



AGUDATH ISRAEL
OF ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD MISSION

APRIL 2021



AGUDATH ISRAEL OF ILLINOIS • SPRINGFIELD MISSION

OPENING
DOORS OF
OPPORTUNITY
FOR THE
COMMUNITY

WHAT AGUDATH ISRAEL OF ILLINOIS MEANS TO THE

COMMUNITY



OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

- Community Advocacy
- Protecting Religious Liberty
- School Choice & Tuition Relief
- Israel
- Security Grant Programs
- Combatting Anti-Semitism
- School 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
- Midwest Agudah Lay Leaders Conference
- Community Safety & Security Initiative
- Young Leadership Initiative
- Antonia Spitzer Jewish Library
Recognized by Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS)
- Teacher Assistance Subsidy Program
- Gemach
Lending service allowing people to borrow items
for holidays, events, or temporary needs
- Computer Kiosks & Kosher Internet Center

WHAT AGUDATH ISRAEL OF ILLINOIS MEANS TO THE

COMMUNITY



- **Agudah Midwest Boys Overnight Summer Camp**
South Haven, MI
- **Agudah Midwest Girls Overnight Summer Camp**
South Haven, MI
- **Bnos Ma'arava Girls Overnight Summer Camp**
Marshall, IN
- **MTM Girls Overnight Summer Camp**
Marshall, IN
- **Nageela Midwest Overnight Summer Camp**
Ingleside, IL
- **Pirchei Day Camp**
Chicago, IL



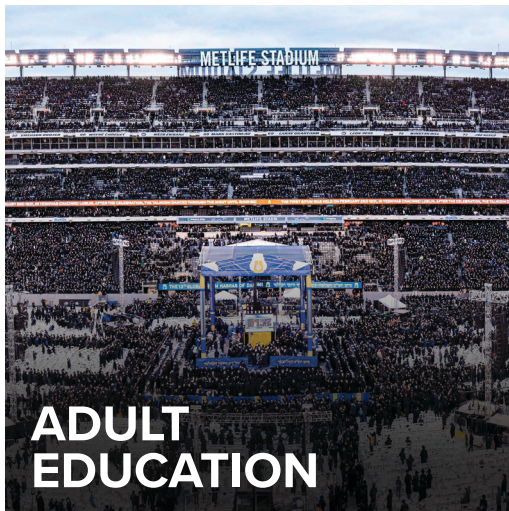
- **Pirchei & Bnos Youth Groups**
After-school, weekend, holiday, and summer programs
- **Bar Mitzvah Preparation Program**
- **Youth field trips**
- **Youth Trips to Visit the Elderly & Infirm**
- **Dor L'Dor Father & Son Study Program**
- **Boys After School Study Programs**

WHAT AGUDATH ISRAEL OF ILLINOIS MEANS TO THE

COMMUNITY



- Nageela Outreach year-round
 - Camp Nageela Boys Midwest
 - Camp Nageela Girls Midwest
- Youth retreats
- Pre-holiday events
- Big Sister Program
- Big Brother Program



- Midwest Agudah Convention
- Annual H-3 Business Halacha Summit
- Midwest Council of Synagogue Rabbis
 - 75 rabbis across 11 states and 17 cities
- Siyum Hashas
 - 100,000 at national siyum, 5,000 at Chicago siyum
- Midwest Daf Yomi Commission
- Ner Reuven Awareness Initiative
- Midwest Bais Hora'ah with Rabbinic Inquiry Hotline

WHAT AGUDATH ISRAEL OF ILLINOIS MEANS TO THE

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AGUDAH BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

- Funeral & Burial Services
- Jewish Cemetery Plots
- Chesed Shel Emes Burial Services & Indigent Burial Fund



CHAYIM ARUCHIM DIVISION

- Center for Culturally Sensitive Health Advocacy & Counseling
- End-of-Life guidance & support services
- Culturally sensitive hospice & palliative care navigation
- Halachic Medical Advanced Directives
- 24-Hour Help Hotline



SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT

- Advocacy for Invest in Kids Act
- Program Implementation
 - Donor outreach and fundraising
 - School training, consulting and assistance
- Family application guidance and assistance



PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

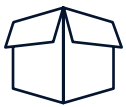
- Family Calendar
- Safa Berurah on relevant and seasonal Jewish law
- Passover Guide

WHAT AGUDATH ISRAEL OF ILLINOIS MEANS TO THE

COMMUNITY



- **Government advocacy**
- **Youth programs for summer school**
- **JewishChicago.info**
Informational website with relevant resources
- **PPE for first responders**
Over 100,000 cloth masks, 15,000 shields
- **Chicago Jewish Emergency Assistance Fund**
Distributed \$2.2 Million
- **Unemployment Insurance and
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Helpdesk**
- **Travel Helpdesk**
Assistance with passports and visas
- **Quarantine box program**
Toys, games, and hot meals for families in quarantine
- **Covid relief funding for schools,
small businesses, and individuals**
Advocacy, guidance, webinars
- **Community Vaccine Alliance Clinic**
Over 15,000 vaccines administered



PANDEMIC KOSHER FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Serving 9,000 children over 500,000 meals a month in Illinois

Operating in 7 states nationwide, serving more than 20,000 children over a million meals a month

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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. Many are low-income and qualify for free or reduced lunch. Nearly 800 Jewish students are now attending school on tax credit scholarships.
- This program has given low-income families educational opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach and has helped struggling families afford basic necessities.
- To allegedly close corporate loopholes, the Administration's FY22 budget suggests reducing the tax credit for qualified contributions from 75% to 40%.
 - Helping individuals and businesses support children and their education is **not** a corporate loophole.
 - Allowing a federal deduction won't offset the reduced benefit.
 - Thousands of low-income children will be hurt in a year that countless people have already suffered due to the pandemic.
 - Most donors cannot take full advantage of the federal deduction, including thousands of low- and middle-income taxpayers who wish to be charitable.
 - This vital program needs to be extended and enhanced, not cut.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

REDISTRICTING

- Communities of interest need to be kept together to ensure they have representation and a voice in government.
- The Orthodox Jewish community is often overlooked as a community of interest, despite our unique needs and interests.
- We have unique and nuanced views on public policies that impact religious liberties, education, public safety, and social services.
- 30,000 Illinoisans identify as Orthodox Jews.
- This community, which has grown by approximately 50% over the last decade, is primarily concentrated in the West Ridge area of Chicago, spilling over into Skokie and Lincolnwood.
- Most of our households are contained within the 16th House District and 8th Senate district but district lines run right through the heart of our neighborhoods.
- Our community may be at risk of being divided to the point of political irrelevance. We would like to see our community consolidated as much as possible.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

- For over a decade, Agudath Israel has received a school transportation grant. The number of students currently relying on this grant has grown to 2,600.
- This grant is more vital than ever to ensure the safety and security of our children.
- Funding for the program has been reduced while participation and the cost of transportation have doubled.
- Funding for this program needs to be increased to properly protect our children and serve the needs of our community.



AGUDATH ISRAEL OF ILLINOIS

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