

BUILDING A PATH TO JUSTICE



MAZON

A Jewish Response
To Hunger

2023 IMPACT REPORT



DEAR FRIENDS,

MAZON has been building a path to food justice for nearly four decades, brick by brick, with our robust network of partners in the Jewish community and the anti-hunger community. 2023 presented some significant bumps in that road, but as determined advocates, we found new ways to move closer to our vision of ending hunger in the United States and Israel.

When inflation rose in the U.S., we supported President Biden's expansion of safety net programs. When misguided policies continued to block military families from receiving nutrition support, we led a national movement to fight for immediate changes. When vulnerable Americans like veterans, single mothers, and Indigenous peoples faced threats to food assistance, we pushed back, gaining lost ground and preparing for new challenges ahead.

In the aftermath of the October 7th terrorist attacks in Israel, MAZON acted quickly to support our longtime partners who are facing heartbreak, uncertainty, and — of course — increased food insecurity, particularly among those who were struggling before the war began. We are incredibly proud of these partners who are pushing through their grief, pain, and fear to provide life-saving support to all Israelis, of all faiths and backgrounds, facing hunger.

The path to food security may be long and difficult, but we will continue to fight for all those who struggle with hunger. MAZON is rooted in the Jewish ideal that all people are created *b'tselem Elohim*, in the image of God. This means that every person — regardless of ethnicity, background, religion, or circumstance — deserves to reach the fullness of their potential.

MAZON will continue on the path to justice, and together we can change *how it is* to **how it should be**.

In gratitude, hope, and determination,



Joel Pitkowsky
BOARD CHAIR



Abby J. Leibman
PRESIDENT & CEO

ROOTING OUT HUNGER ACROSS THE U.S.



For nearly 40 years, MAZON has invested in building a powerful network of anti-hunger advocates across the nation — passionate leaders who advance policies that build, protect, strengthen, and expand our food safety net to ensure everyone can keep food on their tables with dignity.

In 2023, MAZON's partners in the most food insecure states in the U.S. advocated for programs and policies that alleviate hunger, often doing so in difficult political environments.

With investment and strategic support from MAZON, our partners climbed uphill battles; while the road ahead is challenging, we are inspired and remain committed to walking it side by side.

Together, we achieved incredible success in states across the country, including:

- Securing more than \$1 billion in funding for **Florida's** Summer P-EBT program, helping nearly 2.6 million children;
- Expanding **Arkansas's** free school meal program to an additional 49,000 students;
- Increasing state funds in **Indiana** for emergency food assistance from \$300,000 to \$2 million per year, and securing simplified SNAP applications for seniors and people with disabilities;
- Preventing over 4,500 **Nebraskan** households from falling off a “benefits cliff” by increasing the income limit to receive SNAP;
- Defeating a cruel proposal in **Kansas** that sought to deny SNAP benefits to parents who are behind on child support payments.

RESPONDING TO HEARTBREAK AND HUNGER IN ISRAEL



When MAZON started working in Israel over 30 years ago, we found that, despite significant food insecurity, the country had neither a meaningful system of emergency aid to help those in need, nor the necessary responsive governmental policy needed to address the roots of the crisis.

MAZON set out to build both, and those essential foundations — created and strengthened by the MAZON community — provided incredible support for those facing food insecurity in the heartbreaking days, weeks, and months since October 7th.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT

- Bolstered by MAZON's decades-long investments, the Israeli nonprofit sector quickly rose to meet emergency food security needs. Some of MAZON's partners led food distribution to families still in the south of Israel, in Israeli cities surrounding Gaza, and to those who evacuated to other locations.
- Within days of the October 7th attacks, MAZON distributed \$100,000 in emergency grants to key partner organizations serving two particularly vulnerable and often overlooked populations: Bedouins and asylum seekers.
- MAZON expressed concern about the humanitarian situation in Gaza through a letter to President Biden in the first weeks of the crisis. We thanked President Biden for his leadership and support of Israel and urged him to prioritize food security for all in his diplomacy.

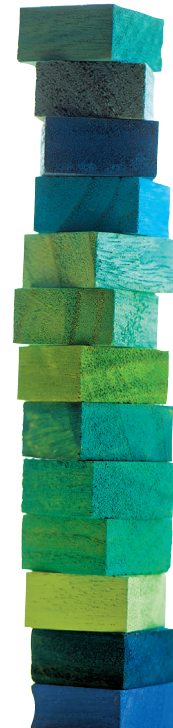
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- MAZON's Israel Director, Ishai Menuchin, and our Israeli partners met with the Israeli National Food Security Council and officials from various government ministries in the first few weeks of the crisis. They discussed several ways the government must support nonprofits as they distribute emergency food and work to address ongoing and emerging hunger needs in Israel.
- The war impacted the rollout of Israel's nascent food card program — secured in May 2023 after years of advocacy by MAZON and our partners. Despite disruptions to printing, enrollment, and distribution of this government support, we continue to monitor the program and demand that the Israeli government use equitable criteria in determining who can access this vital assistance.



