



An Important Message From Mindy
November 9, 2016

Going Forward with Hope and Purpose

My Dear Friends,

Like so many of us, I am stunned by the choice our country has made. It would appear that the hateful and hurtful messages that were brought to the public arena this year triumphed.

Whereas I worry about the moral fiber of our nation, I worry most about the good people we know who happen to be refugees or immigrants, disabled, or poor. I can only imagine the fear that so many are feeling, wondering if our government is now going to 'come after them.'

I can't pretend to suggest that everything will be all right. But I do know this: **our work at Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley, our work in the nonprofit sector, and our work as good people who are passionate about making the world a better place is more important than ever.**

I think about the Iranian refugees who constantly tell us, "I love Jewish Family Services. You are my family."

I think about the single mom who broke down in tears and said, "Thank you for remembering our family at Hanukkah. I couldn't afford to get my boy any gifts but you made our holiday happy."

I think about the older gentleman who is part of our caregiver support group who said, "Thank you for helping me to go on."

I think about our sincere efforts to serve all of our clients with dignity, respect and integrity.

I think about how very difficult this moment in time is and the awful values that have been promoted. But I also I think about the one thing we can and must do: redouble our work as good, caring people. We can – and we will - bring our positive messages and beautiful work to the wonderful good people who we serve.

So on this very troubling day, may we all take the time to do whatever we need to do to find healing. And then let's work hard to make Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley the best organization we can be and to make sure we continue to do our part to perform tikkun olam – acts of kindness to repair our world.

Let's remember the words of Fred Rogers: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

We at JFS are the helpers.

Thank you for everything you do on behalf of Jewish Family Services.

Mindy Berkowitz
Executive Director