



AGUDATH ISRAEL OF ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD MISSION
MARCH 29, 2017

OPENING DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY
FOR THE COMMUNITY



WHAT AGUDATH ISRAEL MEANS TO THE COMMUNITY



OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

- Community Advocacy:
 - Protecting Religious Liberty
 - School Choice & Tuition Relief Advocacy
 - Advocating for Israel
 - Security Grant Advocacy
 - Combatting Anti-Semitism
- Educational Institutions Services
- Commission on Special Education
- Get Out the Vote Campaigns
- Legal Support Services
- Constituent Services



COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Community Charity Alliance for the Needy
- Holiday Preparations Assistance
- Holiday Food Assistance Program **EXPANDED 2017**
- Midwest Agudah Convention **EXPANDED 2017**
- Midwest Agudah Lay Leaders Conference
- Community Safety & Security Initiative
- Young Leadership Initiative
- Antonia Spitzer Jewish Library **EXPANDED 2017**



CAMPING NETWORK

- Agudah Midwest Boys Overnight Summer Camp
- Agudah Midwest Girls Overnight Summer Camp
- Bnos Ma'arava Overnight Summer Camp
- Spark for Teens Overnight Summer Camp
- Nageela Midwest Overnight Summer Camp
- PDC2 Day Camp



YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Pirchei & Bnos Youth Groups
- After school, Weekend, Holiday, and Summer Programs
- Bar Mitzvah Preparation Program
- Youth Field Trips
- Youth Trips to Visit the Elderly & Infirm
- Dor L'Dor Father & Son Study Program



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Nageela Outreach Year-Round
- Camp Nageela Boys Midwest
- Camp Nageela Girls Midwest
- Youth retreats
- Pre-Holiday events
- Big Sister Little Sister Program **NEW 2016**
- Big Brother Little Brother Program **NEW 2016**



ADULT EDUCATION

- Midwest Council of Synagogue Rabbis
75 rabbis across 11 states and 17 cities
- Midwest Daf Yomi Commission
- Ner Reuven Awareness Initiative
- Publication Department
- Midwest Bais Hora'ah with Rabbinic Inquiry Hotline **NEW 2017**



CHAYIM ARUCHIM DIVISION **NEW 2016**

- Center for Culturally Sensitive Health Advocacy & Counseling
- End-of-Life Guidance and Support Services
- Culturally Sensitive Hospice & Palliative Care Navigation
- Halachic Medical Advanced Directives
- 24-Hour Help Hotline



AGUDAH BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

- Chesed Shel Emes burial services for the unclaimed & indigent decedents
- Jewish cemetery plots
- Facilitate funeral & burial, services



PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

- Family Calendar
- Safa Berurah on Relevant and Seasonal Jewish Law
- Passover Guide

CHILD NUTRITION



KOSHER KIWI KIDS SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

- Works through the National School Lunch Program and School Free and Reduced Lunch Application Processing
- 49% of participating students qualify & receive Free or Reduced Lunch
- 70% of families who don't qualify for government aid receive private subsidies
- 1,600 meals served daily,
- 1 million meals served since launched in June 2014
- 7 schools being serviced **EXPANDED 2017**
- Exclusive Commissary Kitchen for kosher cooking and preparation
- Meals delivered and served hot
- Breakfast **NEW 2017**
- Keshet Program providing jobs for special needs community **NEW 2017**



COMMUNITYWIDE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

- ALL children at participating camps receive breakfast and lunch free of charge
- Chicago Park District Kosher for Participating Camps

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

★ SECURING COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS & FIGHTING ANTI-SEMITISM

- Many of the synagogues and schools in the Orthodox Jewish community are located in areas classified as high risk by federal and state agencies.
- Anti-Semitism is on the rise. Bomb threats to Jewish institutions and anti-Semitic incidents have recently spiked, including instances in the Chicago area.
- These incidents and threats are a source of concern and angst for many in the Jewish community.
- **HB 4011, HB 4012 SOS-Emergency Security Grants:** Sponsored by Representative Lang and numerous co-sponsors, this bill provides a \$25 million appropriation for security grants to at-risk not-for-profit organizations to assist in preventing, preparing for, or responding to attacks.
- **HB 2390:** Agudath Israel of Illinois supports strengthening Illinois' Hate Crime Law by increasing penalties for acts of vandalism against houses of worship and religious centers.
- Agudath Israel of Illinois supports the Governor's initiatives to improve law enforcement training and response on hate crimes, to expand the curriculum in schools that educate students about the Holocaust, and to strengthen Illinois' anti-BDS law by prohibiting state contracts for companies that boycott Israel.

★ TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Agudath Israel of Illinois represents more than 5,000 students attending Jewish day schools in the Chicago area. The overwhelming majority of these students and many others who wish to attend Jewish day schools require some type of financial aid.
- A scholarship tax credit program will encourage individuals and businesses to invest in education and assist and enable thousands of children to attend a school of their choice.
- A well-crafted scholarship tax credit program would help retain and attract and many working families to the State of Illinois, driving economic growth and development.

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EDUCATION FUNDING

- Two extremely beneficial programs used to assist nonpublic school students. The Illinois Textbook Loan Program (ITLP) provided textbooks for public and nonpublic school students. A transportation grant for schools represented by Agudath Israel was in place for nearly a decade. The ITLP was terminated in 2010 and the transportation grant was discontinued in 2015. With the loss of two major state-funded benefits, students attending Jewish day schools have experienced setbacks instead of progress. Tax paying parents are saving the state millions of dollars by paying privately for their children's education, but the financial burden is becoming increasingly difficult, and for many, unsustainable.
- Agudath Israel of Illinois is seeking a measure of relief for parents who send their children to private schools in the form of an increase to the education tax credit from \$500 to \$750.
- **SB 9** included such an increase. Despite the fact that the bill has not been able to advance, Agudath Israel views the Senate's bipartisan consensus behind its passage as an indication that an increase to the education tax credit is agreeable to lawmakers from both parties.



Our missions to Springfield, Illinois are attended by groups of dedicated community members who are politically engaged and meet periodically with legislators to discuss issues of importance to our community.

Your presence today demonstrates the involvement of our community and helps to promote projects that are of great benefit to our community.

We thank you and we thank our elected officials who serve our community and all citizens of the State of Illinois.

Thank you!





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