

<Date>

<Primary Addressee>

<Preferred Address 1>, <Preferred Address 2>

< City>, <State> <ZIP>

Dear <Primary Salutation>,

On October 27, we were all jolted by the news of a mass shooting on Shabbat at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. My heart went out to the victims of this horrific attack, their families, and the Jewish community there.

My thoughts quickly pivoted to our close-knit Jewish community here in the Bay Area, and our responsibility at the Federation to enhance security at our synagogues and other Jewish institutions.

For many years now, the Federation has been working behind the scenes to fortify our community and enhance its resiliency. From attending Shabbat services to sending children to Hebrew school, we should continue participating in Jewish communal life as always, and not give in to fear. And we do so by instilling a culture of security and preparedness rooted in watchfulness.

Earlier this year, the Federation hired me as the Director of Jewish Community Security, in part due to my extensive intelligence and security experience with the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense.

For the past ten months, I have been working closely with local Jewish institutions, connecting them with security resources, assisting them with grant applications for security upgrades, leading security workshops, and advising on best practices.

**Your gift, combined with others, makes it possible for me to help keep our community safe.**

In the outpouring of grief after the Pittsburgh massacre, I noticed that the people gathering in solidarity at the various Bay Area memorials were not just members of our Jewish community, but from faith-based institutions across the spectrum.

Tragedy can bring out the best in people, reminding us that we are not alone. All of us, no matter our religious affiliation, are working together to make our country safe from hate. Now, more than ever, I place hope in our core value of *tikkun olam*.

