

FROM SEEDS TO SOLUTIONS

FORTY YEARS OF IMPACT

2024 IMPACT REPORT



A Jewish Response To Hunger





Dear Friends,

In 2025, we are thrilled to mark 40 years of impact at MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. We are celebrating 40 years of advocacy, 40 years of partnerships, 40 years of engaging the Jewish community, and 40 years of leading the fight against hunger in America and Israel.

MAZON was blessed with a founder who was a true visionary. Leonard Fein, in partnership with our founding Board Chair Theodore Mann and first Executive Director Irv Cramer (all of blessed memory), planted the seeds that led to MAZON's success. But it's not enough to simply nurture seeds — every once in a while, you have to replant and diversify for crops to thrive. Our team works tirelessly to ground MAZON's work in its longstanding mission and its powerful commitment to Jewish values while ensuring that our work reflects the evolving needs of vulnerable Americans. By centering these fundamentals, we have ensured MAZON's unique leadership role among anti-hunger organizations and the Jewish social justice field.

We may sometimes struggle to move forward, feel stymied, or experience losses. But as advocates, we do not have the luxury of giving up. No matter what, we keep trying. That's the essence of advocacy — we always keep trying. If we get turned away from one path, we pivot to another. We replant the seeds and try again.

As a national Jewish organization, we have a responsibility to realize justice for all people; at MAZON, we know that justice can only be achieved when everyone has access to the bountiful harvest our nation promises. We are resilient, and we understand what it means to keep trying day after day. This is what we've done, together, for 40 years, and we're committed to continuing until we win the fight against hunger.

