



PLANTING SEEDS OF PROGRESS

IMPACT REPORT 2022

MAZON

A Jewish Response
To Hunger

Dear Friends,

MAZON has a vision for how it should be, but we know it takes time to change how it is. Visionary change in public policy doesn't happen overnight; so much of our work depends on not only political will and power, but public support for our cause. For every major policy milestone, there are countless advocates who, for many years, have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to move the country and our lawmakers to embrace change.

For over 37 years, MAZON has planted seeds across the country, investing not just in policy change, but in the advocates that help realize that change. Within the Jewish community and in the anti-hunger movement, MAZON has built a powerful network of partners who can continue the work for years to come.

In Israel, MAZON has planted seeds across the political spectrum, investing in movements and organizations that share our vision of a future where no one is hungry. And now, that cultivation has produced a groundswell of public demand for a government response to hunger.

Long before it was in the headlines, MAZON rallied our community in Minnesota to end lunch shaming and expand access to school meals for all children. Now we're celebrating universal school meals movements growing across the country, from California to Maine. In Colorado, our community of advocates stepped up to pass Prop FF: Healthy School Meals For All, the first universal school meals measure voted on directly by the people.

As advocates, we must hold the understanding that incremental, sometimes seemingly modest gains are in fact the deliberate steps that assure lasting, sustained change. The path to justice is long and winding, and with each milestone we meet, we see our work is improving the world. Chipping away the barriers that keep so many from food security takes time, but with a vision of a brighter future, we persist in our work despite wins or losses.

In gratitude, hope, and determination,



Joel Pitkowsky
BOARD CHAIR



Abby J. Leibman
PRESIDENT & CEO

GEARING UP FOR THE 2023 FARM BILL

In September, President Biden hosted the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, outlining his Administration's vision for ending hunger in America by 2030. The conference highlighted vital short-term changes to provide better support for people facing hunger, especially increasing benefits and eliminating barriers to key anti-hunger programs.

As we look ahead to negotiations for the 2023 Farm Bill, the omnibus food and agriculture legislation that must be reauthorized every five years, MAZON is more committed than ever to ensuring that every American has enough nutritious food to eat every day. We will build on the momentum generated by the White House Conference to remind our leaders that SNAP and other federal nutrition programs exist to provide food to those in need, not impose limitations and stigma on vulnerable families.



Farm Bill Fight

In this coming Farm Bill cycle, MAZON has set out to eliminate a particularly harmful option currently on the books — a requirement that single parents cooperate with child support enforcement agencies and seek child support payments, or be barred from SNAP. This dangerous policy, currently in place in six states, overwhelmingly punishes **single mothers**, many of whom cannot afford to choose between feeding their children and facing or engaging with a formerly violent partner.

SUCCESS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS IN THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

The 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), passed in December 2022, includes two provisions authored in part by MAZON.

The bill expands eligibility for the Military Family Basic Needs Allowance but keeps intact a provision that considers housing assistance as income in determining benefit eligibility for most low-income military families.

MAZON crafted a provision in the bill to create a pilot grant program with **\$17 million** in annual funding to combat food insecurity among veterans and their family members.

MAZON's leadership also drove a new requirement for important federal data collection and reporting about military hunger in the NDAA. We hope this new data will finally be enough to persuade our leaders to act to reverse the shameful reality that, by the Pentagon's own estimate, 24 percent of military families experience hunger.

24% of military families experience hunger



“People should be furious about it, and we should be demanding better. It’s unconscionable that we cannot provide what our families need. Our national security depends on having a military that is strong and capable of meeting any challenge. But no one is strong when they can’t get enough to eat. So long as our service members are struggling with food security, we as a nation are not only risking their wellbeing and that of their families, but also our larger military readiness.”

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) in October 2022 speaking with MAZON, Blue Star Families — the nation’s largest grass-roots military family support organization — and John Feal, September 11th first responder and veterans’ rights activist in Staten Island, demanding national policies that end hunger in the military.



IN THE NEWS

Many lawmakers and advocates say Pentagon is not doing nearly enough to fight food insecurity in the ranks



TIMELINE OF SCHOOL LUNCH

No child should be punished or shamed because of their family's inability to pay for food. Since MAZON launched the first successful campaign to expose and ban "lunch shaming" practices in Minnesota in 2012, we have organized, led, and supported school meal initiatives across the country. We know that by providing universal school meals, "lunch shaming" and "school meal debt" can be ended for good.



