

A Reflection to Precede “Dayenu”

By Rabbi Susan Freeman, Center for Jewish Care

“Dayenu” is a Passover Seder song expressing gratitude for the good things that happened for us, even as we faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Typically, we translate the word *Dayenu* as “it would have been enough.” But we could easily pose the phrase as a question...

If, since last Passover:

We significantly increased the number of individuals who formerly were unhoused and now have shelter. ***Would it have been enough? Dayenu?***

We provided thousands of meals to those experiencing food insecurity in our community. ***Would it have been enough? Dayenu?***

We offered transportation and peace of mind to hundreds of older adults who are isolated in their homes so they could attend doctor appointments and social gatherings. ***Would it have been enough? Dayenu?***

We diligently examined the data from our Jewish community-wide survey, to determine who and what needs more attention. ***Would that have been enough? Dayenu?***

We equipped parents and families with skills and tools for growing their capacity to manage day-to-day life with more confidence and ease. ***Would it have been enough? Dayenu?***

We energetically advocated for those who have little voice and power in our society. ***Would that have been enough? Dayenu?***

As a Jewish community, we have done this and more...
We have accomplished much, and we are grateful!

And yet, is it enough? On this Passover holiday, let us grow our vision, aiming to:

House all those who need shelter...

Guarantee all who are hungry have enough to eat...

Ensure all who are lonely receive caring and compassionate visitors...

Expand access to all who need mental health resources...

Extend support and encouragement to all families who may face difficulties behind closed doors...

Advocate for all in our midst who feel their voices don't count or don't matter...

Starting now, and going forward, let us pray and work for the day when we will raise our voices to sing *Dayenu*—it is *now* enough!

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy, healthy, and meaningful Passover!