

PERVASIVE NEED BOLD SOLUTIONS

MAZON

A Jewish Response
To Hunger

IMPACT REPORT 2020

Dear Friends,

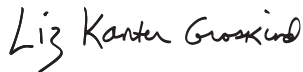
In 2020, rising hunger and hardship touched our lives more personally than ever before. Stories of our struggling neighbors were splashed across headlines, alongside news of unemployment and illness. We knew that only bold, compassionate, and systemic solutions could address such pervasive need. To ground us in the face of a global pandemic, we relied on the Jewish values and American ideals that have always powered MAZON's work to end hunger.

We return, again and again, *l'dor v'dor*, to the wisdom found in Pirke Avot: "It is not your responsibility to finish the work of perfecting the world, but neither are you free to desist from it." While nearly 40 million Americans already faced hunger before the pandemic, tens of millions more — nearly triple — are now struggling to put food on the table. This extraordinary need has galvanized MAZON to even greater action, just as it has spurred an extraordinary response across our nation from everyone who is doing the important work of perfecting the world.

MAZON has made great strides in the arduous process of getting families the immediate assistance they deserve, safely and with dignity. In so doing, we have advanced toward our ultimate objective: ending hunger in America for all. We may be daunted by the strife facing millions, but we are also moved and committed to work to end that strife; we hope you see that in these pages.

As MAZON rose to the occasion to continue our work in the face of new challenges, our community rallied around this work in new and inspiring ways. This year, when everything felt uncertain, truly more than ever before, we are so incredibly grateful for your steadfast support. Our accomplishments this year are your accomplishments; our commitment to transforming the world from *how it is* into **how it should be** reflects your commitment to the same.

In gratitude, hope, and determination,



Liz Kanter Groskind
BOARD CHAIR



Abby J. Leibman
PRESIDENT & CEO

SPOTLIGHT ON NATIVE HUNGER

For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples in North America sustained politically and culturally vibrant societies that were as diverse as they were dynamic. Our nation's shameful legacy of colonization and conquest created deep wounds on these Indigenous communities, and food is very much a part of that story.



A conversation about erasure and resilience in Indian Country with MAZON, the Native American Agriculture Fund, the Intertribal Agriculture Council, and IllumiNative.

MAZON is proud to continue its long-standing alliance with, and investment in, powerful efforts to achieve food security and food sovereignty across Indian Country. In 2020, we made historic contributions, alongside those of the Native American Agriculture Fund, in two anchor institutions in Indian Country: the **Native Farm Bill Coalition** and the newly established **Native American Food and Nutrition Resource Alliance**. We petitioned all 50 state governors to include Indian Country nutrition priorities in COVID-related legislation. And we advanced state-Tribal partnerships to strengthen Indian Country food security.

Our deep commitment to this work has become all the more pressing in the context of the pandemic. Chronic federal underfunding of fragile healthcare and public infrastructure in Native communities has continued, and the effects have been devastating. MAZON and its partners responded to this crisis head-on, advancing — and successfully winning — key Tribal priorities in the CARES Act of 2020, including **\$120 million** in food assistance.

MAZON'S PANDEMIC RESPONSE

The COVID-19 crisis has thrown the massive gaps in our safety net into stark relief, and injected new immediacy into MAZON's mission. With millions of Americans newly unemployed, underemployed, or unable to work due to health concerns, the number of people struggling to put food on the table has tripled. With your help, we have responded with the urgency this crisis warrants.



MARCH

As it became clear that the COVID-19 pandemic would cause millions of newly furloughed or unemployed workers to lose the resources to feed themselves and their families, we immediately created a **50-State Hunger Resource Guide**. This guide connects people to vital food assistance programs, many of which are being led and administered by our anti-hunger partners nationwide.



APRIL

Anticipating the pivotal role that governors would play in addressing the impact of the pandemic, **MAZON coordinated and delivered a petition** signed by over 1,500 people from nearly every state, urging governors to expand federal nutrition assistance for all those who need it. **The National Governors Association reiterated our urgent requests** in its subsequent, bipartisan letter to Congress. This work resulted in boosts to SNAP included in the CARES Act and the House-passed HEROES Act.



