



# WE ARE THE RESPONSE

**MAZON** | A Jewish Response  
To Hunger

**2025 IMPACT REPORT**

## Dear Friends,

In moments of profound tragedy, cruelty, or injustice, many of us ask a simple, agonizing question: Where is God? Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis (z"l) offered a powerful answer: God is in the response.

When suffering seems insurmountable, we must look not to the heavens, but to ourselves and each other, right here on Earth. As a Jewish community, we are obligated by our faith to stand in the gaps and repair what is broken.

Right now, 47 million Americans face hunger. Essential food aid programs are being cruelly cut and weaponized for political gain. MAZON's ability to swiftly and effectively respond is the result of decades of dedicated, intentional investment in our organizational capacity.

Last year, when programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) faced massive cuts and political hostility, MAZON moved quickly and powerfully. Because of your support, MAZON met the moment with agility, analyzing complex policy changes overnight and immediately crafting an effective advocacy strategy. Because of your investment in our nationwide network of advocates, we had the policy expertise and legal knowledge to immediately fight against cuts and unjust legislation. Because of your collective commitment to caring for one another, we rapidly rallied Jewish and interfaith communities nationwide to demand that no one go hungry in this country.

We are the community that hears the cries of hunger and refuses to let suffering continue unchallenged. We are the hands and feet stepping forward on Earth. And when we step up and act, we reveal the presence of God in the world.

Thank you for investing in MAZON, ensuring that we are always ready to be the enduring response.

In gratitude, hope, and determination,



**Carolyn Schwarz Tisdale**  
BOARD CHAIR



**Abby J. Leibman**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

# MEETING A HISTORICAL MOMENT

In October and November of 2025, the longest government shutdown in U.S. history pushed millions of Americans into hunger and uncertainty as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) chose not to utilize contingency funds to issue SNAP benefits. MAZON rose to meet the moment. We sounded the alarm, mobilized our partners, and elevated the Jewish community's moral voice in the national conversation, calling on those in power to remember that hunger is an unacceptable policy choice. Together, we:

- Led a **national "SNAP Day of Action"** and hosted a press briefing featuring Congresswoman Jahana Hayes (CT-5th) alongside numerous anti-hunger leaders and experts;
- Mobilized nearly 3,000 advocates to send **more than 8,000 messages** to Members of Congress;
- Organized a **national ad** in POLITICO alongside nearly a dozen other organizations;

- Were featured in **six national publications**, including *Ms. Magazine* and *Food Fix*.

MAZON's leadership in this moment highlighted SNAP's critical role in supporting families and communities. Together, we demonstrated how early and constant advocacy can keep hunger at the forefront of the national agenda.



# HUNGER IS A POLICY CHOICE. WE CHOSE TO FIGHT IT.

Before the government shutdown led to another SNAP crisis, the seeds of another disaster were sown. In July 2025, the Republican-led trifecta in the U.S. House, Senate, and White House enacted sweeping cuts and harmful changes to SNAP through budget reconciliation. Our adversaries hoped the aggressively expedited process would block advocates from challenging the legislation. They were wrong.

## Challenging the Republican Megabill

MAZON spoke truth to power, mitigated some of the most destructive policy proposals, and educated lawmakers and the public about how the new policies would worsen hunger in the U.S.

- MAZON advocates sent over **6,000 messages** to Congressional representatives.
- MAZON's Rapid Response Team grew to a powerful community of **over 1,500 advocates**.
- We spearheaded **letters to Congress** signed by 31 national faith-based organizations, nearly 200 Jewish community organizations, and 17 partner organizations.
- We **shifted the narrative in the media**, publishing articles in *The Hill*, *Ms. Magazine*, the *Jewish Journal*, and more.
- We deployed **critical resources** through MAZON's Quick Reaction Fund to state advocates in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, and West Virginia.
- We led a **fly-in lobby day** with interfaith partners to advocate directly for basic needs programs.



