

StandWithUs

MID-ATLANTIC



Julie Paris, StandWithUs; Jim Busis, Amy Weiss, Toby Tabachnick, and David Rullo of the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle; Professor Rona Kaufman, Duquesne University; and Luai Ahmed, Keynote Speaker. Taken at the StandWithUs 2025 Community Reception.

IMPACT REPORT 2025

FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM AND SUPPORTING ISRAEL ACROSS THE MID-ATLANTIC

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IMPACT

Message From Leadership



2025 was an incredibly challenging year for Israel and for Jewish communities worldwide.

Even with the relief of the recent ceasefire and the return of the vast majority of the hostages, Jewish students and families in the Mid-Atlantic continued to face new and intense challenges. Antisemitism and antizionism have surged across social media, on campuses, and in K-12 classrooms. Throughout these challenges, StandWithUs Mid-Atlantic has been on the ground every day, ensuring our community is supported, educated, and empowered.

This year, we stood shoulder to shoulder with students who were harassed in their schools, and with the parents and teachers working tirelessly to stop misinformation from taking root in their classrooms. What many assume is happening “somewhere else” is happening right here in our own schools, universities, and neighborhoods. With your partnership, StandWithUs was there to provide clarity, guidance, and real solutions. .

Am Yisrael Chai עם ישראל חי

Julie Paris
Regional Director

Holly Saltzburg
Outreach Manager

2025 Key Accomplishments

- **Delivered widely attended seminars on antisemitism** for families, educators, and community members seeking practical tools and support.
- **Hosted programs on antizionism and media bias**, equipping students, parents, and teachers with the confidence to navigate and counter misinformation.
- **Organized a major community reception honoring truth in journalism and student advocacy**, bringing hundreds together to celebrate courage and integrity.
- **Trained law enforcement agencies and university administrators** across the region to recognize and respond to antisemitism.
- **Brought influential speaker Luai Ahmed to the region**, offering honest insight into extremism, identity, and Middle Eastern politics.
- **Played a leading role in defeating a dangerous BDS referendum** backed by more than 20,000 signatures, protecting the local Jewish community and broader city from divisive and discriminatory policy.
- **Educated about the IHRA definition of antisemitism** to state and local elected officials and offered community seminars on the importance of this definition.
- **Strengthened interfaith cooperation**, expanding meaningful work with the Hindu community and deepening collaboration with the Christian community.
- **Hosted community-building programs** — including challah bakes, large-scale educational events, and public gatherings — fostering resilience and connection during a challenging year.

The Mid-Atlantic region proudly supports an impactful cohort of 24 Kenneth Leventhal High School Interns who are transforming their school communities with strength and purpose.

One powerful example comes from Lower Moreland High School in Montgomery County, PA. After Jewish and Israeli students felt unheard and erased, our intern Rebecca took decisive action. She wrote a compelling letter to her principal about the importance of Holocaust education and recognizing modern antisemitism. The administration embraced her request, and together they organized a Holocaust survivor assembly for more than 700 students. Because of their work, teachers across the district also received training on identifying and addressing antisemitism. Rebecca's success illustrates the impact our teen leaders are making every single day.



StandWithUs Campus Corner

StandWithUs Mid-Atlantic is cultivating the next generation of pro-Israel leaders across 14 campuses, including:

- University of Pittsburgh
- Duquesne University
- Penn State University
- Drexel University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Lehigh University
- University of Delaware
- University of Maryland
- American University
- The George Washington University
- James Madison University
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Tech

Our Emerson Fellows:

- Supported Jewish and Zionist students facing harassment and discrimination.
- Partnered with Chabads, Hillels, and community groups to strengthen education and student resilience.
- Helped bring the NGO Sharaka to campuses across the region, leading intimate, honest conversations about the Abraham Accords.

StandWithUs' Legal team

- Supported multiple Jewish and Zionist students who faced harassment and discrimination. Several cases have already been successfully resolved.
- Offered students rare opportunities to engage directly with experts, fostering critical understanding of the Middle East and countering misinformation with facts, nuance, and lived experience.

As one Penn State Emerson Fellow shared, the Sharaka programming "educated people who may not have known about the Accords and their instrumental impact on the on-the-ground realities of both Israel and the other accord countries," while helping students think critically about the region today.



Interfaith Engagement and Community Partnerships



Sai Patil, Laura Cherner, Bhavini Patel, Rabbi Jeffrey Myers, Geetika Tandon, Rabbi Seth Adelson, Julie Paris, Nick Patel, Priyesh Shah, Gauttam Patel.

This year, StandWithUs Mid-Atlantic broadened its interfaith relationships and strengthened alliances that build understanding, counter hate, and amplify shared values.

Highlights include:

- **Expanding our partnership with the Hindu community** through leadership luncheons, joint cultural events, a Purim celebration, and a moving “Harmony Across Traditions” musical program.
- **Supporting clergy and community leaders** in bringing Israel programming to churches, libraries, and interfaith networks.
- **Hosting Joshua Washington, Executive Director of the Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel (IBSI),** for a concert and discussion, with plans to further expand our collaboration with IBSI in 2026.

Looking Ahead

The battle for the hearts and minds of the next generation is happening right now—in K-12 schools, on university campuses, and across every digital platform. Our work is more important than ever, and we are not backing down. Your support is the backbone of our mission, giving us the resources to empower our communities. With you by our side, we aren’t just responding to antisemitic hate; we are proactive, prepared, and ensuring our youth have the strength to be unapologetically proud of who they are.

For more information about all of our programs and projects in North America and around the world, visit www.standwithus.com

