

Dec. 4, 2014

**News Release**

**Release:** Immediate

**Contact:** Adam Hertzman

**E-mail:** [ahertzman@jfedpgh.org](mailto:ahertzman@jfedpgh.org)

**Direct Dial:** 412.992.5225

**To:** **Jewish Chronicle**

**JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS HONE ISRAEL-ADVOCACY SKILLS THROUGH TRAINING AND PRACTICE**

Twenty leaders of Pittsburgh's Jewish community began honing their ability to advocate for Israel on Nov. 30, in the Oakland section of the city, by participating in an initiative of the Israel Action Network of The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). The initiative, the Community Impact Partnership, is unusual in that the curriculum includes a practical-application requirement.

The Community Relations Council (CRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh is the initiative's partner in Pittsburgh. CRC Chair Skip Grinberg noted that "graduates of Community Impact Partnership training will be able to represent the Jewish community effectively when crises arise. They'll learn to build alliances with other Pittsburgh-area groups on an ongoing basis. Work at the local level is the key to leading the conversation about Israel at the national and global levels."

Building local alliances is so central to the initiative's approach that each participant will complete an Israel-related community relations project. Projects could involve outreach to churches, university groups, unions, racial and ethnic groups, other mutual-benefit organizations or the media.

Recipients of Community Impact Partnership training represent the spectrum of Pittsburgh's Jewish community, including rabbis, lawyers, doctors and college students. Trainees were asked to participate in this invitation-only course on the basis of proven leadership skills and public support of Israel.

In Pittsburgh, Noam Gilboord — Director of Community Strategy, Israel Action Network — will lead the Community Impact Partnership training. In addition to coordinating the activities of Israel advocates throughout North America, Mr. Gilboord has countered anti-Israel efforts by working with city councils, universities, businesses and church movements. He holds master's degrees from Brandeis University in Near Eastern and Judaic studies and Jewish professional leadership.

The Nov. 30 Community Impact Partnership training session — held at the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, in Oakland — was the first of three that will convene through Dec. 18. This term of Community Impact Partnership training is the first to be offered in Pittsburgh.

— more —

**JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS HONE ISRAEL-ADVOCACY SKILLS  
THROUGH TRAINING AND PRACTICE**

Page 2

JFNA created the Israel Action Network in 2013, in partnership with the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, to increase the capacity of small and mid-sized Jewish communities to counter assaults on Israel's legitimacy. In addition to training, the network provides resources, best-practice models and crisis management tools.

For information about Community Impact Partnership training and the advocacy activities of Pittsburgh participants in the program, contact Gregg Roman — Director, CRC, Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh — at 412.992.5234 or [groman@jfedpgh.org](mailto:groman@jfedpgh.org). The CRC engages in public policy issues exclusively on the basis of Jewish values, promoting social and economic justice for all, enlisting support for Israel and fostering amicable relationships among groups in the Pittsburgh community.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh (JFGP), a member agency of The Jewish Federations of North America, raises and allocates funds to build community locally, in Israel and around the world. With the vision of a thriving, vibrant and engaged Jewish community, the Federation aims to carry out its work in the context of cooperation and inclusiveness. For more information about JFGP, visit [www.jfedpgh.org](http://www.jfedpgh.org).

###