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This week's Torah portion describes how Moses gathered the Jewish people together to begin construction of the tabernacle.

The first word in the *Parsha* is "*Vayakhel*" - which in its simple translation means: "And he gathered together".

Rashi, our most respected and beloved commentator from the early 1100s gives a deeper interpretation of what this word implies based on a careful grammatical reading:

He says that this word "*vayakhel*" is in the "*hifil*" verb tense which indicates an indirect (rather than direct) action.

In other words, Moses did not manually or forcefully gather the Jewish people together. Instead, Moses's words inspired the nation and made it so that they all wanted to come together to contribute their own unique skills and resources to the building of the tabernacle.

What is learned from here is a very meaningful idea about how a leader should act - inspiring people of different backgrounds, natures, and interests to come together for a shared purpose.

This trait truly reflects the essence of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. The Federation is an organization of leadership - leadership that inspires diverse members and agencies within the Jewish Community to come together for shared purpose and meaning.

As a representative of Yeshiva Elementary School, I am very thankful to be a part of this shared mission.

Thank you for allowing me to speak and have a wonderful day.