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Dear Federation and Community leaders and colleagues,

ואכלתם ושבעתם וברכתם את־יהוה אלהיך על־הארץ הטבה אשר נתת־לך

*When you have eaten your fill, bless God for the good land which was given to you (Deut 8:10)*

This week we're focused on gratitude. For our employees, for our leadership, and for all those in our community who stand up, who work together, who build and strengthen our community.

Saying 'thank you' is a critical Jewish value. When we eat, pray, meet and celebrate, we give thanks for the blessings of life, God, and creation. But we also give thanks for one another, and for the vision and values that we share.

This week's Torah portion, Toldot ("Generations"), connects us as American Jews to our history, and the concept of understanding who we are and from where we come.

[Click here to see a short video](#) on the portion, its meaning, and a connection to the work we do as a Jewish Federation to make sure that no one is left behind, and all can eat their fill.

I am proud and thankful to be an immigrant in this wonderful, amazing country. I appreciate every day the freedoms, opportunities and blessings that living in America affords us. And I remind myself this week that we celebrate Thanksgiving, not Thanksgetting. That, to paraphrase Winston Churchill, getting helps make a living, but giving helps make a life.

May your Thanksgiving tomorrow be sweet, meaningful, and filled with life. May your Shabbat this weekend be restful and peaceful. And may you enjoy the fruits and company of the best our country has to offer, and may you have a joyous celebration.

Warmly,

Dov

**Dov Ben-Shimon**

**Executive VP/CEO**

From the Federation Exec - Thanksgiving and Thanksgetting

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