

**LETTER TO THE SURVIVOR MITZVAH PROJECT  
FROM HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS TSYLE AND GRISHA BEDERMAN**

*"I am Grisha Bederman from Bucha, Ukraine writing for my wife Tsyle, from her words.*

*Hello my dear friends from far away dear America!!! I am dictating the words and Grisha is writing everything down and calming me down because I cry all the time. I so want to hug you and yet I am so far away from you! If only I could visit you, but I no longer feel well, and I even started to forget what day it is, and I cannot write at all because my hands are shaking.*

*When the war started my grandfather told us to run, leaving everything. He stayed behind because his daughter, my aunt, was 9 months pregnant with her second child (she already had a four-year-old daughter). Grandpa didn't think the Germans would hurt an old man, a young pregnant woman and a child. But what happened to them is more horrible than words can tell.*

*The Germans made everyone gather in the town square to be killed. They took my young aunt, stripped her naked, and hitched her to a heavy wagon like a horse. Then they whipped her forcing her to pull the wagon around and round beating her and the child the whole time.*

*When she started to give birth, they shot her. My grandfather begged them to at least save the baby, but for this they shot him and killed the baby and the four-year-old. The streets ran with blood. No one remained.*

*I keep thanking the Almighty for sending such dear people as you my way and now I am crying again.*

*If I only knew how to thank you for everything you do for us, tell me and I will do anything. May love and kindness follow you everywhere!!!*

*Sincerely, your Tysle & Grisha!"*