JUNE

MAZON gave additional, unrestricted **grants of \$5,000** to each of our grantee partners in recognition of the urgent expenses these organizations were facing amidst the pandemic.



The New York Times

SEPTEMBER

MAZON published a **Letter to the Editor** in the *New York Times*, reminding readers that SNAP is the most important and effective countermeasure available to address hunger in America, and calling for its expansion in the next COVID relief package.

DECEMBER

61,000 families gained additional food assistance in Nebraska after a MAZON-funded **Quick Reaction Fund** campaign implemented by Nebraska Appleseed successfully persuaded Nebraska's state government to authorize the **Pandemic-EBT program**. Before this win, Nebraska was the only state to refuse SNAP emergency allotments for its citizens.

JULY

As COVID-19 relief legislation languished in Congress, MAZON joined the national **SNAP Day of Action**, urging an immediate expansion of SNAP benefits to struggling Americans. This pressure was successful, and, in December, resulted in a boost to SNAP in the next stimulus package.



NOVEMBER

MAZON's 3rd annual **Jewish Clergy Justice Mission** brought more than 75 rabbis, cantors, and communal leaders together, virtually, for a week of learning and advocating. We held virtual meetings with more than **50 members of Congress** and their staff to urge immediate relief for the millions of Americans struggling with hunger.

JEWISH CLERGY JUSTICE MISSION



ENDING HUNGER FOR OUR NATION'S VETERANS

Veterans, veteran care-givers, and service providers face a significant information gap when it comes to accessing food assistance programs. MAZON made important strides towards addressing this barrier in 2020, including:



JANUARY

Testifying before a **U.S. House Committee of Veterans' Affairs subcommittee**. The hearing revealed that USDA had not fully considered the harmful impacts of SNAP rule changes on veterans.



JULY

Strengthening our collaboration with the **Department of Veterans Affairs** by signing a formal agreement to partner with the agency to ensure veterans have reliable access to food assistance.



NOVEMBER

Launching a PsychArmor Institute online training module for veterans and service providers, featuring an introduction from **Senator Tammy Duckworth**, about food insecurity among veterans and programs available to them.



“ I feed my granddaughter first and I don't think twice about it, but it's not good for my PTSD to go hungry. ”
— Shelly

PUSHING BACK AGAINST HARM TO THE HUNGRY

In an effort to slow the implementation of harmful regulations put forth by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), MAZON supporters around the country have been joining us in a campaign of regulatory mischief: **Wasting Time for Good.**

Supporters have requested and participated in virtual meetings with the federal government's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), which is required to offer "listening sessions" with every person who asks to discuss a proposed rule change. Together, we **successfully delayed the implementation of a rule** that would have eliminated SNAP benefits for an estimated three million struggling Americans.

As a result of our — and our community's — efforts, this potentially devastating rule change will likely not be finalized before USDA leadership changes in the incoming Administration.



MAZON continues to push back against harmful regulations once they have been finalized. In October, a federal judge struck down one of USDA's many attempts to restrict SNAP for millions of Americans. MAZON joined an amicus brief in the lawsuit and our arguments were reflected in the judge's decision to **protect assistance for SNAP recipients** who are struggling to find and maintain work.

WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND HUNGER IN ORDER TO END IT

MAZON strives to end hunger in every community — particularly those that are often overlooked. In order to truly end hunger, we must first **understand** how the pain of hunger manifests across different populations, and what unique barriers those communities face to getting the help they need.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

JANUARY 2019

MAZON's advocacy led to the publication of the first ever **Government Accountability Office** (GAO) report on college hunger in January 2019.

