive identity formation, as well as direct advocacy and related supports for youth and adults experiencing antisemitic and other forms of bias.

The award funds will be comprised of WA state and passthrough federal crime victim funds through the Victim of Crime Act program in the Department of Justice. These funds typically originate from financial penalties against corporations for criminal activity.

From our application:

We are addressing antisemitic bias, harassment, bullying and hate crimes against Jewish people in King County and surrounding areas (and across the country) and the attending need for culturally relevant, culturally competent, survivor-centered support, visibility, advocacy and community connections by and for Jewish people in response to these on-going events.

Hate crimes are committed with the intent not only of sending a message to the direct target, but also to the community as a whole. The damage done to victims and to communities through hate crimes cannot be qualified adequately if one only considers physical injury. The damage to the very fabric of a community where a hate crime has occurred must also be taken into account. Hate crimes, in effect, create a kind of public injury because they rapidly erode public confidence in being kept free and safe from these crimes. To that extent, crimes of this nature can traumatize entire communities.

Jewish organizations typically fund our activities with contributions made by members. However, most Jewish people in the Pacific Northwest are not formally affiliated with a Jewish institution or congregation. Still, “unaffiliated” Jewish people often reach out for support following a personal experience of harassment or bias, or after a notorious regional or national incident of violence. Since Kol HaNeshamah does not have tickets for events or gatherings and ensures low/no barriers for unaffiliated people participating in our activities and observances, we are called upon to provide support to many unaffiliated Jewish people in the region. A far greater portion than our resources can feasibly sustain.



Kol Chadash response to antisemitic graffiti on Seattle's Capitol Hill, with Program Coordinator, Orin Reynolds.

OCVA Funds pay for:

- Kol Chadash Project Coordinator,
- ED salary related to project,
- printing, publicity, trainers' fees, and
- related expenses and overhead.

The independence of religious institutions from state structures is a basic tenant of democratic society. KHN, like virtually all religious organizations in the United States, is a 501(c)3 organization under the federal tax code and accepts certain restrictions to our official and collective speech and actions in order to provide tax benefits for clergy (such as the parsonage benefit) as well as for member contributions to the synagogue. While our 501(c)3 status does put some limits on our congregation, **KHN's bima is in no way limited** by the OCVA program, nor can OCVA restrict KHN's speech, community activism or other work or actions.



CELEBRATE COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY AT
Kol HaNeshemah's
Pop-Up Chanukah
Sunday 12.22.19 | 5:00pm
Junction Plaza Park

Join your West Seattle neighbors to say:
"NO to Hate & YES to Donuts!"

120 folks showed up, in the cold & rain, DURING A SEAHAWKS GAME!



How will you
answer the call?

PUGET SOUND THE SHOFAR

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 13

1:00PM

YOUR PORCH,
BALCONY OR
BACKYARD

Puget Sound Jews,
let's make a joyful noise
and sound the shofar
together as we prepare for
these most extraordinary
High Holy Days!



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more info at khnseattle.org

Jewish visibility & community cohesion. URJ, reconstructionist, orthodox, & conservative congregations & well as UW Hillel participated!

Project Deliverables | October 2019-September 2022

| | Activity | Description | Approx # | KHN Work | Staff |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Regular on-going or intermittent work | School response support | Support children, youth and their families respond to anti-Semitic bullying, harassment and bias incidents in school context. | 75 people (25 per year) | KHTY discussion Hebrew School Individually as needed Warm Referral to ADL, JFS etc | Coordinator, Ed director, KHTY Advisor |
| | Community Response and Healing Events | Mobilize community events to reject bias incidents and hate crimes and demonstrate community support for Jewish victims and communities and promote community resilience and healing. | As needed, hopefully few, but likely up to 8 events (2-3 per year) | Pop-Up Chanukah Ex: Community service in response to the shooting at TOL. | ALL |
| | Community Response Education | Support parents and families and professionals to understand the impact of bias incidents, and to assist children and others in the wake of notorious or local bias/hate incidents. | 180-240 people (60-80 per year) | After incident meetings (such as family/school mtg) Limmud Shabbat Shavuot Study Session, Pride Shabbat | Coordinator Ed Director ALL |
| | Spiritual Healing Services | Jewishly relevant healing support for anti-Semitic harassment, bias for hate crime victims and their families | Up to 24 people (<=8 per year) | Rabbi's regular pastoral care | Rabbi |
| | Victims support/ advocacy | Assistance with police reports, safety planning, help dealing with media requests, community referrals, memorials etc. | Up to 24 people (<= 8 per year) | Coincide with Rabbi's regular pastoral care | Coordinator Exec Dir Rabbi |
| | Stabilization Support | \$\$ to stabilize victims and families (match) | Up to 24 people (<= 8 per year) | Support staff time related to Rabbi discretionary funds | Rabbi with admin Help from ExecDir |
| | Outreach Referral | Targeted outreach to identify victims of bias, harassment and crime | Up to 300 people (100 per year) | Ex: HHD announcements, Reflection Journal | All |
| | Outreach, Community Relations | Coordinate outreach to inform Jewish people and allies about bias, harassment & hate crime resources. | 1500 (500 per year) | Info in school materials, Bnai Mitzvah binders, HHD and other mailers, Jewish Film Festival | All |
| New Work | Critical Incident Training | Organizing training for professionals and community | 60 participants (one time) | Responds to request by congregants for security training | Exec Dir |
| | Community Security Chest | Provide security resources for Jewish gatherings (\$\$ for guards) | Up to 100 events (33 per year) | Create & Administer security expense reimbursement for shuls & orgs | Exec Dir |

