



The Tri Center Project

An initiative of the World Confederation of Jewish Community Centers

The goal of the project is to strengthen Jewish Peoplehood-*Klal Israel*- by developing a meaningful relationship between JCCs from three different communities: one in Israel, one in North America and the third in another part of the Jewish world.

Background: In 2006, funding from UJA Federation of New York in partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel became available to test a new model of a Tri Center Project. The three partners (Long Island, NY/French Hill, Jerusalem/Lamroth Hakol, Buenos Aires) began to meet and decided on a leadership teen project whereby a select group of teens from each community held seminars at the two other communities and was engaged in a two year leadership training program. The project culminated in Israel with a week long seminar of the teens and their parents. In addition, senior staff became involved, visited each other and developed joint programs. The three boards of directors also joined the project through discussions, conference calls and mutual visits. The participants from the three different communities turned into a strong and committed group.

Based on the initial success of the pilot project, several other New York-Jerusalem JCC partnerships have joined the project and lately the project reached beyond New York to Miami. **Each Tri Center is independent and decides which project/s to pursue.** Some recent examples: a Jewish Festival, working with young families, teen leadership and more.

The existing Tri Centers are:

1. Suffolk Y JCC and the JCC of the Greater Five Towns, Long Island, New York/
French Hill, Jerusalem/Lamroth Hakol, Buenos Aires
2. Staten Island JCC, New York/ Pisgat Zeev, Jerusalem/Redbridge, London
3. Sephardic JCC, New York/Gilo, Jerusalem/Toulouse, France (ending this summer)
4. JCH of Benson Hurst , New York/Ashdod/Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine
5. Kings Bay JCC, New York/Neve Arazim, Holon/Munich, Germany
6. Michael Ann Russell JCC, Miami/ Yerocham/Haocaj, Buenos Aires

Recently there has been a growing interest to develop new Tri Centers.

Funding

So far, the core funding for the project came from submitting a Project Card to the local Partnership 2000 committee (or in the case of NY to UJA Federation of NY.) This core budget varies from one region to another and needs to be augmented by the local resources of each JCC and the participants of the project, both in real dollars and by providing in kind services.

What is the impact of the project?

In addition to extensive anecdotal information that demonstrates the success of the project, WCJCC has commissioned a study conducted by **Dr. Ezra Kopelowitz** of Research Success Technologies LTD to evaluate the long term impact on the graduates of the first Tri Center. Some of the main findings are:

- ✓ A strong majority feel the continued influence of the project on their lives.
- ✓ 85% report more involvement in leadership positions within Jewish organizations as a result of the project.
- ✓ 62% report that the project substantially increased their desire to pursue friendships with other Jews.
- ✓ Staff members report greater participation of the participants and their families in their respective JCCs as a result of the project.
- ✓ Staff members report increased interest of lay leaders, staff members, participants and families in world Jewry as a result of the project.

How can my JCC join the project?

If your Jewish Federation is involved with Partnership 2000 in Israel and you have an interest in joining the project, you can explore the possibility of developing a Tri Center.

What is the role of WCJCC?

WCJCC will guide you through the process of joining and implementing the project by:

- ✓ Helping identify and connect with a third partner
- ✓ Consultation in the process of developing the joint Project Card
- ✓ Consultation in solving communication and other intercultural challenges
- ✓ Connecting with other Tri Centers for peer learning and advice
- ✓ Addressing any ad-hoc issues that may arise

It is the dream of the World Confederation
that every JCC around the world will have JCC partners.

Join the worldwide network!

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