FROM MAZON’S PRESIDENT & CEO

Every year at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we gather together to reflect on the last year. It’s a time to look inward, and a time to think about how we can become our best self.

I do this personally, but I also use this sacred time to reflect on MAZON’s last year. What have we accomplished together? What impact have we made together? Knowing what we know now, how can we improve? How can we do more?

We reflect on the past year. But we focus on the year to come. Because ultimately, we can only move forward.

The year ahead brings challenges. The focus of our work – ensuring that hungry people have access to nutritious food through advocacy and government policy – will be especially difficult given the budget-cutting environment we’re facing. While there is no question that the policy changes we support (and propose) will help more of those in need, these policies come with a price tag. And that cost makes achieving even small, incremental changes exceedingly difficult.

Although hunger policies may be gridlocked at the federal level, there are opportunities to create change and influence policies at the state level. Our partners and advocacy projects across the country and on the ground help to carry out these opportunities.

This year also brings exciting and new resources to face the challenge. We welcomed our new board chair, Shirley Davidoff. It comes as no surprise that she’s jumped into her new position with fervor. She follows the extraordinary Rabbi Harold Kravitz, who led our board with tremendous dedication. We welcomed new staff. We welcomed new board members. And we welcomed new partnerships in the field in the form of new – and strong – grantees and projects.

Our work is never easy, but your continued support makes it possible. We, together, are the voice of change.

L’shalom,

Abby J. Leibman
PRESIDENT & CEO

FROM MAZON’S BOARD CHAIR

It is my absolute pleasure to begin my tenure as MAZON Board Chair.

Social justice work, particularly around the issue of hunger, is a passion of mine, and it makes working with MAZON a perfect fit.

Like many of you, I began my volunteer work both in my community (Dallas) and in my synagogue (Congregation Shearith Israel) where I am now first Vice President. I’ve co-chaired Mitzvah days, sat on the social action committee and worked side-by-side with the dedicated volunteers and staff at our local food bank.

I’ve also talked with those who are hungry, and I too struggled with how to address the immediate needs as well as identify long-term solutions to hunger. I understand the importance of our food drives and donations to help those in our communities but I wanted my own impact to be even greater. I learned, after being on the MAZON Board for seven years, that local efforts and national initiatives must go hand-in-hand. As much as we try, we will never food bank our way out of hunger.

For our impact to expand, it will also take local, state-wide and national advocacy efforts. You’ll see examples of our advocacy accomplishments throughout this issue.

MAZON gives each of us the opportunity to heighten our commitment in the fight against hunger. Your support provides essential grants in communities around the country and in Israel and also contributes to the strong national presence we have in the anti-hunger arena.

I ask you to join me as we work together to end hunger. Your donation does make a difference.

L’shalom,

Shirley Davidoff
BOARD CHAIR
ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Our advocacy works to ensure that hungry people have access to nutritious food today and demands that government policies assure no one goes hungry tomorrow. The road to social justice is paved with many acts of advocacy:

- **Promoting Food Security and Food Justice in Israel Conference**
  - February 26th
  - MAZON hosted and gave the keynote presentation at the conference, held at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The conference convened NGOs, universities, and government officials to discuss the current state of hunger in Israel, as well as the best ways to work jointly to address it.

- **National Defense Authorization Act amendment**
  - June 9th
  - MAZON helped craft a bipartisan amendment to help struggling military families access SNAP benefits. The amendment was not included in the final bill, but did help call attention to the long-ignored issue of hunger among military families.

- **Capitol Hill Visits**
  - June 9th
  - MAZON board members, staff and supporters met with key members of Congress to discuss MAZON’s priorities for Child Nutrition Reauthorization; the Older Americans Act; protecting funding and integrity for SNAP; and addressing food insecurity challenges for veterans and active duty military families. We met with:
    - Senator Pat Roberts (KS) - Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman
    - Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI) - Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member
    - Congressman Mike Conaway (TX) - House Agriculture Committee Chairman
    - Congressman Jim McGovern (MA) - House Nutrition Subcommittee Chairman and Co-chair of the House Hunger
    - Congressman Joe Courtney (CT)
    - Congressman Tim Walz (MN)
    - Congressman Lee Zeldin (NY)

- **U.S. Senate Opening Prayer**
  - June 9th
  - Outgoing Board Chair, Rabbi Harold Kravitz, offered the opening prayer on the floor of the U.S. Senate. This honor was extended by Senator Al Franken (MN) and Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, Rear Admiral Barry C. Black.