2012

MAZON stands with our Jewish community partners in Minnesota to launch the **first successful campaign to expose and ban "lunch shaming" practices.**

2014

MAZON, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, and Hunger Solutions won protection against lunch shaming and an expansion to school meals, ensuring that no child is left hungry or stigmatized over school meal debt and **expanding free lunch to 62,000 students.**

62,000

MN school children received free meals.



2018

With our Jewish community partners in Louisiana, **MAZON introduced legislation to ban the disgraceful practice of "lunch shaming"** students who cannot afford school meals.

2019

MAZON stands proudly on the U.S. Capitol steps in support of the **"No Shame at School Act"** introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Reps. Ilhan Omar (MN-5), Ben Ray Lujan (NM-3) and Deb Haaland (NM-1).





2020

Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020

allowed states to administer P-EBT food benefits to families that would have otherwise received meals at school.

Pandemic Child Hunger Prevention Act

— MAZON is proud to support Congressman Bobby Scott's visionary proposal for universal school meals to ensure no child is hungry during this global emergency.

2021

In Nebraska, a MAZON partner succeeded in reversing the Governor's decision to refuse the emergency SNAP allotments included in the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act through a media campaign that put pressure on the administration, putting much needed money for food in the pockets of **161,000 Nebraskans who receive SNAP benefits.**

With MAZON's support, California became the first state to have a **universal school meal program**, followed quickly by Maine.

2022

June: The waiver authorizing free school meals for all students during the pandemic expires.

November: MAZON rallied our Jewish community partners in Colorado to join the

Healthy School Meals for All coalition in support of Prop FF, the first universal school meals initiative voted on directly by the people. The people agreed, all children should have the nutrition they need to learn and thrive in school. The measure passed by a wide 13 point margin.



Currently, only California, Maine and Colorado have universal school meal legislation, but states across the country are working to enact similar legislation — Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin are all poised to provide school meals for all students.

MAZON is ready to stand up to work in your state for school meals for all children.

MAZON ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Faith and Advocacy: Harnessing Jewish Voices to End Hunger in New Jersey Uniting Three Teaneck Synagogues



On June 15, MAZON's President and CEO **Abby J. Leibman** and **New Jersey Senator Loretta Weinberg** were joined in conversation by **Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky** to discuss Jewish values, policies to address hunger, and how we can build the political will to end hunger in New Jersey. As part of MAZON's expanding efforts to build capacity for state and local advocacy to end hunger, MAZON brought Northern NJ's Jewish voices together for an in-person conversation on advocacy to fight hunger, a productive and important first step to organizing this powerful group of motivated, on-the-ground folks to put education and energy into action.

Expansion of the Emerging Advocacy Fund

Our most recent Emerging Advocacy Fund (EAF) cycle awarded grants to fund anti-hunger advocacy staff positions to 33 organizations in 12 states and Puerto Rico. These important investments are nurturing a community of anti-hunger advocates who share best practices, successes, challenges, campaigns, resources, and technical assistance.

With increased capacity, our partner organizations advocated powerfully for programs and policies to alleviate hunger in their states in 2022, many of them within the context of political environments that remain very difficult for, if not hostile to, the advancement of anti-hunger policy.

33

number of grants
awarded to fund
anti-hunger advocacy





Kansas

MAZON's two

EAF partners in Kansas successfully collaborated to eliminate the regressive food sales tax in the state.

Kansas' statewide food sales tax of 6.5% was the second highest in the nation and will be completely eliminated through a stepdown process by 2025. The effects of this success will be felt most acutely by nearly

300,000 food insecure

Kansans struggling to stretch their budgets to put food on the table.

After conducting extensive environmental scans, MAZON expanded its presence to 13 new partners in four new states: Alaska, Florida, Georgia, and Hawai'i.



Florida & Georgia

Too many households in FL and GA, particularly Black, Indigenous, and other families of color, are deemed ineligible for SNAP because of policy barriers that do not reflect the real-life challenges faced by working and low-wealth families. 27% of food insecure households in FL and 34% of food insecure households in GA — a total of

996,292 people in the two

states combined — are struggling

with hunger but priced out of SNAP.

With our continued and sustained investment, our partners are poised to meet this challenge head on.

Alaska & Hawai'i

In Alaska and Hawai'i, the **states'**

remoteness poses unique challenges

to anti-hunger programs that combat food insecurity, a barrier that is painfully clear in the execution of child nutrition programs. The combination of the high cost of food and woefully inadequate levels of federal funding for meals make afterschool and summer meals almost impossible to manage in the states' rural areas. Hawai'i served zero federally reimbursed afterschool meals in 2020. At the same time, Native Alaskans and Hawai'ians face unique challenges relative to their non-Native neighbors, including their right to subsist.



