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Dear Federation and Community Leaders,

This weekend brought another terrible tragedy – the shooting attack on the Poway Chabad congregation in the San Diego Jewish community.

Our Jewish Federation, like many others around the country, is taking varying approaches to bring their communities together. You'll see this in our Yom HaShoah commemorations; our educational initiatives fighting hate crimes in public schools, vigils in partnership with our synagogues and participating in multi-faith community events.

The Director of our Jewish Federations' Secure Community Network (SCN) arrived in the San Diego area Saturday night and was joined yesterday by colleagues from our national Federation system.

In the San Diego community, the Federation, SCN and ADL have worked to support local efforts to coordinate activities with partners on the ground.

This morning, the SCN Director and my colleague the local Federation executive director, Michael Jeser, visited the Chabad of Poway, meeting with the leadership and the family of Rabbi Goldstein. They also met with several of the victims, as well as individuals who took action during the attack (which likely helped save lives). Over the next few weeks, our partners will survey the community and make recommendations on how to address local needs.

**The San Diego Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation have opened a fund to meet the immediate physical, psychological and spiritual needs of the victims and others impacted.**

[Click here to donate](#)

**Telephone lines have been set up and a vigil was last night.**

The increasing pace of attacks on Jewish institutions and others is creating a very challenging environment for us all. In the wake of the Pittsburgh attack, our Federations have created a multi-year plan to scale up security infrastructure and resources to support major national partners who coordinate networks of our key institutions (schools, JCCs, synagogues, camps etc.).

Here in Greater MetroWest we're convening leadership groups of Federation, our 80+ synagogues, community agencies and institutions. Over the coming

days we'll work to further strengthen and secure community buildings and facilities and we'll keep you updated.

In the meantime ...

(1) Please go this week to one of the rallies and gatherings in our community - there's a list of these opportunities developing on our website, and we'll send it out on social media and by email to our community members. Don't be alone.

(2) Go to synagogue, go to a JCC, go to a Jewish building or restaurant or institution. Be Jewish. Don't be afraid. Don't give up. Don't stay at home. We're better than the hatemongers and attackers. We represent so much about what's good and beautiful in American Jewish life and we call on our friends and partners and neighbors to stand with us.

(3) If you see someone who works for our community - a rabbi, a professional, a volunteer - thank them. It's been a tough week for them. They need to be acknowledged. They need your support.

With prayers for a peaceful week,

Dov

**Dov Ben-Shimon**

**Executive VP/CEO**

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