

Dear Friends,

Our world has shifted once again. In recent days, Israel has begun directly confronting the growing military threat from Iran, launching a defensive response aimed at protecting its people and future. This is a serious and historic moment for the Jewish people — and we write today to affirm, clearly and unequivocally: we stand with Israel.

We know many in our Canton Jewish community have loved ones, friends, and deep personal ties throughout Israel, including in our Partnership2Gether region of the Western Galilee. We are in constant contact with our partners and are receiving regular updates about their safety and well-being.

Locally, we are especially grateful to report that the 30 teens currently in Israel through the ICNext program from Cleveland are safe, supported, and in good spirits despite the uncertainty. One participant shared that the experience, though intense, has brought a deeper understanding of Israel's reality and a stronger connection to their Jewish identity. Their resilience and pride are both humbling and inspiring.

Due to the unfolding situation, flights in and out of Israel have been delayed, and we expect travel disruptions will continue in the coming days and weeks.

Throughout this time, we have been in close coordination with our partners across the state. The Canton Jewish Community Federation is working together with the eight Jewish Federations of Ohio, and through Ohio Jewish Communities (OJC), to stay informed, advocate for support, and ensure the safety of our broader network.

Our leadership has also been invited to several high-level briefings with national partners, Israeli officials, and security experts, including sessions hosted by the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and the Israel Trauma Coalition. These briefings provide essential updates and help us shape a unified and informed communal response.

Here at home, our security provider partner, JFC Security, LLC, is working closely with law enforcement and the FBI. While there is currently no known credible threat to our area, security has been increased around Jewish institutions out of an abundance of caution. We urge everyone to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious to authorities immediately. Our partnership with local law enforcement remains strong, and we are grateful for their ongoing commitment to our safety.

The anxiety we feel as a Jewish community is real — and it is deepened by the rise in hateful rhetoric and violence across our country. In recent days, we've witnessed tragic and senseless attacks, fueled by political and ideological hatred. At this incendiary moment in history, we must stand together, despite our differences, and be a voice for peace, unity, and resilience.

We pray for the safety of all Israelis — for civilians, first responders, and soldiers. We pray for healing, for calm, and for an end to this cycle of fear and violence.

Now more than ever, our strength lies in our unity, in our shared values, and in our unwavering commitment to one another and to Israel.

Am Yisrael Chai.

With strength and solidarity,



Ori Akrish, CEO

The Canton Jewish Community Federation