

Mr. Mark Wilf
Chair, Board of Trustees
The Jewish Federations of North America
via email

יצחק הרצוג
יו"ר ההנהלה

Isaac Herzog
Chairman of the
Executive

Dear Mark,

On behalf of the Board of Governors of The Jewish Agency for Israel and the millions of people we serve worldwide, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you.

We received the money transfer for \$72.5 million of undesignated funds to support our work. Not only was there no diminution of the \$72 million goal set in September 2019 before the COVID pandemic, but Federation communities significantly exceeded that target. And, they accomplished this at a time when local needs are skyrocketing, and Federations have been called upon to sustain and support all aspects of communal life at levels never seen before. We often repeat, both publicly and in private, our commitment to safe and thriving Jewish communities -- but to see Federations step up so boldly is an awe-inspiring way to end this deeply challenging year.

The tragedy of Halle, Germany, in which attackers opened fire on a tiny synagogue on Yom Kippur just over one year ago is a chilling example of the power of our collaborative effort. The lives of dozens of worshipers were saved by the cameras and bullet proof door installed by The Jewish Agency- with funds contributed by our Jewish Federations. From Manhattan to Minsk, anti-Semitism continues as a pervasive and growing threat but together we are keeping at-risk Jews safe. This is holy work.

Our partnership is also about ensuring Jewish continuity, particularly in days of unrest. With Federations' help, The Jewish Agency launched the COVID-19 Crisis Loan Fund for Communities at Risk around the world; We provided food packages, essential hygiene and sterilization products, and cultural programs during lock-down for the elderly residents of our Amigour sheltered housing facilities, as well as ensured that their essential workers were fully equipped with protective gear and compensated for their many additional hours of dedicated service; We financially supported and provided living stipends for new olim from Ethiopia and ensured nutrition for elderly men and women in Ethiopia awaiting Aliya.

The Jewish Agency also operated programs for young adults that enable them to work, volunteer and study in Israel, build lifelong ties to the Jewish State while strengthening Jewish identity and helping nurture the next generation of leaders from across North America. Without a doubt, the impact of these experiences and the sense of opportunity they instilled when everywhere else' horizons were narrowing, will serve our people well for years ahead.

We salute the Jewish Federations of North America, the leadership exemplified by you and JFNA CEO Eric Fingerhut, the Federations themselves and their teams, for your unyielding support which has ensured providing opportunities and enabling us to continuously meet the needs of our fellow women and men around the world.

We look forward to continuing working together and we pray that 2021 brings safety and security to the Jewish people and the entire world, as well as continued good health to all of you and your families.

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Isaac Herzog
Chairman of the
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Sincerely,

Michael Siegal
Chairman of the Board

Isaac Herzog
Chairman of the Executive