CHALLENGES AHEAD

- Israel continues to face high food prices and food supply disruptions. After battling inflation for months, the war has also disrupted farming and dairy production in the western Negev, which is considered the breadbasket of Israel.
- MAZON and our partners will need more support as the food crisis continues to shift and as international funding and other outside support begins to wane. MAZON will persist in holding Israel's leaders accountable for ensuring that everyone in Israel can keep food on their tables. Amid crisis and continued instability, everyone deserves the security of full plates for their children, their families, and themselves.





BAKING CHANGE

REFLECTING ON CHALLAH FOR HUNGER: A PROJECT OF MAZON

MAZON was gratified to assume responsibility for the remarkable project, **Challah for Hunger**, in August 2023. This exciting new program addition forges new, accessible (and delicious!) avenues of engagement for MAZON across the communities with whom we work.

With nearly 20 years of organizational history and engagement, Challah for Hunger (formerly known as Nazun) long ago earned MAZON's respect, admiration, and partnership. The program has reached thousands of college students across the country, deepening their understanding of hunger in America, and helping to realize solutions to the challenges of hunger through an innovative philanthropic model.



35 active college student chapters
across 18 states and Canada,
including 2 new chapters in 2023

\$17,000+

raised in Fall 2023 challah sales
to support anti-hunger work
locally and nationally



MAZON is building relationships with current student leaders, staff advisors, and alumni. We are excited to bring this meaningful program to our network of synagogue and community partners as well. We also hope to grow the Challah for Hunger presence on community college campuses around the country.

The potential of Challah for Hunger cannot be overstated. We are eager to support student leaders as they blossom and leverage their energy and commitment to addressing hunger. Simply put, this program is an investment in the next generation of anti-hunger advocates.



1 IN 3 U.S. college students
face food insecurity

Food insecurity rates are significantly higher among community college, non-traditional, and BIPOC students

We have heard from many student leaders and staff advisors that engaging with Challah for Hunger has been a source of comfort and community since the heavy tragedies of October 7th, the ongoing crisis, and the subsequent rise in antisemitism on college campuses. It's our privilege to be one conduit to finding support, and even solace, in changemaking.

WHAT'S NEXT?

As part of its priority work on college hunger, MAZON is now undertaking an environmental scan of policies impacting the issue. We're working with Challah for Hunger chapters to surface local and state opportunities, and exploring model legislation to increase college student access to benefits.



THE HUNGER
MUSEUM™

A virtual project of MAZON



MAKING HUNGER HISTORY

In March 2023, MAZON launched The Hunger Museum, an unprecedented digital exploration into the social and political history of hunger in America — how our nation almost ended hunger, and how we can work together to do it again.

Through a powerfully heightened virtual experience, visitors are immersed in over 100 years of hunger and anti-hunger policy in America. Six galleries of historical content and hundreds of artifacts illuminate the political, economic, and cultural influences of various eras, revealing the causes of hunger in America, the expansion and dismantling of the American social safety net over the last century, and how — with this history in mind — we can forge a path forward to end hunger.



The Hunger Museum is a cultural space, a learning center, and a visual experience of social justice that shows how Americans have fought to address food insecurity. The Museum demonstrates what this country can be when we are at our best. It illustrates how the lessons of history can inform our future, and what that can mean for those who struggle with hunger in America. It holds the power to inspire people to envision how we can, together, rebuild the social safety net and end the shame of hunger in America once and for all.

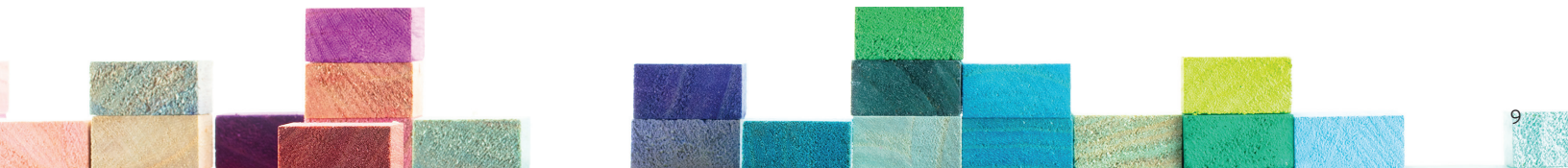
WHO IS COMING THROUGH OUR VIRTUAL DOORS?

- Over **11,000 visitors** — old friends and new partners alike — synagogues across the country, elected officials, anti-hunger partners, Jewish social justice cohorts, college classes, corporate groups, and more.
- **Over three dozen public and private tours.**



“Hunger is scary, stubborn, but — most importantly — solvable. The Hunger Museum helps visitors understand that through systematic change, we can create a future where every family has access to nutritious meals.”

— **U.S. Congressman Jim McGovern (MA-2)**
Co-Chair of the U.S. House of Representatives
Hunger Caucus



SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER



2023 was a crucial time to come together around federal poverty and anti-hunger policy, namely protecting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the upcoming Farm Bill.

