

October 9, 2023

To the Mekor Habracha Community,

We are deeply saddened and horrified by the recent brutal attacks and kidnappings carried out by Hamas over the past two days. Our hearts go out to our brothers and sisters in Israel during these difficult times. As members of "Acheinu kol Beit Yisrael," we share in the emotional turmoil that the Jewish people around the world, especially in Israel, are currently experiencing.

It is natural to feel overwhelmed and helpless in the face of such atrocities. However, as we emerge from the high holiday season, the messages of teshuva, tefilla, and tzedaka/chesed resonate strongly with us. In this spirit, we would like to inform you about several events that will provide us with opportunities to come together and support one another during this heartbreaking period:

Outdoor Rally Tonight (Monday, October 8): The Jewish Federation is organizing an outdoor rally in Wynnewood tonight. Details can be found [here](#)

Community Gathering: Later this week, we will come together as a community with other city synagogues to recite Tehillim for those who have been emotionally and physically affected, for those who have been taken hostage, and to say kaddish for those who have tragically lost their lives. More details will follow.

Many of you have expressed a desire to help Israel in its time of need. Below, we have compiled a list of organizations where you can make financial donations or offer other forms of assistance:

Financial donations:

- Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's Emergency Response Campaign: Contribute directly to relief efforts in Israel [here](#)

- One Family Fund: Make a donation [here](#)

- FIDF (Friends of the Israel Defense Forces): Contribute [here](#)

Overseas Volunteer Opportunities:

- Magen David Adom's Overseas Volunteer Program: [Learn more](#)

- APF's Emergency Medical Volunteer Registry (EMV): [Learn more](#)

Campaigns to Contact U.S. Senators and U.S. House Representatives:

- AJC: [Take action here](#)

- ZOA: [Act now](#)

If you are seeking support or guidance during these challenging times, please reach out to me at [rabbiehirsch@gmail.com](mailto:rabbiehirsch@gmail.com) or the shul at [mekorhabracha@gmail.com](mailto:mekorhabracha@gmail.com).

Our hearts are with all those who have lost loved ones in this tragic conflict, and we pray for a Refuah Shelama for all the injured Cholei Yisrael. May the entire Klal Yisrael experience only besurot tovot in the days ahead.

Rabbi Eliezer Hirsch