“I think we are going to have a good life again. When that happens, I’m gonna help hungry people out.”

John, story inside
As a supporter of MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, you’ve received many of these newsletters, but this is a very special issue. Not only does it arrive as we begin the High Holy Days, but it also heralds the launch of a very special community engagement effort that has been years in the making: This Is Hunger.

MAZON has a long and proud tradition of engaging the American Jewish community and anti-hunger organizations across the United States to work together as catalysts for the change we need to end hunger in America. We know all too well that there are persistent myths about hunger in America, about who is hungry and why. It is a long battle to turn those stereotypes around and make real change, and many of us struggle with compassion fatigue.

We rely on your energy, passion and commitment to engage in this vital work year after year.

That’s why in November 2016, MAZON will officially launch the public tour of This Is Hunger, a powerful community engagement program that will encourage synagogues and individuals to embark on a journey with us—one that will challenge their beliefs about who in America struggles with hunger and why, ignite that energy and empower them to join us in taking action to end hunger in America.

At this time of reflection, renewal and t’shuvah, we invite you to read John’s story, one of many that will be a part of This Is Hunger. Consider your own assumptions about hunger in America, and join us in delving deeper into what drives our neighbors, our friends, and our families into these circumstances. We hope you will engage in the This Is Hunger experience when it arrives in your community, discover the stories of those who struggle among us, and make this year the year we rededicate ourselves to truly ending hunger in America.

L’shalom,

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Abby J. Leibman
PRESIDENT & CEO

Shirley Davidoff
BOARD CHAIR

John’s Story from THIS IS HUNGER

I feel bad when my mom tries to buy me some food and I say, ‘Mom if you’re not getting yourself something than I’m not getting anything.’ And she says ‘Yes you are.’ And I say ‘no I’m not.’ It makes me feel sad that my parents sometimes feed us kids and not themselves. But it makes me feel happy that they care so much about my brother and me.

At about my age, kids want to help care for their family a little bit more. I think the law should let kids work to help with their family’s finances. I wish I could get a little paper route so I could bring home a check because sometimes we have a little bit of trouble paying the rent and getting enough food. My mom is really struggling to get a job. She wants that feeling she gets when she comes home with a paycheck and can afford to feed us and get us some things that we want. My dad is disabled and can’t work a regular job anymore. To pull together some money, we go out and find some scrap metal and sell it to the junkyard for maybe a hundred bucks a load.

There was a period, before we got food stamps, when I was so hungry that it hurt a little bit in my stomach and kind of made me out of breath. I didn’t tell my friends about our situation. It was a private thing. I got really bad grades in school then and I was used to getting good grades. If I am hungry in school, I can’t focus a lot and I don’t understand the lesson. I’m glad that the school I am in now can give us breakfast because you need breakfast to get you going in the morning. The school gives us apple slices, bagels and cheese and those little fruit juices. When I don’t eat in the morning, it makes me drowsy and I stare off in space just thinking about lunch. If I didn’t get school lunches I’d be a little disappointed because I might not have enough to eat.

My life changed when we got on food stamps. We get food in the clearance aisle and don’t buy whole price things. The food stamps we get aren’t enough to feed four people for a month, so I’m always excited to go to the food bank. Sometimes there are things I really like and sometimes not so much. I combine things to make the taste a little bit better and to fill up a little bit more- like putting cinnamon and sugar on the bread.

I think we are going to have a good life again. When that happens, I’m gonna help hungry people out, like invite them to dinner and give them some food to take home. I will be excited when my mom gets a job. Then we will be good to go and have some extra money to do some of the stuff that we haven’t been able to do. Maybe we could go to Cedar Point. I’ve never been and always wanted to.

I

Read more stories from This Is Hunger at thisishunger.org/stories
MAZON has a long tradition of engaging the American Jewish community as well as anti-hunger organizations to become catalysts for the change we need to end hunger in America. Until our nation recognizes the profound prevalence of hunger here at home, we will never be able to rally the political will required to end it.

That’s why, in November 2016, MAZON will officially launch the public tour of This Is Hunger, a powerful community engagement program that will encourage individuals to embark on a journey - one that will challenge their beliefs about who in America struggles with hunger and why and empower them to take action.

We’re so thrilled to finally share this exciting experience with people across the U.S. – and most importantly, with you. Here’s a glimpse!

Stories
You’ll sit at the table and meet, virtually, real people struggling with hunger. Portraits are projected at each end of the table, one by one, as they share their stories in their own words, and in their own voices.

Advocacy
You’ll have various opportunities to delve more deeply into the issues and take action to support real change in the lives of those who struggle with hunger.

Tour
November 2016 - August 2017
Our truck will be on the road for 10 months, visiting 15 (or more!) metro areas around the country. Visit thisishunger.org/tour for the full schedule and to reserve your tickets.

Truck
The mobile experience features a 53-foot-long, 10 foot high, 1,000 square foot double-expandable trailer. Our very own big rig, raising awareness about hunger.
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger wishes to recognize its team working on This Is Hunger:

Barbara Grover, Photographer / Documentarian
Marni Gittleman, Creative Director / Principal Concept & Content Developer
Gail Greenberg, Principal Designer
Chris Green, Multimedia Show Developer / Production Designer
Karen Snider, Project Manager / Developer
Rosa Palermo, Project Coordinator / Content Engagement Educator
Mobile X Events, Tour Management
Kentucky Trailer Special Vehicles, Trailer Fabrication

MORE INFORMATION
Visit thisishunger.org for schedule, tickets, stories and more information about the program.

WE WELCOME NEW STAFF

Michael A. Goldberg, Director of Development
Michael brings over 15 years of experience in the non-profit arena to MAZON as the new leader of our fundraising efforts. Prior to joining the MAZON team, Michael served in a variety of key development and management roles for leading charitable organizations including The Los Angeles Jewish Home, Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters, Adat Shalom, Temple Emanuel, and Temple Isaiah, among others. Michael holds a degree in Religious Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara and is an active member of local and national fundraising associations.

Amy Smith, Development Officer - Planned Giving
Amy works with MAZON donors to facilitate individual giving and major gifts including long-range support through bequests, trusts, and estate planning. Prior to joining MAZON, Amy was the Chief Development Officer at the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank where she was responsible for the development, marketing, and communications operations. Amy earned her B.A. at Antioch College in Literature, her Masters in Library Service at Columbia University, and earned her certification in Planned Giving from the American Institute for Philanthropic Studies at California State University, Long Beach.

Miriam K. Tohill, Organizer
Mimi is engaged in building coalitions, strengthening communities, and taking action to end food insecurity in America. Prior to joining MAZON, she developed and led advocacy communities on the Send Silence Packing tour of Active Minds, a leading U.S. nonprofit addressing mental health on college campuses. She also served as Deputy Field Director on the U.S. Congressional campaign to elect Martha Robertson, NY-23. Miriam holds a B.A. in History and Comparative Literature & Cultural Studies from Franklin University, Switzerland.

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ABOUT MAZON
MAZON is a leading nonprofit organization working to end hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds in the United States and Israel.

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JOIN US ON SOCIAL
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MAZON NEWS Fall 2016
GIVE A GIFT TODAY

May the sounding of the shofar call you to act on behalf of all those who are hungry in our midst. Give a gift today by using the enclosed envelope, visiting mazon.org or by calling us at (800) 813-0557.
Thank you for your generous support!