As a central tenet of MAZON's mission, we provide national leadership on and advocacy for critical policy, engaging our Jewish community to raise its voice. In August, MAZON called the Jewish community to action for our 2023 Hunger Action Month.

MAZON's Hunger Action Month achieved two goals: we reached members of Congress with a clear message to protect and strengthen critical nutrition assistance programs in the Farm Bill (the largest and most important piece of anti-hunger legislation that is up for reauthorization every five years) and we supported congregations in strengthening their advocacy skills,

growing their political power, and acting on our obligation to stand up for those facing hunger.

Participants successfully secured bill co-sponsorships for the Puerto Rico Nutrition Assistance Fairness Act and the Closing the Meal Gap Act. Social media and newsletter posts from elected officials highlighted MAZON's advocacy, meetings raised interest in The Hunger Museum, and conversations opened the door for our policy experts to continue substantive dialogue with elected officials on both sides of the aisle.



WE ARE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF OUR COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS:

- **9** MAZON volunteer leaders
- **10** in-district meetings
- **89** advocates, including **16** Jewish clergy members, participated in the meetings

In 2023, we saw new levels of irresponsible gamesmanship by politicians in the U.S. Congress. The reckless debt ceiling crisis and numerous threats of government shutdown brought our country to the brink of disaster.

Certain members of Congress continue to manufacture crises that threaten to push millions of Americans deeper into hunger and hardship by slashing life-saving support from our safety net.

Despite these harrowing challenges, MAZON elevated issues of hunger to the highest levels of government. In 2023, we:

- Led two **congressional briefings** with national interfaith partners, urging Congress to reflect our shared values in the next Farm Bill.
- Hosted MAZON's annual **National Hunger Seder** in the U.S. Capitol.



- Partnered with the Biden Administration on the **White House "People's Seder"** and the first-ever **Jewish American Heritage Month** celebration at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Coordinated a **national Jewish letter** urging the President and Congress to reject time limits, work requirements, or red tape for programs like SNAP during the debt ceiling debate.
- Secured acknowledgement from the Defense Department of the scope of hunger among military families and **grew support for our policy proposals** to address it.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

In 2024, MAZON will continue to demand that policymakers combat hunger by strengthening SNAP and other essential programs in the next Farm Bill. The U.S. government must remove the barriers to food security millions of Americans face, and increase access to affordable, nutritious foods.

It is appalling that over 44 million Americans face food insecurity — 10 million more than when pandemic-era protections were in place. Some policymakers are still trying to further cut assistance, using hungry Americans as political bargaining chips. These times require real leadership that is guided by the values and history of the United States.

Hunger remains a defining challenge for the United States, and it must not be a partisan issue. Programs like SNAP, WIC, and the child tax credit prove time and again to be

critical and effective tools against hunger and poverty. We call on members of Congress to return to their historic, bipartisan partnership in not only protecting federal safety net programs, but also strengthening them and ensuring access for all those in need.

Now more than ever, we are grounded in our values of *tzedek* and *b'tselem Elohim*. Every person deserves to feed themselves and their families with dignity. We hope you will join us in sending a strong message that regardless of circumstance, no one deserves hunger.



Join us in the fight against hunger. Take action today!
mazon.org/take-action

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PRESIDENT & CEO

Abby J. Leibman



A Programs **81%**

B Administration **7%**

C Fundraising **12%**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2023 Total
REVENUES, SUPPORT AND RESTRICTIONS RELEASED			
Contributions and grants	\$7,775,400	\$185,000	\$7,960,400
Interest income	103,252	91,491	194,743
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments, net of fees	490,871	6,432	497,303
Other Income	75,000	-	75,000
Restrictions released	280,894	(280,894)	-
Total revenue, support and restrictions released	\$8,725,417	\$2,029	\$8,727,446
EXPENSES			
Program services	\$7,660,431	-	\$7,660,431
Support Services	447,471	-	447,471
Fundraising	1,035,862	-	1,035,862
Total Expenses	\$9,143,764	-	\$9,143,764
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(\$418,347)	\$2,029	(\$416,318)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$8,777,160	\$1,120,603	\$9,897,763
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$8,358,813	\$1,122,632	\$9,481,445

Full financials available at [amazon.org/financials](https://www.amazon.org/financials)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$413,404	\$1,845,967
Accounts receivable	175	86
Investments	8,833,340	8,219,544
Deposits and prepaid expenses	195,539	138,292
Right-of-use asset	800,480	-
Property and equipment, net	325,786	179,722
Total Assets	\$10,568,724	\$10,383,611
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$23,797	\$59,371
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	158,568	144,055
Deferred rent	-	159,075
Deferred revenue	-	123,347
Right-of-use lease liability	904,914	-
Total Liabilities	\$1,087,279	\$485,848
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions:		
Board designated – operating reserves	\$1,300,000	-
Undesignated	7,058,813	8,777,160
With donor restrictions	1,122,632	1,120,603
Total Net Assets	\$9,481,445	\$9,897,763
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$10,568,724	\$10,383,611

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To view this impact report online, visit
mazon.org/publications

MAZON | A Jewish Response
To Hunger

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