



Provider of All: A Connect to Care Prayer for the High Holidays 5771

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Provider of All, Whose Open Hand Satisfies All the Living with Favor (*Psalm 145:16*):

It is no secret that for many months, if not for a few years,
the Economy of our city, our country and much of the world has been in trouble.
Many who were once largely self-sufficient have become dependent
-- in new, challenging, and sometimes overwhelming ways --
and those who were already struggling to make ends meet
are truly in extreme need and desperation.

We turn to you as Jews who need Your help.
At the core of our prayer, of course, are jobs --
employment for all who can and want to work --
that will provide not only the means for food, clothing, and shelter,
but a source of purpose, direction, service, sustenance, and meaning in daily life.

As we work to find employment,
support us when we confront obstacles, disappointments, or hurts;
build our resolve and our resilience,
facilitate our prioritizing, our navigating, our redirection.

Help us in our moments of depression and despair.
Enable us to take care of ourselves physically and emotionally,
and each day to find the ability to take some step forward
in our job search and in our self-care.

Assist us in coping with the loss of identity, or the intensity of shame,
so that we grow to appreciate that we are defined in Your eyes
not by what job we have, nor by the profession we practice, nor the paycheck we receive,
but by who we are, how we relate, our deeds of justice and compassion.

Strengthen us when we need to reach out and ask for help.
Teach us to acknowledge that just as we have helped others, and will in the future,
it may well now be time to accept help ourselves
in the cyclical economy of life.

Support and guide those who want to be of help to us
to do so with generosity not only of wallet but of spirit,
so that we are neither pitied nor overlooked,
neither humiliated nor neglected.

Even with the dark clouds, may we find some light.
May we find gratitude for the blessings of our lives --
friends and family, nature, literature, art, tradition, humor, and so much more --
and soon be able to express thanks for the blessing of employment.