In gratitude, hope, and determination,



Carolyn Schwarz Tisdale
BOARD CHAIR



Abby J. Leibman
PRESIDENT & CEO

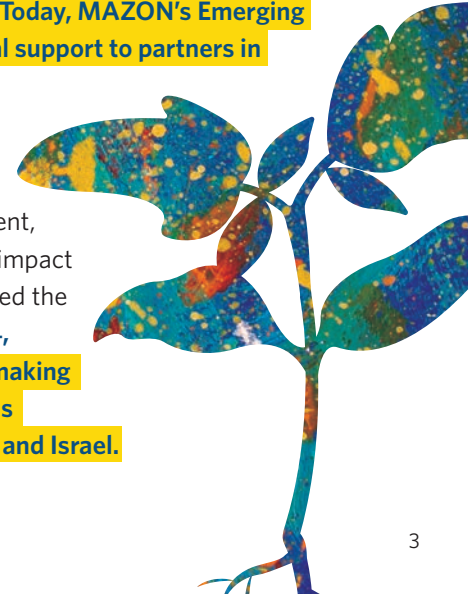
GROWING THE MOVEMENT

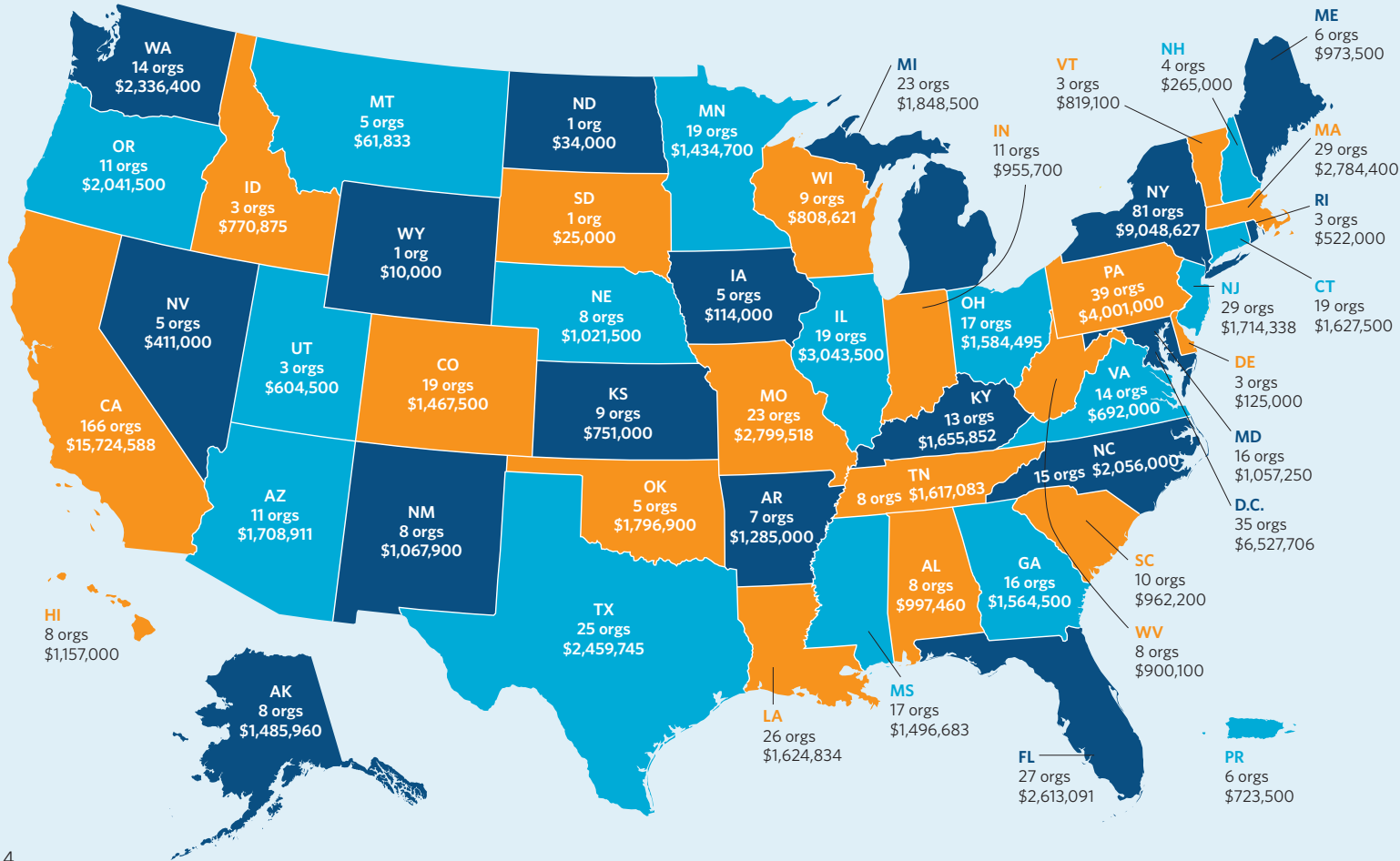
Forty years ago, the word “advocacy” in anti-hunger work was a rarity. But MAZON’s founders knew there was much more to fighting hunger than providing emergency food. Rooted in Jewish values of justice and dignity, MAZON has always recognized that hunger in America is not a result of a lack of food, but rather a lack of political will.

From its beginnings, MAZON has used its grantmaking to empower the anti-hunger field to advance policies that address hunger at its roots. Our steadfast leadership built broad acceptance among the emergency food network — food banks, food pantries, and direct service providers — that changing the policies that allow hunger to persist is central to this work.

By 2015, we were uniquely positioned to shift our investments to support advocacy in the nation’s most food insecure states and U.S. territories, where food insecurity rates were highest, resources for anti-hunger advocacy were most scarce, and the political environments were most hostile to safety net programs. **Today, MAZON’s Emerging Advocacy Fund provides critical support to partners in 19 states and Puerto Rico.**

Throughout our 40 years, MAZON’s grantmaking has met the challenges of the moment, and the longevity and strategic impact of our investments have bolstered the fight to end hunger. **As of 2024, MAZON has invested in grantmaking efforts in all 50 states as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and Israel.**