## Hunger Action Month: Agility in Action

MAZON's third annual Hunger Action Month, held in August 2025, looked different from years past. Rooted in our long-term strategy to build durable relationships between Jewish community leaders and policymakers, this program strengthens the connections that enable real systemic change. Those connections proved essential this year.

Our leaders in six key states pivoted their energy to where it would be most impactful, meeting directly with governors' offices and state agencies to ensure they understood the scope of SNAP changes and would prioritize mitigating the most harmful impacts. MAZON advocates met with:

- **Massachusetts** – Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- **Pennsylvania** – Office of Speaker of the House  
Joanna McClinton
- **Minnesota** – Department of Children, Youth, and Families and Minnesota's Children's Cabinet
- **Ohio** – Department of Job and Family Services
- **Georgia** – Office of Governor Brian Kemp
- **California** – Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

Once again, when the landscape changed, MAZON's capacity allowed us not only to stay in the fight but to move it — quickly, strategically, and where it matters most.



# SEEKING JUSTICE: PROTECTING SNAP RECIPIENTS

In a difficult year, the power of the legal system to challenge and slow some of the most egregious attacks on vulnerable families has been a beacon of hope. MAZON has been a leader in these valiant efforts through our Legal Advocacy department, created to ensure full and fair enforcement of the laws designed to help our most vulnerable neighbors.

Following reports in spring 2025 that USDA had ordered state agencies and private contractors to turn over detailed personal information from SNAP recipients, **MAZON filed a lawsuit against the agency and the Secretary of Agriculture in federal court.**



The ongoing lawsuit challenges the Trump administration's demand for the personal information — including Social Security numbers, employment history, home addresses, and potentially even citizenship status — of millions of Americans who receive food assistance. MAZON has also prepared guidance for other anti-hunger programs that are expected to face similar threats.

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**“MAZON courageously stepped forward to advocate and represent the interests of people across the country who rely on the SNAP program.”**

– Nicole Schneidman, Head of Tech and Data Governance,  
Protect Democracy

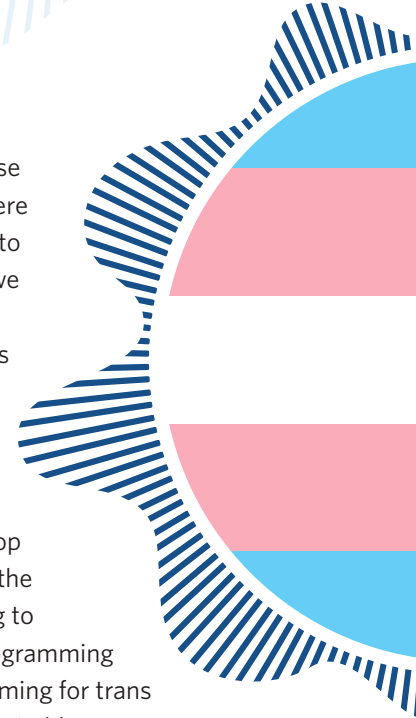
# DEFENDING TRANS YOUTH

In 2025, with the transgender (trans) community facing unprecedented legislative and cultural attacks, MAZON's Board of Directors took a decisive step to formalize trans youth as a new and critical priority population for our organization. This was not merely a reaction to headlines; it was a strategic act driven by our moral mandate.

A core part of MAZON's mission is our work to address hunger among populations that face unique, systemic barriers to accessing food assistance. Our decades of investment in understanding the acute needs of overlooked and underserved groups — from military families to veterans to Indigenous communities to LGBTQ+ seniors — gave us the foresight to recognize that trans youth are in a position of particular vulnerability.

The decision was accelerated because we knew powerful political actors were preparing to deny dignity and rights to this community. By moving swiftly, we have positioned ourselves to begin working to mitigate the barriers trans youth face *precisely* as other political forces have more stridently targeted their existence.

Moving forward, MAZON will develop policy-based solutions that address the barriers trans youth face when trying to access food assistance and build programming that will make it safer and more affirming for trans youth to access food through the charitable system.



