

November 1, 2023

Beth Sholom Congregation
11825 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD 20854

Attention: Audrey Siegel
Executive Director Bikur Cholim of Greater Washington
Hope & Healing Gala

Re: Rabbi/Chaplain David Balto – Hope & Healing Honoree

Dear Ms. Siegel:

I am writing this letter to share in my joy of learning that Rabbi David Balto will be honored at the Hope and Healing Gala.

I met David (as I've always called him) during my work as Volunteer manager at MedStar Washington Hospital Center, during the years that I have known him, we have shared in our faith traditions and learned from each-another (I am Roman Catholic), both of us always asking questions about one another's faith and sharing in our holydays, David even gifted me a Rosary brought from the Holy Land, it's the only one I pray with (and I have many)!

His love of learning, sharing, and participating in different inter-cultural and religious activities has made him a well-rounded Chaplain, able to speak to nearly anyone in their own faith language, his presence is always felt and, in many cases, his quiet and compassionate company was the one our patients and staff appreciated the most.

I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor, I know his work will continue for many more years and his beautiful and selfless heart will touch countless more people in the years to come.

Respectfully,

Vanessa J. Niño, MPA, CMI-Spanish
Manager, Language and Volunteer Services
MedStar Washington Hospital Center