- **Summer Camp Programs**
  - June - August
  - MAZON led 16 sessions of advocacy training for campers ages 12-18 at summer camps in four states: CA, WI, TX and MA.

- **VA Chaplins Webinar**
  - June 24th
  - MAZON’s Director of Government Affairs, Josh Protas, led a webinar to a group of VA chaplains nationwide. This first ever webinar covered SNAP awareness and the barriers that veterans face when accessing benefits.

- **Celebrate Israel Festival**
  - May 26th
  - MAZON staffed a booth at the Celebrate Israel Festival in LA to raise awareness of the prevalence of hunger in the Jewish State.

- **Older Americans Act twitter chat**
  - July 14th
  - @StopHunger 6 million seniors are food insecure, making senior feeding programs SO important. #OAA50
Among the myths about hunger in America frequently repeated is the notion that it is better for local charities, not the government to feed people. The massive scale of the issue of hunger, the complex factors contributing to this problem, and the response necessary to adequately address it reveal a far different truth: the charitable sector provides an important short-term fix but is inherently insufficient to solve the systemic problem of hunger.

Charitable organizations, including MAZON’s nationwide network of partners on the front lines, were not intended to feed entire communities. Instead, these food banks, food pantries, and soup kitchens were founded to help alleviate what were thought to be temporary or emergency situations. Many of these agencies are small operations, open only a few days each week and for a few hours each day. They are largely volunteer run, often out of basements or closets at their local houses of worship, and they primarily distribute food that has been donated from within their communities. They simply could never have the capacity to feed the significant and persistent number of people who need help.

Only the government has the capacity to address an issue of such magnitude and work toward a solution to this problem. The U.S. Department of Agriculture administers 15 distinct food and nutrition assistance programs. These programs serve as our nation’s frontline defense against food insecurity to help hungry Americans.

The USDA works diligently to ensure that government nutrition safety net programs are operated with the utmost effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability. Such well-run government programs embody our national commitment to account for the needs and rights of all Americans and our collective responsibility to care for the most vulnerable among us. It’s simple: ending systemic hunger begins with advocates and ends with the government.

The charitable response could never be enough to meet demand. Even the nation’s largest anti-hunger organization can’t make a dent in ending hunger in America:

The poverty and nutrition-related disease statistics among Native American communities are staggering. 29.2% of Native Americans live in poverty, a rate that is double the national average. Diabetes among children on reservations is four times the national average. And these issues have been ignored for far too long. As part of our Rural and Remote focus, we’re partnering with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) and the University of Arkansas School of Law to develop a model food and agriculture code to help Native American communities overcome these challenges.

The model food code will create a strong foundation for implementing needed policy changes that affect all 567 federally recognized Native American tribes. The code addresses hunger and food insecurity, food safety, water use and quality, nutrition, seed protection, land use and much more. Stay tuned.

Celebrate with a Mitzvah!

We have new guides to share inspirational ways you can invite MAZON to your Bar/Bat Mitzvah or wedding.

Contact us at hello@mazon.org and we’ll send you a guide!
Parashat Emor includes this mitzvah: “And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am Adonai your God.” (Leviticus 23:22)

This mitzvah is mentioned more than once. Four chapters earlier in Leviticus 19, (verses 9, 10) include the exact language but add two further ways to fulfill this commandment: “You shall not pick your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard.”

A third and final variation is found in one of the Torah’s final chapters, Deuteronomy 24:19: “When you reap the harvest in your field and overlook a sheaf in the field, do not turn back to get it; it shall go to the stranger, the fatherless, and widow - in order that Adonai your God may bless you in all your undertakings.” This passage expands and deepens the reach of this responsibility, and broadens our understanding of its meaning.

