



**JCCPGH Center for
Loving Kindness**



UPstander event cooking Afghan meals, 2021

The Center for Loving Kindness and Civic Engagement (CFLK) was established in August 2017 to strategically counter the distressing rhetoric of public discourse by strengthening the fabric of the community by amplifying the long-held values of *Love your neighbor as yourself* and *Do not stand idle while your neighbor bleeds* as we redefine *neighbor* from a geographic term to a moral concept.

We create safe spaces in which neighbors can live in community with one another based on our shared humanity through real and perceived differences in 6 areas of focus.

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Center for Loving Kindness and Civic Engagement Accomplishments and Impact August 2017-December 2021 Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh

We break down geographic, cultural, economic, and racial neighborhood divides to build community connectivity

- **10** social justice focused exhibitions at the JCC's American Jewish Museum
- **80+** social justice-focused forums at the JCC in Squirrel Hill and South Hills, and on Zoom
- **1,000+** teens participated in 10+ social justice events
- Responded to **13** local and national communities experiencing traumatic events
- CFLK community participated in **5** live streamed and on-site vigils and community prayers in response to George Floyd's death and the Atlanta murders targeting the Asian and Pacific Island community, in collaboration with dozens of community partners: **6,000+** social media views
- **3,000** participants in **15** social justice holiday celebrations
- Ongoing "It's A Beautiful Shabbat in the Neighborhood" interviews posted weekly to social media that highlight diverse community partners and issues: avg. **150** engagements
- Hosted a Covid vaccine clinic with **30** community partners to ensure that immigrant, refugee, Black, Latinx and Asian communities, restaurant workers, and other frontline workers had vaccine access: **1,200+** vaccines administered
- Hosted **4** Covid vaccine clinics for the Latino Community Center, ensuring that Latinx communities have access to vaccination sites where they feel safe and welcomed
- Worked with **100+** partner organizations across all Pittsburgh neighborhoods

We ignite people of good will to move to action

- Created, nurtured and grew a dedicated corps of **80** UPstander volunteers who show up for neighbors to rally, support, and stand shoulder to shoulder, and more, when needed: formed in Summer 2020 with ongoing growth
- UPstanders have met various community needs like supporting community gardens, providing church maintenance, and helping at numerous community gatherings, vigils, and celebrations
- UPstanders served in **20+** vaccination clinics throughout the region that administered **10,000+** vaccines
- UPstanders made **3,000+** registration and reminder phone calls to neighbors for Covid vaccines
- UPstanders participated in **10+** community-building events and racial justice vigils
- Coordinated **2** cooking events with Islamic and Evangelical congregations to provide **50** newly arrived Afghan refugee neighbors with Afghan cuisine meals
- Delivered meals to new Afghan neighbors; over **1,000+** meals prepared and delivered
- Partnered with JFCS resettlement service to host **2** furniture drives to support Afghan neighbors



High Holidays of Hope: UPstander Tammy Thompson of Circles and Zack Block of Repair The World, 2019



1st Amendment for the 21st Century conference panel discussion, 2019



Daniel Tabares, Parkland High School student, receives 2019's Kindness Award



Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom at Tzedakah/Sadaqah Day, 2019



We support neighbors on their journey to new and different perspectives relating to living together in our diverse community

- Parkland to Pittsburgh April 2019 4-day weekend of resilience, healing, community-building and shared experiences; the weekend included a Town Hall Special on community healing after mass casualty events aired live on WTAE: **300** people in live audience with **100,000+** engagements on TV and social media
- **2,100+** participants at **20** issue-based community gatherings, workshops and conversation series
- **400+** attendees at **6** Hopeful Conversations for spiritual leaders and the public
- A community of **170+** people joins two weekly classes on Zoom that integrate arts, humanities, and current events with civic engagement, racial justice and equity
- **1,176** participants in **10** Osher Life-Long Learning social justice courses offered through CMU and University of Pittsburgh
- **150,000** reached at conferences, events, podcasts, and social media posts and live streams about living in diverse community

We inspire people to move beyond their interfaith differences

- **225** attendees at First Amendment Freedom of Religion Conference with keynote speaker Nina Totenberg in September 2019; **50** attendees at post-conference workshop
- **10** visits to Center for Victims Healing Rivers Project with **70+** interfaith leaders exploring the spiritual, emotional, physical, and social impacts of trauma
- Network of **500+** interfaith spiritual leaders representing **10** world religions, **21** Christian denominations, and **5** Jewish denominations throughout Southwestern PA
- Sofa Spirituality, online interfaith exploration platform with national reach, with **100+** published interviews with spiritual leaders with **1,000+** dialogue participants since June 2020; ongoing partnerships in AZ, NJ, and PA

We create safe spaces for Pittsburgh police officers and spiritual leaders to build relationships, seeing each other as human beings

- Rebuilding and Restoring: Pittsburgh Police/Clergy Council meetings in all **6** Pittsburgh Bureau of Police zones: **18** meetings since April 2020
- **70+** clergy engagements: **56** individuals
- **27** officer engagements: **22** individuals
- Hosted **33** Zone 4 Public Safety Meetings
- Hosted 9-week Citizen's Police Academy course

We embolden neighbors to talk to each other through their different political partisan affiliations

- Active leadership in Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh Census 2020 Complete Count Committee resulting in increased rate of self-reporting
- **250+** community leaders engaged in promoting easy access to the polls in Allegheny County for the November 2020 election: **10** community partnering organizations
- **90+** members of Pittsburgh's interfaith spiritual leaders received de-escalation training from the Carter Center in preparation for the 2020 presidential election
- **5** sessions with Braver Angels on subjects of depolarization throughout 2021; **300+** overall attendees, **10** community partnering organizations