

# TribesTalk

Annual Report 2025



**Standing Strong, Together**

# Letter From the Co-Founders

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**We are in a world of rapidly expanding antisemitism—online, on campus, and in everyday social spaces.** Long before October 7, young people encountered uncomfortable conversations, hostility online, and moments of social isolation connected to their identity. In some cases, antisemitism has also taken more overt forms, including hate speech, harassment, and acts of violence. In recent years, these dynamics have become more visible and more widely discussed across schools and communities. Throughout 2025, this climate continued to evolve. Global events intensified existing tensions, and conversations about Jewish identity and Israel increasingly surfaced in classrooms, social media, and peer spaces nationwide. While not every student has experienced antisemitism directly, many have heard about it, witnessed it, or will encounter it for the first time during their middle school, high school, or college years.

This is the world in which TribeTalk worked throughout 2025.

With the support of generous donors and grantors, and in collaboration with a wide range of educational and communal institutions, we worked across schools, camps, synagogues, federations, and community organizations to prepare students and their allies to recognize antisemitism and respond thoughtfully. Our programs intentionally engage Jewish and non-Jewish audiences alike, including students, educators, parents, counselors, coaches, and community leaders. By building shared understanding across diverse settings, we help ensure that students are not navigating these moments alone.

Our work focuses on building understanding before moments arise, so that when students are confronted with challenging situations, they are not caught off guard or left without language.



TribeTalk co-founders Michelle Black, Robin Friedman, and Judith Sydney, whose shared vision launched the organization's work preparing students to navigate antisemitism with confidence.

This annual report reflects a year of listening, learning, and collaboration. Rather than telling this story only from our own perspective, we have lifted up the voices of students, educators, organizational collaborators, and supporters who experienced this work firsthand and saw its impact in their communities.

**We are deeply grateful to all who stood with us and helped students stand strong.**

# Why This Work Matters

Antisemitism today often appears in ways that are subtle, social, and embedded in everyday life. Many students have not yet encountered it directly, but when they do, it often comes unexpectedly and without preparation.



Students engage in a TribeTalk workshop exploring real-world situations involving antisemitism and identity.

During facilitated discussions and post-program reflections, students frequently referenced hostility in online comment sections, peers repeating slogans without understanding their impact, and classroom conversations where Jewish perspectives were dismissed or shut down. These experiences were shared across regions and across educational settings, including public schools, secular

environments, and Jewish communal institutions such as camps, synagogues, youth groups, and JCCs. In these settings, students often arrive carrying experiences from beyond those spaces that require thoughtful support and guidance.

Without training, students often feel unsure how to respond. Some hesitate to

**“TribeTalk gives young people and the adults who support them language that feels accessible, empowering, and developmentally appropriate.”**

Debbie Morris, Director of Community Care, Beber Camp, WI

speak up or disengage altogether. Others are left questioning whether what they are experiencing even “counts” as antisemitism. Educators and families want to support students, but often lack practical, age-appropriate tools to guide these moments.

TribeTalk exists to address this gap.

Our programs help middle school, high school, and college students, and their allies, recognize antisemitism in its many forms, build language to describe what they are encountering, and practice thoughtful responses that prioritize self-respect, safety, and agency. By working through real scenarios in advance, students build the confidence and clarity needed when these moments arise.

The goal is not to escalate conflict or script reactions. It is to ensure students are prepared rather than surprised, engaged rather than silenced, and grounded in who they are.

TribeTalk programming reaches audiences in schools, camps, synagogues, and community spaces across the country.



# Impact at a Glance

In 2025, TribeTalk continued to expand its reach and deepen its impact.