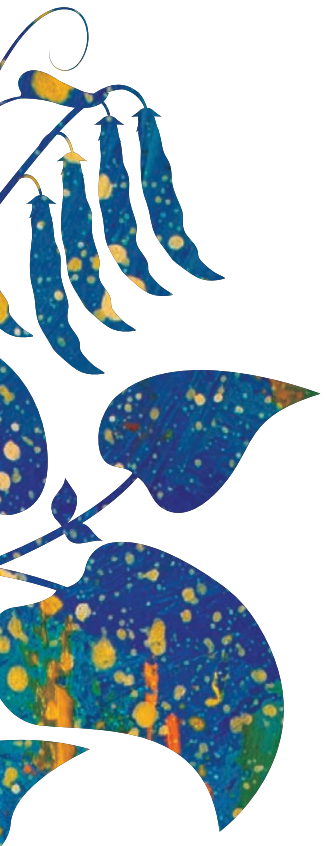


TRANSFORMING POLICY: MAZON'S GRANTMAKING SUCCESS

In 2024, our investments led to significant and meaningful progress.

- Nearly 5 million children now have access to summer nutrition benefits in **Nebraska, Oklahoma,** and **Tennessee.**
- In **Hawai'i,** the Summer Food Service Program now reaches more than 1 in 4 children — an enormous increase from prior years.
- Advocates in **Arkansas** successfully lobbied to expand free school meals to 49,000 students.
- The final year of Summer Pandemic-EBT in **Florida** provided over \$1 billion in food assistance to more than 2.6 million children statewide.
- Partners in **Kentucky** formalized and expanded their statewide coalition to include nearly 200 organizations, successfully defending the state's safety net from two bills that would have threatened food assistance for 200,000 Kentuckians.
- After years of fighting, advocates in **Arizona** won a 20% increase in benefits for extremely low-income Arizonans, the first step in reforming the program and undoing decades of harmful cuts.





FOOD INSECURITY IN ISRAEL: CRAFTING SOLUTIONS, CREATING CHANGE

For decades, MAZON has been building a path toward food security for Israelis of all faiths and backgrounds. When our work began, there was neither a coordinated system of charitable aid to support struggling Israelis nor the necessary governmental policy to address the roots of the crisis. MAZON set out with a long-term vision to address both. **Since the program's inception, MAZON has made 395 grants to 47 partner organizations in Israel, totaling \$8,018,717.**

1992-2007: Building a Charitable Response

MAZON's earliest investments supported the most immediate need in Israel: an effective charitable network to deliver emergency food assistance at a time when 22% of Israelis were food insecure. In 2007, MAZON helped to found Leket, Israel's food bank, serving as its fiscal sponsor in the U.S.

2007-2016: Investing in Food Distribution

MAZON worked to stabilize an effective, coordinated network of food aid organizations supporting

hungry populations across Israel. MAZON's investments significantly strengthened the charitable food sector throughout the country.

2016-2023: Building an Anti-Hunger Sector

MAZON refocused on building more long-term, innovative, policy-based solutions to alleviate hunger in Israel. We hired a full-time Israel Director and began conducting a thorough landscape analysis to understand the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Our work resulted in broad public and political understanding of food security as a major issue of societal concern and led to MAZON successfully securing funding to address food insecurity in the Israeli national budget for the first time in history.

2023-2024: Responding with Urgency, Building for the Future

Amid horror and heartbreak, MAZON remained focused on the rapidly escalating tide of hunger in Israel after

the devastating Hamas attacks on October 7, 2023. Bolstered by MAZON's decades-long investments, the Israeli nonprofit sector quickly rose to meet emergency food needs throughout the country in the weeks following the attacks, when hunger skyrocketed to 31% of Israelis.

MAZON distributed \$200,000 in emergency grants to partner organizations serving the needs of two particularly vulnerable populations: Bedouins in unrecognized villages and asylum seekers.

This past year, MAZON made 24 grants to 16 partner organizations in Israel, totaling \$685,000.

As MAZON has done for decades in the U.S. and Israel, we will continue working to ensure that all people can feed themselves with the dignity, freedom, and safety they deserve.



INVESTMENTS IN INDIAN COUNTRY: EMPOWERING PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

MAZON's support of Native-led policy change to advance food security and food sovereignty in Indian Country is rooted in the recognition that Tribal nations have the right to self-determination. For millennia, Indigenous peoples flourished in their cultures, traditions, and food systems. We use our voice to elevate and amplify our Native partners' priorities and solutions to achieve healthy, thriving, and resilient Tribal communities.