# INVESTING IN IMPACT: PARTNERSHIP GRANTS IN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL

MAZON's strategic grantmaking was designed to build anti-hunger advocacy capacity in key communities and regions. In a year marked by unprecedented attacks on federal food assistance programs, MAZON's support for state level advocates ensured that the defense of public benefits was nimble and effective where it mattered most. In 2025, MAZON and our partners won important victories in some of the most challenging political environments:

**Alabama:** Alabama Arise secured \$7.3 million in state funds for schools to offer no-cost school breakfast, enabling nearly 300 schools to expand services, as well as annual commitments in the state budget to implement Summer EBT.

**Alaska:** The Alaska Food Policy Council worked in partnership to achieve the passage of Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility, which helps Alaskans avoid the "benefits cliff" and allows them to accept pay raises and own vehicles necessary for work without losing benefits.

**Arizona:** For the first time ever, the Arizona Center for Economic Progress secured \$3.8 million to expand free school meals to students who qualify for reduced-price meals.

**Arkansas:** The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and partners shepherded the passage of universal free school breakfasts, securing upward of \$14.7 million in meals.

**Hawai'i:** Collaborations led by the Hawai'i Public Health Institute lifted SNAP net income tests, extending program eligibility to an estimated 50,000 additional households.

## Israel: The Wisdom of Coalitions

For years, competition for resources has kept Israeli anti-hunger organizations working in silos, limiting their ability to drive systemic change. MAZON has shifted that dynamic from isolated efforts to collective power. Our long-term investments have not only built individual capacity for each grantee partner's efforts, but have allowed for powerful, collaborative work which saw important victories, including:

**Tzedek Centers** developed and implemented systematic training programs with dozens of elected municipal officials, including a guide about food security distributed to all local government electeds.

**The Jerusalem Food Rescuers** established the first "Jerusalem Food Council," which works to build collaborations around food access, food rescue, and education for healthy nutrition.

**121 Engine for Social Change** ensured participation in the hot lunch program by all vocational high schools for at-risk youth.

Several of MAZON's partners published key studies, including research on food insecurity among asylum seekers, hunger among the Negev Bedouin community, and barriers to developing agriculture in the Bedouin community.

**Rabbis for Human Rights** drafted joint recommendations for the Ministry of Welfare about the establishment of the National Authority for the Fight Against Poverty.



# DEEPENING THE WELL: WHERE VALUES BECOME ACTION

What does it mean to be a Jewish response to hunger? It is the work of our people, the inherent power of our collective voice speaking as one to address hunger across our communities.

## Ohio's Jewish Response to Hunger

From **B'nai Jeshurun Congregation** of Pepper Pike to **Temple Emanu El** of Orange Village, the Cleveland, OH community didn't just pray in 2025 — they organized and put hunger in the spotlight. Through Temple Emanu El's *ShareFest Program* and B'nai Jeshurun's *Hunger Shabbaton*, congregants were galvanized to continue organizing and advocating for anti-hunger policies. During MAZON's Hunger Action Month, lay

leadership and clergy from both congregations met with representatives from Ohio's State Department of Jobs and Family Services to demand better protections for hungry Ohioans. Since then, they've participated in MAZON's *No One Deserves to Go Hungry* postcard campaign, ongoing through spring 2026.

Their stalwart commitment to MAZON is reflective of the Jewish community's understanding of the existential threat to Americans who struggle with hunger and the programs that support them.

## 40 Years at Temple Isaiah

For four decades, **Temple Isaiah** in Lexington, MA has celebrated *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* through its teen-led LEFTY MAZON Dinner. What began as a small youth-

group fundraiser has grown into a beloved tradition that has raised nearly one million dollars, including over \$11,000 last year alone.

