

IMPACT

Annual Report | Fiscal Year 2024

MIDWEST CENTER FOR
HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

THE MCHE TEAM finds themselves doing this work in difficult and unique times. It is a contentious American election year when we are called upon to address instances of Holocaust misappropriation. We are also working amidst the first long Israeli war and during all-time high levels of worldwide antisemitism. Hatred that was already creeping to the center from the fringes has been allowed into the open to flourish.

As a field, Holocaust education is facing a moment of existential crisis — grappling with questions of what has and has not been successful in the last 30 years. There is a sense that this year will have been a transformative moment in the field and also that, without the dedicated work of the last three decades, the impact of current antisemitism would have been much more devastating than it has already been.

We are also thinking collectively as professionals about how we navigate this period of time when the Holocaust moves from lived memory to history. What we know beyond doubt is that our work is more relevant and critical than ever, and our impact each year continues to grow.

Jessica Rockhold, Executive Director

THIS YEAR WE ...

Delivered **79 Rosh Hashanah bags** and marked **86 survivor birthdays** including a **101st birthday for Charlotte Frank**.



Delivered **quarterly programs** for the **Missouri Holocaust Commission** in support of the **Holocaust education mandate**, taking effect in **2025**.

Completed our **30th anniversary series — I Witness —** featuring 7 conversations with **local survivors** for public audiences.

Hosted the first annual **Yom Hashoah Reception** for **survivors and their families**.

Partnered with the **Mizel Museum** in Denver, Colorado, to professionally record the testimony of **3 area survivors** who were not already part of the **Witnesses to the Holocaust Archive**.



MCHE maintains a **strong financial position** thanks to

the support of our **members**, which once again marks the **highest total** in our **31 years**



a Legacy Donation Challenge

Grant from MCHE benefactors

Karen and Mike Herman, who matched **\$50,000** in new memberships through 2023,



support from the **following grants**



White Family Supporting Foundation
at the Jewish Community Foundation

2024 Holocaust Educator of the Year

HONORING PENNY SELLE,
NOTRE DAME DE SION,
KANSAS CITY, MO



Penny concluded her acceptance remarks with the following reflection on her students: "I am particularly grateful to my students for their constant curiosity, conviction and caring — who keep asking the important questions: What's the difference between genocide, war and war crimes? What responsibilities do other countries have when genocide is happening? How could the Shoah have happened? And most importantly, what can I do to make sure I am not a bystander? That nothing like the Holocaust ever happens again?"

AWARDS & CELEBRATIONS



Honored with the 2023 Table of Faiths Award

from The Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council recognizing MCHE's work across faith communities.

2024 Ruthie Research Scholar

SUPPORTING ALEXANDRA MCCARTHY,
PH.D. CANDIDATE, GRATZ COLLEGE, MELROSE PARK, PA



Alexandra's research explores sexual violence and the artistic expression of femininity in the Holocaust. In describing her research, Alexandra had this to say, "Through this study, I am looking at art through a thematic approach, working to determine if and what types of sexual violence occurred within each of the camps respectively. Additionally, I am looking at and analyzing archival oral testimonies to better understand the archival testimonial data describing the types of sexual violence that was witnessed or experienced first-hand."

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ...

"The Mizel Museum is honored to partner with the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education to record the testimonies of local survivors, as we recognize the immense importance of preserving and sharing the history of the Holocaust.

Together, we strive to educate and inspire individuals about the atrocities of the past, promoting tolerance, empathy and social justice in our society today. Through our collaborative efforts, we aim to create a world where the lessons of the Holocaust are never forgotten, fostering a future rooted in compassion and understanding."

— MEG ROBBINS,
ASSOCIATE EDUCATION AND SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER,
MIZEL MUSEUM

"The MCHE Panel Event was very moving and educational for those who attended. We're grateful that descendants of survivors of the Holocaust are moved and determined to continue to share the truths of what was experienced.

We must remember. We cannot forget!"

— REV. CHERYL JEFFERSON BELL,
PASTOR OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE,
RESURRECTION, A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



MCHE REACH

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

**Best membership year
in our 31-year history —**

\$193,000

and breaking our membership record for
the **4th year running!**



Delivered
91
direct content
presentations.



Reached learners in
30 states
and **multiple**
countries.