1992-2011: MAZON as Funder

MAZON's earliest investments in Native-led food security projects were spurred by our overarching grantmaking strategy to support community-based projects. Often the only Jewish funder in the anti-hunger field, we recognized that MAZON had an obligation to address the inequities that exacerbated hunger across our nation and to invest in projects led by communities of color.



2011-2017: MAZON as Partner

Under President & CEO Abby J. Leibman's leadership, MAZON recognized its grantmaking as a core strategy for addressing hunger among marginalized populations in the U.S., where our funding could make a significant impact. The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas became MAZON's anchor partner in this work, promoting Tribally-driven solutions to revitalize and advance traditional food systems and Native agriculture.

2017-2022: MAZON as Ally

MAZON was invited to join the Native Farm Bill Coalition and became a founding partner and its first non-Native ally. MAZON worked to advocate to Congressional leaders for Native-led priorities. Our advocacy helped to win inclusion of 63 Native-led provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill.

2022-2024: MAZON as Co-Strategist

MAZON has diligently strengthened its allyship with our Native partners. As a non-Native organization, MAZON has been invited to attend and observe at Tribal Consultations and other Tribal-led meetings and coalitions, building MAZON's ability to create joint strategies to advance Tribal nutrition priorities.



Read more about
how MAZON is
confronting a major
challenge with its
Tribal partners.



2022-2024 CO-STRATEGIST



2025- MOVING FORWARD, TOGETHER

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

MAZON's policy expertise, thought leadership, and strategic advocacy have been critical in the fight to address food insecurity for its entire 40-year history. Today, MAZON is regarded as an influential player in the halls of Congress and throughout the nation's capital.

In 2024, Congress deferred action on the Farm Bill for a second time and threatened cuts to federal funding for food safety net programs like SNAP. MAZON sent a sustained, unified message to Congressional leadership that the integrity of our federal nutrition programs was not up for debate. Grounded in our Jewish values, the MAZON community spoke loudly and persistently to prevent harmful policies and benefit cuts that would weaken food security, making the case for systems that protect, strengthen, and expand our food safety net.

In 2024:

- The Biden-Harris Administration adopted three of MAZON's policy commitments as part of their National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health.
- MAZON honored Congressional anti-hunger champions for their leadership at our Hunger Bites event in D.C.
- USDA highlighted MAZON's partnership at its Equity Convening and celebrations for Sukkot and Jewish American Heritage Month.





- MAZON hosted our 15th National Hunger Seder on Capitol Hill with nine Members of Congress from both parties in attendance, in addition to key partners and stakeholders.
- MAZON led robust national sign-on letters on military hunger solutions and full funding for the WIC program.

SPOTLIGHT: MILITARY HUNGER

MAZON leads the work nationally to expose, understand, and advance solutions to address food insecurity among military families. We have cultivated champions in Congress and various government agencies, built diverse coalitions of military and veteran service organizations, educated and engaged our longtime partners in the anti-hunger community, and helped craft media narratives about the scope and complexity of the crisis. For nearly 15 years, we have testified before numerous congressional committees, and we successfully convinced the Department of Defense to acknowledge that **nearly 25% of military families face food insecurity**.



Celebrating Success: The Basic Needs Allowance

MAZON has crafted numerous bipartisan efforts to address hunger in the military, including the Military Family Basic Needs Allowance — a new benefit program for current servicemembers. When we learned that the Department of Defense was implementing the program in a manner that violated existing law, our legal advocacy team sent a demand letter pointing out that their misinterpretation meant that the benefits were only reaching a tiny fraction of military families facing food insecurity. In May 2024, in response to MAZON, the Department of Defense revised its regulation to comply with the law.

OUR PATH FORWARD: LEGAL ADVOCACY

In 2024, we launched MAZON's Legal Advocacy Department to ensure that the Jewish response to hunger includes a robust focus on justice and accountability. We are building a community of legal advocates to guarantee that policy wins are enforced and reach the people they were designed to help. This work has long been a priority for MAZON:



1989 MAZON made its first **grant** to a legal services organization.

1996 MAZON expanded funding of legal services organizations in response to growing need in the wake of welfare reform.

MAZON has used **amicus briefs** as a hunger fighting tool; these friend of the court arguments are filed in litigation by non-parties who have an interest in the outcome of a case.

