

June 11, 2018

28 Sivan, 5778

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

After 47 years of service to the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago - including 39 years to date serving as President – earlier today I informed our Executive Committee and Board of Directors that I intend to transition to a new role expected to take place about a year from now, June 2019.

As has long been envisioned, I will continue to serve and represent JUF in various special capacities, including on the boards of directors of several foundation and nonprofits, and as the executive responsible in a variety of new and ongoing initiatives.

Attached to this note is a message from JUF Chairman Michael Zaransky, which provides details about the search for a new chief executive and other matters.

In making this announcement, I reflect on what has been a lifetime of service to the Jewish community.

I made my first gift to JUF in 1967, when, as a recent college graduate, the Six Day War galvanized me to action. Four years later I came to work at JUF, beginning what for me continues to be a profound journey, merging my personal and professional passions.

I will share more about that journey with you in the months ahead, but for now let me relate a few thoughts.

Since its incorporation in 1900, our Federation has mobilized and represented the Chicago Jewish community's desire to do good in the world. You can imagine how thrilled and honored I was when, in 1979, David Smerling, chairman of JUF's Executive Search Committee, asked me to become the organization's fourth CEO.

At age 34, I stood on the shoulders of those who came before me. I owed – as do all of us to this day -- a tremendous debt of gratitude to people who laid the foundation for building JUF/Federation into one of America's largest and most effective nonprofits.

I leave it to others to evaluate JUF's impact over the last number of decades but of one thing I am certain: We, who have dedicated ourselves to JUF/Jewish Federation and who continue to devote our lives to serving our community, are privileged.

We helped create a Jewish community whose strength and impact are unprecedented.

We helped change the course of Jewish history by rescuing and resettling persecuted Jews from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, Syria, Yemen, and many other places of danger, enabling them to build new lives in freedom.

We proudly stood shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters in Israel, helped them overcome grave challenges, and supported their efforts to build a just, open, diverse, and secure society.

We raised ever-increasing funds to meet expanding needs, and supported growth and change within our agencies, schools and myriad beneficiaries, touching each year the lives of hundreds of thousands of Jews and non-Jews.

Together with our partner agencies we conceived and implemented innovative programs and funding mechanisms to provide for the needy, to safeguard and uplift our community, and to inspire the next generation, who embody our collective future.

As I reflect on the past and imagine the future, I see a wellspring of strength in Chicago's committed volunteers and leaders, people who are Jewishly literate and involved, who step forward chairperson after chairperson, year after year, campaign after campaign, challenge after challenge.

I also see our strength in the pool of talented communal professionals who represent the best and the brightest, and who work together as a team with vision, purpose and expertise. How remarkable it is to see our collective capacity to accomplish great and important work thanks to the unique partnership – based on mutual trust, respect and affection – of volunteers and professionals. This will assure our success for decades to come.

Allow me to conclude for now by saying how great a *zechut*, a privilege and opportunity, it is to serve the community where I was born, and which I love. With special gratitude and love to my parents of blessed memory, to my wonderful family, and to all of you, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

Sincerely,

Steven B. Nasatir