Rabbi Bernard Bamberger z”l, one of my predecessors at Congregation Shaaray Tefila in New York, says that the three Torah laws teach “the right of the poor at harvest time.” With this one phrase, Bamberger revolutionizes our understanding and transforms our perspective. He redirects our thoughts to focus on our fellow human beings who go hungry in God’s world. The idea that those who lack sufficient sustenance have a right to be cared for by those of us who do is one that deeply enriches our understanding of why we are here. The thought that the poor have rights impels MAZON’s constant efforts to convince our fellow Americans that the abundance of our food production can and should be matched by the generosity of our hearts.

D’var Torah taught by Rabbi Jonathan Stein, MAZON Board Member

FOOD IS FUNDAMENTAL

Morgan and Janice Powell started out like so many of MAZON’s donors: our mission just resonated with them.

Morgan tells us, “When one looks at the multitude of charitable organizations to donate to and become involved with, there is an endless number of worthwhile missions. But for my wife Janice and me, food insecurity stands out in the crowd. Food is fundamental. Food access is vital. And because we know that real change will come through advocacy, advocacy organizations like MAZON are so important.”

Morgan values our emphasis on advocacy and social justice so much that he joined the MAZON Board for a day of lobbying on Capitol Hill, an experience that he describes as, “Thrilling, frustrating and leaving me with a strong desire to do more.”

Among others, he attended meetings with anti-hunger allies Senator Stabenow (MI) and Congressman McGovern (MA) to discuss MAZON’s anti-hunger priorities. McGovern shared some simple advice that stuck with Morgan: be vocal.

“We’re advocating for the voiceless. It feels good. But I also want to see meaningful change. Advocacy efforts may seem futile, but the positive results - though painfully slow to achieve - are the kind of impact I hope to make. And I encourage others to join the fight. Everyone can become an advocate.”

Welcome New Staff

Daniel Rosove, Program Director

Daniel brings a breadth of experience in politics, fundraising and advocacy to his role as Program Director of our Grants Department. Most recently, he served as Southwest Finance Director and Mid-Atlantic Regional Political Director for J Street, a pro-Israel, pro-peace lobby. Prior to his work at J Street, Daniel was a staff assistant for the United States House of Representatives’ Committee on Foreign Affairs, where he worked on Middle East issues.

After he graduated from the University of Oregon, Daniel spent eight months living and traveling in Israel, where he attended Ulpan Hebrew immersion at Ulpan Akiva in Netanya, followed by volunteering as an ambulance medic with Magen David Adom Ambulance Service in Nazareth. Daniel is a graduate of the Jeremiah Fellowship through Jews United For Justice in Washington, DC, and the New Leaders Project at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

Welcome New Staff

Morgan and Janice Powell started out like so many of MAZON’s donors: our mission just resonated with them.

Morgan tells us, “When one looks at the multitude of charitable organizations to donate to and become involved with, there is an endless number of worthwhile missions. But for my wife Janice and me, food insecurity stands out in the crowd. Food is fundamental. Food access is vital. And because we know that real change will come through advocacy, advocacy organizations like MAZON are so important.”

Morgan values our emphasis on advocacy and social justice so much that he joined the MAZON Board for a day of lobbying on Capitol Hill, an experience that he describes as, “Thrilling, frustrating and leaving me with a strong desire to do more.”

Among others, he attended meetings with anti-hunger allies Senator Stabenow (MI) and Congressman McGovern (MA) to discuss MAZON’s anti-hunger priorities. McGovern shared some simple advice that stuck with Morgan: be vocal.

“We’re advocating for the voiceless. It feels good. But I also want to see meaningful change. Advocacy efforts may seem futile, but the positive results - though painfully slow to achieve - are the kind of impact I hope to make. And I encourage others to join the fight. Everyone can become an advocate.”

Welcome New Staff

Daniel Rosove, Program Director

Daniel brings a breadth of experience in politics, fundraising and advocacy to his role as Program Director of our Grants Department. Most recently, he served as Southwest Finance Director and Mid-Atlantic Regional Political Director for J Street, a pro-Israel, pro-peace lobby. Prior to his work at J Street, Daniel was a staff assistant for the United States House of Representatives’ Committee on Foreign Affairs, where he worked on Middle East issues.

