MAZON’S FIFTH QUESTION

A staggering number of Americans struggle to put food on the table, but that was not always the case. We can end hunger — and we almost did in the late 1960s when a robust government response led to 97% of households reporting food security. Political winds and policy changes reversed that victory, leading to an over-reliance on an already overwhelmed charitable food network. But that does not need to be our future. We surface key truths when we engage with our history — when we take the time to reflect and understand its lessons. Hunger is part of our American history, and so are the solutions to it. Systemic injustices, hidden and exacerbated by a trend of blaming individuals for being poor, have throttled the strongest tool we can wield to reduce hunger: the government, and the sweeping benefits it can provide if unleashed. We can examine the way that harmful rhetoric transforms into policy — from the stigmatization of impoverished immigrants at the turn of the century to stringent work requirements on social safety net programs today.

We can challenge that rhetoric with the reality of who experiences hunger in America and why. This is our lesson. This is our work. And it is our celebration, too, when we ensure inclusive, equitable access to nutritious food for all those in need.

TOGETHER, WE CAN TRANSFORM HOW IT IS, INTO HOW IT SHOULD BE

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Want to learn more? Tour MAZON’s fully virtual Hunger Museum. Visit mazon.org to join us in our fight to end hunger.