



## **Ted Talks: We help Israelis recover from rocket attacks**

News of the indictment of Israel's Prime Minister is an opportunity to remind Federation friends and supporters that our commitment to Israel is not dependent upon its political leadership but upon our Jewish values that call on us to meet the needs of Jews and Jewish communities, wherever they live.

Our focus is to provide for basic needs, strengthen Jewish identity, build community, reinforce ties between Jews and the Israeli people, address Jewish security concerns and respond to emergencies locally and abroad.



This was evidenced last week when more than 400 rockets were launched from the Gaza Strip into Israel, resulting in scores of Israelis being injured, homes being damaged, millions of Israelis forced into shelters, and loss to the Israeli economy in the tens of millions of dollars.

I am thankful that we in St. Paul are able to respond to last week's crisis through Federation's support of organizations in Israel such as Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the Jewish Agency for Israel. JFNA's Israel office operated during these attacks by working with Israeli government branches and other partner organizations.

The JDC reached out to municipalities in southern Israel to assess needs. It opened the Virtual Center for Independent Living, a hotline for elderly residents living alone who may have needed special assistance.

The Jewish Agency's Fund for Victims of Terror provided immediate emergency assistance to families whose homes in the south suffered direct hits from the rockets. It also aided 6,500 new immigrants in absorption centers and 5,000 seniors in assisted living facilities in areas affected during the unrest.

I am grateful that last week's unrest has abated, and I hope it continues. As Thanksgiving approaches, I am also thankful for the strength of American Jewry and the St. Paul Jewish community to continue to care for Jews here and abroad.

I wish you a happy Thanksgiving holiday!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.