After he graduated from the University of Oregon, Daniel spent eight months living and traveling in Israel, where he attended Ulpan Hebrew immersion at Ulpan Akiva in Netanya, followed by volunteering as an ambulance medic with Magen David Adom Ambulance Service in Nazareth. Daniel is a graduate of the Jeremiah Fellowship through Jews United For Justice in Washington, DC, and the New Leaders Project at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

Welcome New Staff

Daniel Rosove, Program Director

Daniel brings a breadth of experience in politics, fundraising and advocacy to his role as Program Director of our Grants Department. Most recently, he served as Southwest Finance Director and Mid-Atlantic Regional Political Director for J Street, a pro-Israel, pro-peace lobby. Prior to his work at J Street, Daniel was a staff assistant for the United States House of Representatives’ Committee on Foreign Affairs, where he worked on Middle East issues.

After he graduated from the University of Oregon, Daniel spent eight months living and traveling in Israel, where he attended Ulpan Hebrew immersion at Ulpan Akiva in Netanya, followed by volunteering as an ambulance medic with Magen David Adom Ambulance Service in Nazareth. Daniel is a graduate of the Jeremiah Fellowship through Jews United For Justice in Washington, DC, and the New Leaders Project at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.
In 2015, we provided training, resources and nearly $4 million in funding to more than 200 traditional and nontraditional partners, including food banks, legal services and advocacy organizations working to end hunger.

California
Alameda County Community Food Bank, Oakland
Arkansas Food Bank Network, Little Rock
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Little Rock
California Food Policy Advocates, Oakland
California Hunger Action Coalition, Los Angeles
California Jewish Charities of Orange County, Garden Grove
Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County, Paso Robles
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, Concord
Food Bank for People, Eugene
Fresno Metro Ministry, Fresno
Hunger Action Los Angeles, Los Angeles
Imperial Valley Food Bank, El Centro
Interfaith Community Services, Escondido
Jewish Family and Children’s Services, San Francisco
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles/SJV, Los Angeles
Jewish Family Service of San Diego, San Diego
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Vernon
Project Angel Food, Los Angeles
Public Food, Santa Rosa
Redwood Empire Food Bank, Santa Rosa
San Diego Hunger Coalition, San Diego
Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, San Jose
Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County, Watsonville
Serving Seniors, San Francisco
Sierra Nevada Food Bank, Sacramento
Sutter Buttes Food Bank, Yuba City

Connecticut
Danbury Urban Ministries, Danbury
Hunger Free Coloreds, Centralia
Hunger Action of Los Angeles, Los Angeles
Mary, Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles
New Haven Community Action, New Haven

Delaware
Delaware Food Bank of Delaware, Inc., Newark

District of Columbia
Breast Milk Bank for the City, Washington
D.C. Hunger Solutions, Washington
Empanadas Services for the Aging, Washington
Food & Friends, Washington

Florida
Fulkersons Self-Help, Dade City
Florida Impact, Tallahassee
Treasure Coast Food Bank, Ft. Pierce

Georgia
Greater Chicago Food Depository, Chicago
Heartland Health Outreach, Inc., Chicago
Illinois Hunger Coalition, Chicago
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago/EZRA Multi-Service Center, Chicago
Northern Illinois Food Bank, Geneva

Hawaii
Appetite For Change, Minneapolis
Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, Minneapolis
Hunger Solutions Minnesota, St. Paul
Legal Services Advocacy Project, Minneapolis
Leaves and Fishes MN, Minneapolis
St. Paul Area Council of Churches, St. Paul
Second Harvest Heartland, St. Paul
White Earth Land Recovery Project, Crookston

Indiana
God’s Pantry Food Bank, Lincoln
Jewish Community of Louisville, Louisville
Kentucky Association of Food Banks, Berea

Louisiana
Louisiana Food Bank Association, Baton Rouge
Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadia

Maine
Maine Equal Justice Partners, Augusta

Maryland
Jewish Community Services, Baltimore
Maryland Hunger Solutions, Washington

Massachusetts
Law Reform Institute, Boston
NERAHH, East Boston
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Hadley
The Greater Boston Food Bank, Boston
Westchester County Food Bank, Shrewsbury

Michigan
Center for Civil Justice, Flint Food Bank, Flint
Lansing
Forgotten Harvest, Oak Park
Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan, Detroit