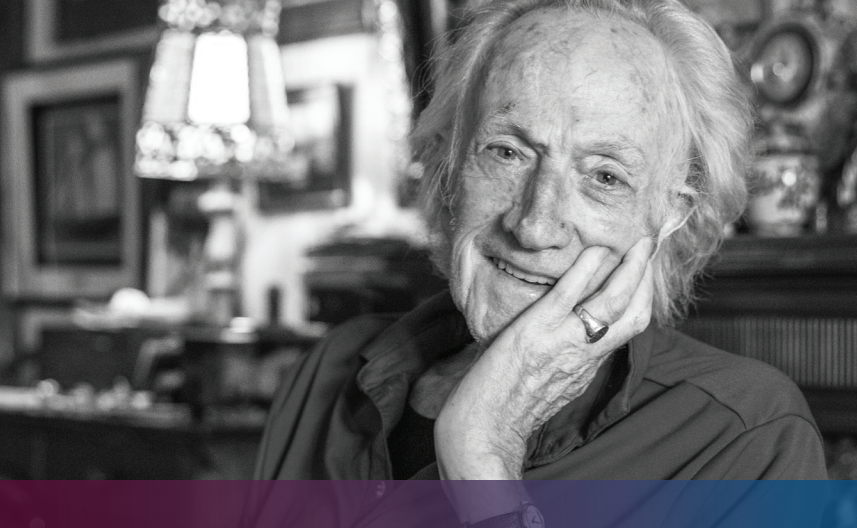
FEBRUARY 2020

MAZON held a Congressional briefing about **"Food Insecurity on Community College Campuses"** with Reps. Adam Schiff, Norma Torres, & Jimmy Gomez.

MARCH 2020

\$14 billion in higher education funding was included in the CARES act, half of which is dedicated to the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund for students with urgent expenses such as food, housing, & technology.





“ Even though for much of my life, gay people had more challenges than we do today, I used to think ‘Oh, life is fine, I can go on forever.’ I never thought that someday I’d be like this — struggling to make ends meet, in a wheelchair, unable to do things myself. ”

— Alex

SENIOR HUNGER

OCTOBER 2018

After identifying the need to address the unique food security challenges facing **LGBTQ older Americans**, MAZON convened leaders in the field to raise awareness of this previously overlooked problem.

JUNE 2020

MAZON partnered with the Williams Institute at UCLA Law School to include LGBTQ seniors in a research study entitled ***“We’re Still Hungry: Lived Experiences with Food Insecurity and Food Programs Among LGBTQ People.”*** The study reveals the persistent and complicated challenges facing LGBTQ people in accessing the charitable food assistance network and federal nutrition programs.

2021 AND BEYOND

MAZON will use this data to support proactive, **state-based work** to end senior hunger, including simplifying the SNAP application process for seniors and ensuring LGBTQ older adults can receive help in settings where they feel welcomed.

LOOKING AHEAD

We hope 2021 brings a year of recovery and relief to the many millions of struggling Americans — and we have no plans to slow down in our work to end hunger! We're excited for the road ahead — and for your partnership as we travel it.



MILITARY FAMILIES

In 2020, MAZON built a groundswell of bipartisan support for correcting an unconscionable oversight in regulations that allows hunger among military families to persist. With a new year, new Congress, and new administration, we're ready to **hit the ground running and solve this problem** once and for all in 2021.

“When we couldn't afford enough food to get by, we applied for SNAP. I want veterans to know that the resources are out there.”

— Joe



SINGLE MOTHERS

Single mothers in America are struggling. Those who can work are too often in low-wage occupations with fluctuating hours and uncertain schedules. Chief among the many barriers single mothers face on their path out of food insecurity and poverty is access to affordable childcare. Now, MAZON is working with Congressional champions to pursue the provision of **wraparound childcare assistance for single women on SNAP**, supporting their long-term food and economic security.



34%

of single mothers and their children live below the poverty line.



THE STORY OF HUNGER IN AMERICA

In 2021 MAZON will release a new, innovative resource — a **virtual museum** exploring the story of hunger in America. Set against the political, economic, and cultural influences of the time, this digital experience will reveal the cycle of expansion and dismantling of the American social safety net over the last 100 years — and how we can forge a path forward where everyone has access to the food they need to thrive.