Over
81,000
views of our online
content on YouTube.



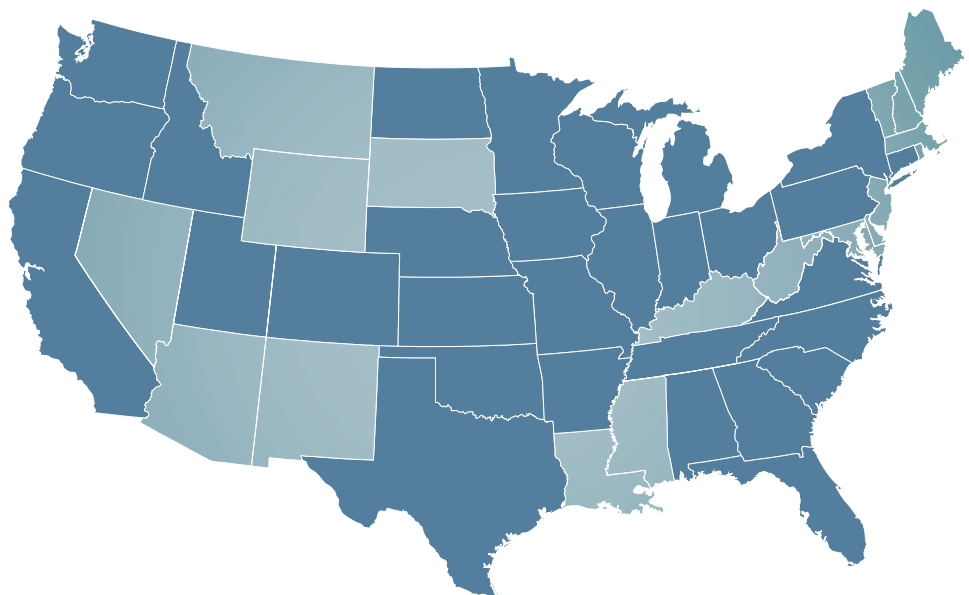
Earned MCHE's first
4-Star Charity Navigator Rating
to accompany our
Platinum Guidestar Rating.



STATES REACHED

Direct participation in MCHE educational programming from the **U.S.**

Alabama	Nebraska
Arkansas	New York
California	North Carolina
Colorado	North Dakota
Connecticut	Ohio
Florida	Oklahoma
Georgia	Oregon
Idaho	Pennsylvania
Illinois	South Carolina
Indiana	Tennessee
Iowa	Texas
Kansas	Utah
Michigan	Virginia
Minnesota	Washington
Missouri	Wisconsin



PROGRAMS & MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Europe 2023

Traveled with 20 learners on MCHE's inaugural European Study Tour visiting Holocaust sites in and around Munich, Prague, Krakow and Budapest, including the Jewish quarters of each city, Dachau, Terezin, Płaszów and Auschwitz-Birkenau.



Monument Stabilization Project

Having assumed ownership of the Memorial to the Six Million in July 2023, MCHE has begun work to stabilize the structure ahead of future conservation work.

Yahad-In Unum Training for Educators

Hosted educators from Yahad-In Unum for a special 17-hour symposium for teachers made possible through the generous support of the family of Isak and Ann Federman, in recognition of their commitment to Holocaust education.



Antisemitism Education in the Post 10/7 Space

MCHE significantly increased both our responsive and proactive outreach and delivered programs to school groups and educators, the Jewish community, faith communities, social service groups, and general audiences including in rural regions of Kansas and Missouri. We participated in JCRBJAJC's Antisemitism Summit and are the designated presenters on this topic for the Missouri Holocaust Commission, teaching this session in each of their professional development workshops in support of the mandate.



Through Hell to the Midwest

Announced the launch of a new project that represents a significant step forward in making our local survivor testimonies accessible and relevant to the next generation. We were pleased to grant access to two Fort Hays State University history professors to utilize our testimony collection in their innovative project *Through Hell to the Midwest*.



Midwest Center for Holocaust Education
5801 West 115th Street, Suite 106
Overland Park, Kansas 66211-1800



J.E.D.I. Award Recipient
Justice - Equity
Diversity - Inclusion
Perspective Group, LLC
Lawrence, KS