Minnesota
Appetite For Change, Minneapolis
Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, Minneapolis
Hunger Solutions Minnesota, St. Paul
Legal Services Advocacy Project, Minneapolis
Leaves and Fishes MN, Minneapolis
St. Paul Area Council of Churches, St. Paul
Second Harvest Heartland, St. Paul
White Earth Land Recovery Project, Crookston

Missouri
Public Policy Center of Missouri, Jefferson City
South East Public Benefits and Hunger Group, Jackson

Mississippi
Mississippi Food Bank, Jackson

Montana
Missouri Rural Crisis Center, Columbia

New Jersey
Migrant Farmers Assistance Fund, Kansas City
Missouri Food Bank Network, Missouri

New Mexico
Mississippi Food Bank, Mississippi
Montana Food Bank Network, Missoula

New York
Appetite For Change, Brooklyn
Catholic Charities of Buffalo, Buffalo
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, Harrisburg
Community Advocacy Committee of the Lehigh Valley Inc., Bethlehem
Community Legal Services, Philadelphia
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Pittsburgh
Hunger Free Pennsylvania, Harrisburg

North Carolina
Food Bank of Northern Nevada, McCarran
Three Square, Las Vegas

Ohio
Children’s Hunger Alliance, Columbus
Greater Cleveland Foodbank, Cleveland
Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, Columbus

Oklahoma
Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Tulsa
Oklahoma Food Bank Coalition, Tulsa

Oregon
Fights for Lane County, Eugene
Food for Lane County, Eugene
Food Bank of Portland, Portland
Sisters Of The Road, Portland
West Oregon Regional Anti-Hunger Consortium (WORACH), Portland

Pennsylvania
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, Harrisburg
Community Advocacy Committee of the Lehigh Valley Inc., Bethlehem
Community Legal Services, Philadelphia
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Pittsburgh
Hunger Free Pennsylvania, Harrisburg

South Carolina
Lowcountry Food Bank, Charleston
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center, Columbia

Tennessee
Community Food Advocates, Nashville
Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland, Nashville
Mid-South Food Bank, Memphis

Texas
Center for Public Policy Priorities, Austin
Feeding Texas, Austin
Houston Food Bank, Houston
San Antonio Food Bank, San Antonio

Utah
Crossroads Urban Center, Salt Lake City
Utahs Against Hunger, Salt Lake City

Washington
Food Bank of Western Washington, Seattle

Wisconsin
Hunger Task Force, Milwaukee
Wisconsin Council of Churches, Sun Prairie

We support the advocacy work of organizations advancing long-term solutions to hunger in their communities, throughout the United States and Israel.
BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR!
Help us minimize our expenses and fight for more hungry families. Please call us at (800) 813-0557 to join our monthly giving program today!

CHAIR
Shirley Davidoff

VICE CHAIR
Liz Kanter Groskind

SECRETARY
Rabbi Jonathan Stein

TREASURER
Barbara Wahl Rosove

PRESIDENT & CEO
Abby J. Leibman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Robert L. Bergen, MD
Adam L. Berger
Lois Frank
Eve Biskind Klothen
Rabbi Harold Kravitz
Steven Krikava
Theodore R. Mann
Ana Mendelson
David Napell
Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky
Robin Thomas
Jenna Weinberg
Leonard Fein, z’l

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Ruth Laibson, Chair

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD
Beth Rodin
Hazzan Nancy Abramson
Eric Fingerhut
Rabbi Steven A. Fox
Rabbi Steve Gutow
Harry Hauser
Rabbi Rick Jacobs
Blair C. Marks
Rachel E. Meytin
Rabbi Aaron D. Panken, Ph.D
Rabbi Stanley T. Schickler
Rabbi Julie Schonfeld
Janice Rosenblatt
Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D
Rabbi Steven C. Wernick
Carol Simon
Carly Zimmerman

AT-LARGE ADVISORY MEMBERS
Dr. David Altman
Rabbi Wayne Dosick
Ronnie Van Gelder

LEGAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Erwin Chemerinsky, Chair

REACH US
mazon.org
(800) 813-0557
hello@mazon.org

FIND US

GET INVOLVED
Stay informed and get involved in the fight against hunger. Sign up for our advocacy alerts and E-News at mazon.org/alerts.