ISRAEL

When MAZON began its work in Israel, there was little to no public discussion about crafting a response to the vast problem of hunger there — an issue that affects 26% of the population.

With MAZON's driving and investing in coalition-based work, food security is now a significant issue in public discourse, central to the campaigns of major political parties during the election across the political spectrum, and an issue that current government officials have made real commitments to address. And based on advocacy by a MAZON-led coalition, in 2022 Israel's national budget included a permanent line of funding for food security programs for the first time.

1 in 13 number of Israeli students in grades 7-12 suffering from hunger

In 2022, advocacy by MAZON and its coalition partners resulted in the reestablishment and funding of the National Council of Food Security, responsible for producing recommendations on addressing hunger to the Knesset before it prepares the budget each year.

Pilot Hot Meals Program

In partnership with 121 Engine for Social Change, MAZON has successfully advocated to the Ministry of Education to finance a pilot program for the provision of hot meals to students enrolled in high schools for at-risk youth. The pilot program currently supports hot meals at 24 schools for at-risk youth,

**supporting approximately
5,000 students.**





INDIAN COUNTRY

Indigenous peoples have their own innovations and solutions to address food insecurity, and MAZON's work regarding food security and food sovereignty in Indian Country during the upcoming Farm Bill cycle in 2023 will be led by the voices of Tribal advocates.

We worked with our partners to lay important ground for our Tribal partners' Farm Bill priorities in 2022, including:

Investing in Indian Country

MAZON continued its historic investment in the anchor institution at the nexus of Indian Country food and agriculture, the **Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law (IFAI)**. IFAI serves as the research arm of the Native Farm Bill Coalition, of which MAZON is the first and most active non-Native ally member.

Amplifying Native Priorities

With support from MAZON, the Native Farm Bill Coalition released a foundational report, ***Gaining Ground: A Report on the 2018 Farm Bill Successes for Indian Country and Opportunities for 2023*** in Sept 2022. The report outlines more than 150 policy priorities for the next Farm Bill and serves as a guiding document for MAZON in its education and advocacy around the bill.

"It isn't a very dramatic story, or different from many of your other donors, I'm sure. We know that times have been very hard for so many, even before the pandemic. The early job losses, and the most lasting ones in the pandemic, have often fallen on those least able to absorb the setback. And so, in this season of liberation we wanted "all to come and eat" at our seder in some way. Our parents instilled in us how essential to being human it is to look around and help where you can. We are blessed to have a way to help with this need, and so we do. We are always very impressed with MAZON's work, and proud to be your supporters."

— MAZON donor since 1996



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PRESIDENT & CEO

Abby J. Leibman



A Programs **83%**

B Administration **5%**

C Fundraising **12%**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUES, SUPPORT AND RESTRICTIONS RELEASED			
Contributions and grants	\$8,499,522	\$462,236	\$8,961,758
Interest income	131,996	10,303	142,299
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments, net of fees	(1,294,015)	(204,359)	(1,498,374)
Restrictions released	526,109	(526,109)	-
Total revenue, support and restrictions released	\$7,863,612	(\$257,929)	\$7,605,683
EXPENSES			
Program services	\$6,359,851	-	\$6,359,851
Support Services	346,981	-	346,981
Fundraising	967,985	-	967,985
Total Expenses	\$7,674,817	-	\$7,674,817
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$188,795	(\$257,929)	(\$69,134)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$8,588,365	\$1,378,532	\$9,966,897
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$8,777,160	\$1,120,603	\$9,897,763

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,845,967	\$1,284,297
Accounts receivable	86	7,750
Investments	8,219,544	8,813,902
Deposits and prepaid expenses	138,292	125,139
Property and equipment, net	179,722	88,306
Total Assets	\$10,383,611	\$10,319,394
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$59,371	\$13,124
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	144,055	143,622
Deferred rent	159,075	195,751
Deferred revenue	123,347	-
Total Liabilities	\$485,848	\$352,497
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	\$8,777,160	\$8,588,365
With donor restrictions	1,120,603	1,378,532
Total Net Assets	\$9,897,763	\$9,966,897
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$10,383,611	\$10,319,394

Full financials available at amazon.org/financials



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

MAZON

A Jewish Response
To Hunger

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