

## What Can a Parent Do?

- ◆ Educate yourself about prejudice and discrimination in your own neighborhood, community, social organizations, and workplace.
- ◆ Become involved in an effort to combat prejudice and to develop a positive, respectful environment in which all can live and work.
- ◆ Discuss prejudice and discrimination and their dangers openly and honestly with your child.
- ◆ Emphasize the importance of trust, respect, and individual social responsibility in building a better world.
- ◆ Reach out to other individuals and groups to work together to create a better community and world in which to raise all of our children.
- ◆ **Be a good role model for your child.**



## Parents' Guides:

Talking with Your  
Child about  
Prejudice,  
Discrimination,  
Genocide,  
and the  
Holocaust



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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

*Margaret Mead*

# Who We Are

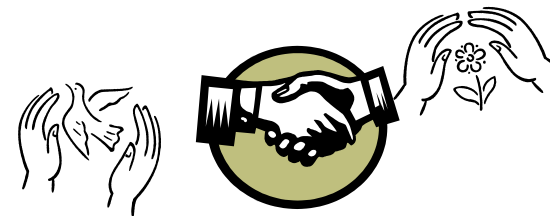
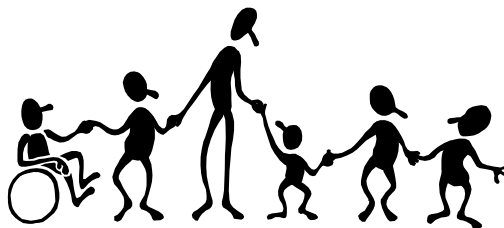
## *CHE Beginnings...*

The Council of Holocaust Educators (CHE) was founded in 2001 as a professional organization serving teachers interested in teaching the Holocaust. CHE grew out of a long-standing need for N.J. teachers to organize as professionals and to become a voice for teachers and students participating in the N.J. mandated instruction on Holocaust education. A committee formed to work toward establishing a professional organization for teachers that would function in cooperation with the N.J. Commission on Holocaust Education and its Executive Director, Dr. Paul Winkler. In only a few short years, CHE's membership has expanded to include persons from many states and several countries. Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Laureate, has agreed to serve as the Honorary Chair for The Council of Holocaust Educators.

## *CHE's Mission Statement...*

The Council of Holocaust Educators is committed to the effort to instill in our students a sense of the importance of recognizing and respecting the value of each individual human life and the human dignity of all people as a deterrent to future genocide and to foster a peaceful world community. The organization is founded on the principle that we as educators have an obligation to preserve the memory of the victims and of the Holocaust and genocides and to educate students about the evils that led to these programs of massive human destruction. The Council of Holocaust Educators strives to provide its members with the opportunity to find mutual support from their colleagues in their educational efforts and to further the instructional program and goals of Holocaust education.

*CHE offers this set of guides to you in the hope that each can be useful as you guide your child(ren) through the years of growth to maturity. No task, no responsibility is greater or more rewarding than that of guiding a child along the road to adulthood. We encourage you to think about the issues addressed in these guides and to talk with your child(ren) about them. Elie Wiesel said, "Those who teach the Holocaust should be honored and exalted." We have committed ourselves to the task of teaching the children about the evils and destructiveness of prejudice, discrimination, persecution, and the Holocaust. CHE urges you to join us in this effort. We recognize and applaud the importance of your role. You are your child's first teacher! Let's all work together.*



## *A Few Tips and Suggestions*

- Be an informed parent. Know what is happening in the neighborhood and community, in the school, throughout your child's world.
- Take opportunities to meet your child's friends.
- Provide your child with an environment rich in respect for the rights and views of other individuals and groups.
- Set clear, reasonable, consistent, and age appropriate rules and guidelines for your child.
- Be consistent in your expectations for your child.
- Visit the school your child attends.
- Take the time to **listen** to your child.
- **Remember to tell and to show your child that you care!!!**

## *Why Your Child Needs to Learn About Prejudice, Discrimination, and the Holocaust...*

- We live in a world of great cultural diversity. We must develop an understanding of the dangers of prejudice, stereotyping, and intolerance to any society.
- We all need to know and understand that each of us bears a personal responsibility to fight racism and other forms of prejudice and hatred wherever and whenever it occurs.
- We need to think about the use and abuse of power, the roles and responsibilities of individuals, groups, organizations, and nations when confronted with civil and human rights violations.
- We must explore, recognize, and understand the dangers of remaining silent, apathetic, and indifferent in the face of the oppression of others.
- We need to understand and be alert to the potential for the evil as well as the good that modern technology and scientific knowledge can be used to produce.
- We need to know those factors that contributed to the gradual and systematic process that led to the Holocaust and other genocides and that the horrors and destruction of those events were preventable.
- **We need to develop the skills to work for peaceful resolutions to conflict and dissension.**