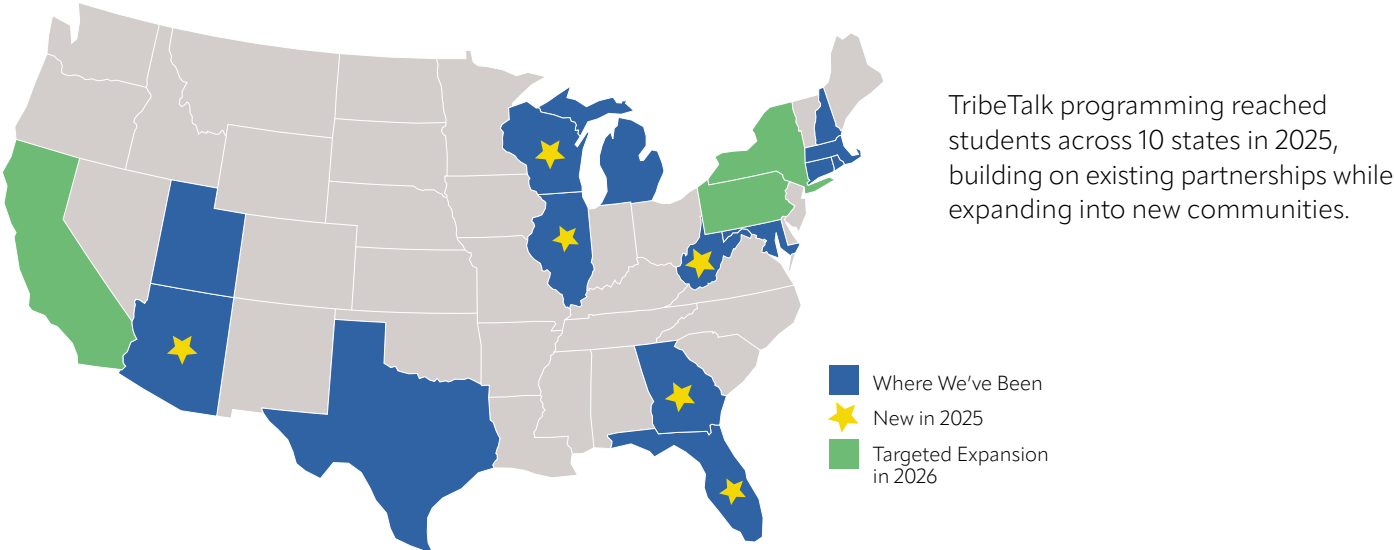
- 96%** of students feel they better understand antisemitism as a result of what they learned
- 95%** of students feel they learned something that will help them recognize antisemitism
- 2,000+** students and allies reached
- 44** workshops and training sessions delivered

Programming delivered in collaboration with schools, camps, synagogues, JCCs, and community organizations

In response to these challenges, TribeTalk expanded programming and partnership initiatives across the country.

**“This made me more confident about talking, responding, and standing up to antisemitism.”**

Tali, 7th Grade Student, Jacksonville, FL



**“TribeTalk fills a critical gap by helping students and educators sit with complexity and build genuine understanding.”**

Naomi Eisenberger and Julie Fisher, The Good People Fund

# Educating and Empowering Allies

A core component of TribeTalk's growth has been its work with non-Jewish audiences and with the broader ecosystem that supports students.

**"Many of our international staff had never met a Jewish person before coming to camp. TribeTalk created space for them to ask questions, learn, and develop a deeper understanding of antisemitism and its history."**

Beber Camp Leadership

In public and secular schools, TribeTalk collaborates with non-Jewish students, educators, counselors, coaches, and administrators to build shared understanding and allyship. We also engage parents, grandparents, camp staff, and advisors, recognizing that

students are best supported when the adults around them are prepared to recognize antisemitism and respond constructively.

This work extends into Jewish communal settings as well, particularly when those spaces include staff, educators, or peers who may not have prior exposure to Jewish history or antisemitism.

As part of this work, TribeTalk has been invited back to many communities for continued programming, reflecting the value of preparing allies before challenging moments arise.



## What TribeTalk Does

TribeTalk prepares middle school, high school, and college students, and their allies, to recognize antisemitism and respond with confidence, care, and clarity.

Through interactive workshops and facilitated conversations, we help young people build language, practice real-world scenarios, and develop the skills needed to navigate challenging moments. We deliver this work in collaboration with schools, camps, synagogues, federations, and community organizations, meeting students where they already learn and gather.

### 2025 Program Partners

Beber Camp\*

Camp Jori

Camp Pembroke

Camp Ramah Darom\*

Camp Tel Noar

Camp Tevya

Camp YJ

Emma Kaufmann Camp\*

Herzl Camp\*

Jacksonville Federation\*

JCC Chicago\*

Jewish Federation of Greater Naples\*

Jewish Philanthropies of Southern Arizona\*

JFNA Women's Philanthropy Board\*

McGillis School\*

Temple Emanuel

Temple Emunah\*

Tucson Hebrew Academy\*

URJ Eisner Camp

\*New partner in 2025

# Voices From the Field



TribeTalk was a keynote speaker at a Jewish Federation women's leadership luncheon.