2015 MAZON filed an amicus brief in support of greater access to SNAP for disabled veterans.

2019 MAZON joined an amicus brief challenging "public charge," a rule that would have made it harder for immigrant families to feed themselves.

2020 MAZON joined an amicus brief challenging a rule increasing harmful work requirements for SNAP recipients.

2021 MAZON served as **lead plaintiff** in a lawsuit challenging Trump Administration regulations that gutted religious freedom protections for recipients of federally funded social services.

2024 **In response to this litigation, nine federal agencies released a new set of rules to safeguard those in need against being forced or pressured to abandon, hide, or obscure who they are to get the food they need for themselves and their families.**

FROM LESSONS TO ACTION: STATE ADVOCACY

MAZON made huge strides in 2024 in enhancing our strategy and structure for state-based advocacy. In hiring our **first-ever Deputy Director of State Policy**, we've doubled down on the understanding that there is a clear role for state and local policymakers in the fight to end hunger.

Among the foremost priorities for MAZON's state advocacy is deepening engagement in states where we have strong roots. That includes **California**, where we successfully passed a bill to pre-enroll formerly incarcerated individuals in SNAP as they transition back into their communities. In **Colorado**, we are working to ensure implementation and funding for the state's universal school meals program. In the year ahead, we will strengthen anti-hunger advocacy in states ranging from **Michigan** to **North Carolina** to **Tennessee** to **Texas**.



SHAPING THE FUTURE: JEWISH LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

For 40 years, the Jewish community has been the driving force behind MAZON's work to ensure that everyone has a seat at the table and enough food to eat. We believe deeply in the power of education, engagement, and leadership development. Engaging in this work with the Jewish community, rooted in our shared values of nourishing the dignity and divinity of every person — this is the work of justice.



\$74.4 MILLION

raised by synagogues and congregants for MAZON over its lifetime



More than

2,675 JEWISH COMMUNAL PARTNERS

across the country, including at least one synagogue in every state

CHALLAH FOR HUNGER™
A project of MAZON



In Challah for Hunger's first year at MAZON:

- 38 campus chapters, representing 116 student leaders
- gathered 500+ students at bakes
- raised over \$66,000 for anti-hunger work



Developed

20+ PROGRAMS, CURRICULA, & RESOURCES

to engage individuals and communities, facilitated by MAZON experts or local educators

OVER 250



clergy, students, and lay leaders engaging in over 170 meetings with Members of Congress and staff

“In these vulnerable times, it’s never been more crucial that our country’s faith leaders advocate for the most vulnerable in their communities.”

ABBY J. LEIBMAN
President & CEO, MAZON



2018: MAZON launches its Jewish Clergy Justice Mission in Washington, D.C.

2020: Amid COVID, MAZON pivots to virtual advocacy programs, growing participation to 75 clergy members nationwide.

2024: MAZON continues to engage clergy and community relationships with elected officials both in-district and in D.C.

Dedicated to Barbara Bergen (z”l)

AUGUST 30, 1938 – SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

As we reflect on MAZON’s first 40 years, we are reminded of all the remarkable individuals that shared their time, their expertise, and their vision in shaping MAZON and its mission. Among them was a true Woman of Valor, Barbara Bergen. We lost Barbara in 2024, and we feel her loss keenly. As our Vice President and Counsel, Barbara’s wisdom, humor, perspective, and commitment inspired and lifted us up every day. Barbara treasured MAZON’s relationships with clergy and synagogue communities. As she stepped away from her formal roles, she continued to nurture those relationships, connecting them to MAZON and our mission. She was also a wizard at writing pithy and compelling letters to the editor! Barbara demonstrated the very best in what it means to be an advocate grounded in Jewish values. May her memory always be for a blessing.



