

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 24, 2022

JCC Center for Loving Kindness, Christian Associates of Southwest PA and Calvary United Methodist Church bring together Spiritual Leaders and Community on Wednesday January 26 to welcome back the staff of Oliver Citywide Academy after murder of Marquis Campbell

WHAT: In the aftermath of the murder of Marquis Campbell, spiritual leaders and community members are gathering to welcome back the staff of the Oliver Citywide Academy. Inspired by Rev. Kelly Smith of Calvary United Methodist Church, the JCC's Center for Loving Kindness and Christian Associates of Southwest PA (CASP) are working with Rev. Smith to show our appreciation to the staff. Aside from warm smiles on a cold morning, greeters will share gifts with the staff as they celebrate them with signs that read "Love your TEACHER as yourself", "Love your SCHOOL SECRETARY as yourself", and the like. All three partners invite their broad network of interfaith spiritual leaders and community members from across the region to join this special event.

WHEN AND WHERE: Wednesday, January 26; 6:45-7:45 AM. Rain or Snow or Shine (In case of a delayed start, we will e-mail you of any changes in our plan.)

2323 Brighton Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

STATEMENT: Rabbi Ron Symons of the JCC's Center for Loving Kindness said, "The pain and trauma of losing a student in the midst of school procedures is overwhelming. When you add to it the challenges of COVID and the on-going work of educating our children, we know that all our neighbors who work in Oliver Citywide Academy need to know that they are appreciated. This what we mean by redefining 'neighbor' from a geographic term to a moral concept."

For more information, contact:

Rev. Kellie Smith (214) 202-9291 kellita00@gmail.com

Rabbi Ron Symons (412) 736-4334 rsymons@jccpgh.org

About the JCC Center for Loving Kindness and Civic Engagement

The JCC Center for Loving Kindness was established in 2016 with the goal of redefining the word *neighbor* from a geographic term to a moral concept. Staff and volunteers work to build bridges among diverse communities by encouraging and teaching people to transform from a "bystander" to an "upstander." Just as the JCC's physical location serves as the community's town square and heartbeat, the Center For Loving Kindness works to strengthen the fabric of community and the Jewish value of "love your neighbor as yourself." For more on the Center for Loving Kindness visit: <https://jccpgh.org/center-loving-kindness>

For interviews and other media inquiries please contact:

Fara Marcus fmarcus@jccpgh.org 412-339-5413 | Cathy Samuels csamuels@jccpgh.org

For more information about the JCC: JCCPGH.org

Cathy Green Samuels
Chief Development and
Communications Officer
412-697-3501
csamuels@jccpgh.org

Fara Marcus
Director of Marketing and
Development
412-339-5413
fmarcus@jccpgh.org

**Jewish Community Center
of Greater Pittsburgh**
JCCPGH.org

Squirrel Hill
5738 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412-521-8010

South Hills
345 Kane Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15243
412-278-1975