Last year's "Under the Stars" dinner brought more than 200 guests together for an evening of community and purpose. The congregation's Makom Teen Community chair Stella Nadelberg reflected, "It was such a big learning experience, figuring out how to bring people together for something that matters." Assistant Director of Makom Alex Bennett added, "It's incredible to see teens carrying forward a 40-year legacy. It's *I'dor v'dorable!*"



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"Temple Israel's Anti-Racism Task Force, together with MAZON, has built a powerful partnership rooted in justice, compassion, and action. Our collaboration with MAZON began with education, learning about the intersection of hunger and the Civil Rights Movement, and grew into advocacy.

"This work matters deeply to me and to our community because it allows us to live our Jewish values, especially *tikkun olam*. It's a way of saying "*Hineni*" — here I am — when our neighbors are in need. It's a reminder that social action isn't separate from spiritual life; it's an expression of it."

### **Simona Seiderman, LMSW, DCSW, BCD**

Chair, Anti-Racism Task Force and President,  
Women of Temple Israel  
Temple Israel, West Bloomfield Township, MI

# UNCOVERING THE ROOTS OF JUSTICE: OUR NEWEST MUSEUM TOUR

In 2025, MAZON deepened our investment in educational resources to shift the public narrative about hunger. Our newest tour of our digital experience The Hunger Museum™, *Hunger, Justice, and Civil Rights*, is a cornerstone of this effort, exploring the story of hunger in America through a civil rights lens.

This virtual tour reveals a vital, often-overlooked history: in the 1960s and '70s, the U.S. nearly solved hunger, and the Civil Rights movement was central to that accomplishment. The social, cultural, and political activists of the era reframed hunger as an urgent matter of economic justice and racial equity, and access to food as an essential right of all Americans — one for which the federal government had particular responsibility.



We invite you to join us in this vital work. Visit [hungermuseum.org](https://hungermuseum.org) to book a facilitated tour with our staff, or explore the collection at your own pace via our self-guided tour.





A Jewish Response  
To Hunger

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- A** Programs **82%**
- B** Administration **9%**
- C** Fundraising **9%**

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2025 Total
<b>REVENUES, SUPPORT AND RESTRICTIONS RELEASED</b>			
Contributions and grants	\$9,913,289	\$108,937	\$10,022,226
Interest income	218,888	15,862	234,750
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments, net of fees	497,313	91,551	588,864
Other income	-	-	-
Fundraising events	-	-	-
Restrictions released	258,264	(258,264)	-
<b>Total Revenues, Support and Restrictions Released</b>	<b>\$10,887,754</b>	<b>(\$41,914)</b>	<b>\$10,845,840</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program services	\$8,896,768	-	\$8,896,768
Support services	996,651	-	996,651
Fundraising	1,017,824	-	1,017,824
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,911,243</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$10,911,243</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(\$23,489)</b>	<b>(\$41,914)</b>	<b>(\$65,403)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$8,031,786</b>	<b>\$1,185,778</b>	<b>\$9,217,564</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$8,008,297</b>	<b>\$1,143,864</b>	<b>\$9,152,161</b>

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

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2025	2024
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$435,910	\$883,212
Accounts receivable	24,658	1,551
Promises to give	-	32,800
Investments	8,691,003	8,191,865
Deposits and prepaid expenses	171,966	246,592
Right-of-use asset	2,005,357	2,007,065
Property and equipment, net	329,340	381,717
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$11,658,234</b>	<b>\$11,744,802</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	\$171,505	\$72,157
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	192,889	164,626
Grants payable	-	170,000
Right-of-use lease liability	2,141,679	2,120,455
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,506,073</b>	<b>\$2,527,238</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without donor restrictions:		
Board designated – operating reserves	\$1,400,000	\$1,300,000
Undesignated	6,608,297	6,731,786
With donor restrictions	1,143,864	1,185,778
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$9,152,161</b>	<b>\$9,217,564</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$11,658,234</b>	<b>\$11,744,802</b>

# WE ARE THE RESPONSE

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**MAZON**

A Jewish Response  
To Hunger

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