



## Partners for Sacred Places



**Penn**  
Social Policy & Practice



## THE HALO EFFECT

What is the value of a sacred place? Many believe that sacred places make no contribution to local economies, that congregations take up space without contributing to the tax base. Since its founding in 1989, Partners for Sacred Places has worked to dispel this myth and to build a clear and convincing case for the centrality of sacred places in the life and health of communities.

In 2010, Partners and the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice concluded a pilot study, *The Halo Effect*, of the economic impact of houses of worship. We found that the average Philadelphia congregation contributed \$4.3 million annually to the economy.

In 2012, Partners, Penn and Loyola University Chicago will research the Halo Effect of local sacred places. The research will transform how Chicagoans understand the role of these buildings. And it will generate clear and compelling evidence that increased public investment in the infrastructure of sacred places will have a catalytic effect on economic development in the city.

Please join us for lunch and a lecture by Dr. Ram Cnaan of the University of Pennsylvania as we celebrate the launch of the Halo Effect research in Chicago:

**Friday, January 27**

**12:30-2:30**

**Pierce Hall at The Chicago Temple**

**77 W. Washington St.**

**Chicago, IL 60602**

**RSVP to Amy**

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To learn more about Partners and the Halo Effect, visit our website:

<http://www.sacredplaces.org/>