STRENGTHENING THE ANTI-HUNGER FIELD

Through three decades of capacity building work in the United States and Israel, MAZON has developed an expertise in seeding, supporting, and strengthening anti-hunger movements. We're building the field by ensuring there is a robust, trained, and organized community of dedicated anti-hunger champions in the states with the highest rates of food insecurity.

MAZON-funded staff members at our partner organizations leverage our — and your — investments to achieve deep, important, and long-lasting change in their states:

 **68,000**
families with children

in Tennessee received urgent, additional **Pandemic-EBT benefits** without a lengthy application process because of successful, MAZON-funded advocacy.

 **210,000**
struggling households

in Louisiana no longer need to undergo a burdensome asset test to **access SNAP** because of MAZON partner advocacy.

 **\$83.5** million

was allocated to **school meals, food distribution, and produce prescription programs** in North Carolina's COVID-19 legislation after MAZON-funded advocacy by its partners.

ISRAEL



The pandemic has exacerbated the already pervasive issue of hunger in Israel to extreme proportions — **26% of the population is food insecure** and there is no adequate government response to this pervasive hunger. Through our investments in Israel, we are building public will for change through education campaigns, leading the charge to ensure a comprehensive government response to hunger, and building coalitions to ensure that Israeli civil society keeps hunger at the top of its agenda.

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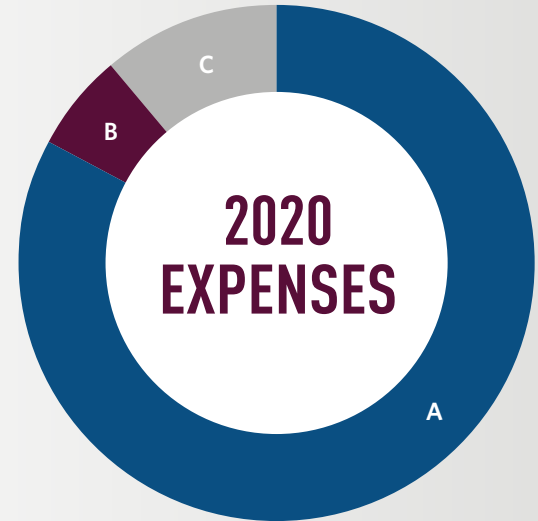
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Abby J. Leibman

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A Programs **83%**

B Administration **6%**

C Fundraising **11%**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Contributions and grants	\$7,130,570	\$313,234	\$7,443,804
Interest income	60,415	-	63,227
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5,670	2,894	8,564
Restrictions released	535,857	(535,857)	-
Total revenue, support and restrictions released	\$7,732,512	(\$209,720)	\$7,522,792
EXPENSES			
Program services	\$5,590,141	-	\$5,590,141
Support Services	399,700	-	399,700
Fundraising	770,734	-	770,734
Total Expenses	\$6,760,575	-	\$6,760,575
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$971,937	(\$209,720)	\$762,217
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$4,664,627	\$1,369,606	\$6,034,233
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$5,636,564	\$1,159,886	\$6,796,450

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2019	2020
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,580,632	\$4,558,450
Accounts receivable	-	228
Investments	2,692,696	2,593,331
Deposits and prepaid expenses	139,594	251,960
Property and equipment, net	38,612	51,838
Total Assets	\$6,451,534	\$7,455,807
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$76,546	\$71,764
Accrued vacation	106,939	113,720
Grants payable	50,000	276,000
Deferred rent	183,816	197,873
Total Liabilities	\$417,301	\$659,357
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	\$4,664,627	\$5,636,564
With donor restrictions	1,369,606	1,159,886
Total Net Assets	\$6,034,233	\$6,796,450
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$6,451,534	\$7,455,807

Full financials available at mazon.org/financials

OUR DONORS

We are deeply grateful for the generous support of our donors.

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MAZON recognizes and honors our supporters who express their commitment to fighting hunger by including MAZON in their estate and financial plans. We are grateful to these loyal donors for their sustaining support.

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