



**The Community Foundation  
of Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio**

requests the participation of churches  
and synagogues in observing

# Holocaust Remembrance Day

## January 27, 2014

### Background

Holocaust Remembrance Day takes place on January 27 of each year. It's a time for everyone to pause to remember the millions of people who were murdered or whose lives were forever changed by the Holocaust. (January 27 was chosen because it marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Berkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.)



### Request

The Foundation in cooperation with the Holocaust Center requests that churches and synagogues remember the victims of the Holocaust as part of their religious service(s) on January 25 and 26. We are also requesting that a special offering be made to the Holocaust Awareness Fund of the Community Foundation. (This is a separate fund maintained by the Community Foundation – 100% of the funds from this appeal will go directly to the Holocaust Center to develop its facility and support Holocaust Awareness activities in the greater Western Pennsylvania area.) Donations may be sent to: The Holocaust Awareness Fund c/o The Community Foundation of Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio, 7 West State St., Sharon, PA 16146.

We believe our request is a fitting expression of Holocaust Remembrance Day and hope you will consent to participate in this event.

If you have questions regarding this event please contact Joy Braunstein, Director, the Holocaust Center, at 412-421-1500. Materials on the Holocaust, resources and speakers are available through the Holocaust Center.

### How/when the Holocaust Remembrance Day was established

Holocaust Remembrance Day was created when representatives from 46 governments from around the world met in Stockholm to discuss Holocaust education and remembrance. At the end of this meeting, all attendees signed a declaration committed to preserving the memory of those who were murdered during the Holocaust. This declaration included the following principles:

- A belief that the Holocaust (Shoah) fundamentally challenged the foundation of civilization;
- A belief that the magnitude of the Holocaust should be forever seared in our collective memory;
- A pledge to strengthen our efforts to promote education;
- A commitment to commemorate the victims and honor those who stood against it;
- A pledge to encourage all countries to ensure that future generations understand the Holocaust, remember its victims and reflect upon its consequences.

In 2005, the United Nations' General Assembly passed a resolution that embraced the core principles of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust and formally recognized January 27 as Holocaust Remembrance Day.