Across communities, a consistent message has emerged: young people are seeking spaces where complex conversations can be held with clarity, care, and structure. Educators report a growing need for practical tools that help students navigate identity, bias, and difficult current events without shutting down or turning away.

**"They presented students with scenarios they had to tackle and reminded us to celebrate our Judaism. We cannot let fear and anger define who we are."**

Me'ir Sherer-Mizrachi, Director of Congregational Learning, Temple Emunah, Lexington, MA

When given thoughtful facilitation and shared language, students demonstrate a strong capacity for empathy, critical thinking, and respectful dialogue. These experiences are shaping not only individual confidence, but also healthier classroom and community cultures. As schools and youth-serving organizations continue to respond to rising social tensions, partners increasingly look to TribeTalk as a trusted resource to equip the next generation with the skills needed to engage, connect, and lead.

## Educators and Community Leaders

Educators and community leaders who collaborated with TribeTalk shared that students often arrived uncertain or hesitant and left with clearer language, greater confidence, and a stronger sense of agency.

**"Seeing real-world examples was really helpful to know that some of the problems at my public school are happening elsewhere too."**

Noah, High School Senior, Public School Student, JCC Chicago, IL

## Student Voices

Students shared that seeing their experiences reflected and discussed openly helped them feel less alone and more prepared.

When students are educated and prepared to recognize and respond to antisemitism, they feel empowered to engage with difficult moments. TribeTalk's programming builds confidence, language, and awareness, enabling students to take thoughtful action, support peers, and strengthen resilience within their communities.



Summer camp counselors and teens engage with TribeTalk facilitators during an interactive workshop focused on real-world experiences.

# Student Leadership Spotlight

Abby Kaufman came to TribeTalk already aware of the challenges Jewish students face. As a college student at University of Wisconsin-Madison, she had encountered antisemitism on her campus and was searching for ways to better understand and respond.

In the summer of 2025, Abby discovered TribeTalk through training at Beber Camp. The experience gave her language, frameworks, and practical tools that helped her make sense of what she had already encountered. When she returned to campus, she applied what she learned in real time, navigating conversations in individual classrooms and on campus quads with greater confidence.

Wanting to do more, Abby joined TribeTalk as an intern and recruited five additional interns from across the United States and Canada.



Abby Kaufman, TribeTalk intern and student leader, helping extend TribeTalk's impact on college campuses.

**"After experiencing antisemitism on my college campus, TribeTalk gave me the language and confidence I didn't have before. It made the world feel less scary, and it made me want to help others feel that way too."**

Abby Kaufman, TribeTalk Intern

Together, the interns drew from their lived experiences on campus, shared training at summer camp, and participated in other youth leadership programs such as BBYO. As a group, they contributed to resource development, social media campaigns, and peer engagement, helping extend TribeTalk's reach beyond individual programs.

Her story reflects the long-term impact of early preparation and the power of students to lead when given the right tools.

TribeTalk facilitators guide participants through discussion-based learning and real-world scenarios.



# Supporters and Funding

TribeTalk's work is made possible through the **generosity of hundreds of individual donors, foundations, and grant-making institutions** who support our mission. Every dollar makes a difference.

In 2025, TribeTalk received a transformative grant from the Boruchin Center of Jewish National Fund-USA to support teen-focused programming. Jewish National Fund-USA believes that providing Israel education, a strong Jewish and Zionist identity, and tools to fight antisemitism is pivotal during the highly impressionable teen years.

Additional foundation and institutional support has enabled TribeTalk to expand programming while maintaining a thoughtful, values-based approach.



## Looking Ahead to 2026

In 2026, TribeTalk aims to double the number of sessions delivered and deepen collaboration with peer organizations across the field who share a commitment to student empowerment, Jewish identity, and combating antisemitism.

By aligning efforts and sharing learning, TribeTalk seeks to expand its reach while maintaining program quality and independence.

### Standing Strong, Together

This year's impact was made possible by a shared belief that students and their allies deserve language, tools, and preparation before challenging moments arise.

Standing strong is a collective effort. We invite you to collaborate with us, bring TribeTalk to your community, and support our work as it continues to grow.

**Thank you for being part of our critically important and meaningful work.**

#### Find us on:



#### Learn more:

