

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 25, 2022

JCC's "Build a Hug" Drive - Seeking Donations of New Stuffed Animals and Books for Children of Uvalde, Texas

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh's Center for Loving Kindness in partnership with the 10.27 Healing Partnership is seeking donations of new stuffed animals and books for children of Uvalde, Texas.

Donations to the "Build a Hug" drive will be boxed and sent to the Herby Ham Activity Center in Uvalde for distribution to children in a community that is traumatized by the horrific shooting at the Robb Elementary School on May 24, in which 19 children and two adults were killed.

"Showing love and support for a community experiencing pain is at the core of our values." said Rabbi Ron Symons, Director of the JCC Center for Loving Kindness. "That is why it is important we stand with a fellow community center which will act as a place of healing for the people of Uvalde."

WHAT: *Build a Hug* is a drive to collect new stuffed animals and new children's books for children of Uvalde, Texas

WHEN: Drop off new stuffed animals and books by Friday, June 3, 2022.

WHERE: Donations can be dropped off during operating hours:

JCC members and others are welcome.

JCC Squirrel Hill, Garage Entrance, 5738 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Monday through Thursday: 6 am-8 pm; Friday: 6 am-6 pm;

Saturday and Sunday: 8 am-5 pm

JCC South Hills, Main Entrance, 345 Kane Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Monday through Thursday: 6 am-8 pm; Friday: 6 am-6 pm;

Saturday and Sunday: 8 am-1 pm

BACKGROUND: In the aftermath of the horrific mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, Center for Loving Kindness and 10.27 Healing Partnership connected with the Herby Ham Activity Center, a community center just 3 miles from the school. Their Project Grace provides a safe space for children experiencing trauma. They need brand new with the tags on STUFFED ANIMALS and brand-new elementary school level BOOKS.

For interviews or media inquiries please contact:

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More info on the JCC: JCCPGH.org

About the JCC Center for Loving Kindness

The JCC Center for Loving Kindness was established in 2016 with the goal of redefining the word *neighbor* from a geographic term to a moral concept. The Center For Loving Kindness works to strengthen the fabric of community and the Jewish value of "love your neighbor as yourself." Fulfilling the values of the JCC, the Center for Loving Kindness serves as a catalyst for social change and connectedness through social action, community building and interfaith work.

About the 10.27 Healing Partnership

Based at the JCC in Squirrel Hill, the 10.27 Healing Partnership provides support, connection, and opportunities for reflection for individuals and their loved ones impacted by the October 2018 attack and others who experience hate-induced trauma.