18,000 VISITORS
since March 2023 debut

OVER 50 PRIVATE AND PUBLIC TOURS,
educating hundreds of individuals



CHANGING THE NARRATIVE AROUND HUNGER

While MAZON has always worked toward structural change — changing the systems that allow hunger to persist — we also recognize the importance of creating transformational change: using our voices, our relationships, and our advocacy to change hearts and minds.

MAZON builds and promotes educational resources, focusing on dismantling the mythologies that exist in American culture about who is struggling with hunger, why, and what can be done about it. Together, we are shifting the pervasive narratives of shame and stigma too often associated with people struggling with hunger and the programs that serve them.

All of our educational programs are free and can be explored individually or through a facilitated experience.

This Is Hunger MAZON's groundbreaking photojournalism project illuminates the profound prevalence of hunger in America through six powerful, true stories, which can be accompanied by a facilitated program for all ages and wraparound activities for educators.



The Hunger Museum™ MAZON's all-virtual museum provides 100+ years of historical perspective to reveal how we once nearly solved hunger in America — and how we can chart a path to ending hunger once and for all. We offer private, group, and self-guided tours.



K-12 Curricula MAZON has created resources suitable for all school-age levels in both formal and informal educational settings. In 2024, we created a six-lesson unit centering The Hunger Museum for middle and high school students.



KEEPING HUNGER ON THE AGENDA

August 2024's Hunger Action Month brought Jewish community leaders from across the country together in a shared commitment to end hunger.

This program nurtures the vital connections between policymakers and their constituents, laying the foundation for long-term partnerships with lawmakers that can move the needle on food insecurity in the U.S. **In just the last two years of this program, more than 140 participants held 20 meaningful conversations with lawmakers.**

Looking ahead, these ongoing conversations between those who represent us and our communities will continue to serve as the foundation for the progress we seek. Through consistency and persistence, we can ensure that hunger is always on the agenda.



MAZON'S  HUNGER ACTION MONTH



"I walked away more proud to be a member of the temple."

Hunger Action Month lay leader

"By bringing awareness to Capitol Hill, MAZON is helping to build the political courage we need to end hunger in this country."

CONGRESSMAN JIM MCGOVERN (MA-02)

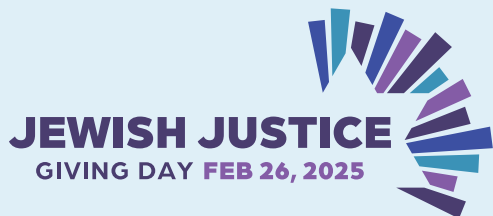
Co-Chair of the Congressional Hunger Caucus

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MAZON!



You're invited to celebrate MAZON's 40th birthday!

Please stay tuned for more details about MAZON's 40th birthday celebrations, taking place throughout 2025 across the United States.



Kicking off MAZON's celebration is the first-ever Jewish Justice Giving Day, taking place on February 26th.

A legacy of pursuing justice links MAZON's visionary founders with dedicated advocates who carry on this important work. As you consider your estate planning, we invite you to join **MAZON's Legacy Society**, a community of compassionate individuals who are committed to building a future where hunger is a thing of the past.





As we reflect on MAZON's journey over the past 40 years, and the role so many people around the country have played in this important work, we wanted to take a moment and say thank you for your unwavering partnership and support.

Thanks to you, the work you've read about in this report has been possible. Thanks to you, MAZON is a leader in the national anti-hunger field and the Jewish social justice space. And thanks to you, we are facing the future stronger than ever.

As we celebrate MAZON's 40th anniversary, there are so many wonderful achievements to celebrate. None would have been possible without you.

Thank you.

MAZON's Staff and Board of Directors



A Jewish Response To Hunger

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PRESIDENT & CEO
Abby J. Leibman



- A** Programs **80%**
- B** Administration **6.5%**
- C** Fundraising **13.5%**



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2024 Total
REVENUES, SUPPORT AND RESTRICTIONS RELEASED			
Contributions and grants	\$8,461,758	\$479,720	\$8,941,478
Interest income	226,432	9,268	235,700
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments, net of fees	495,854	128,132	623,986
Other income	46,775	-	46,775
Fundraising events	130,537	-	130,537
Restrictions released	553,974	(553,974)	-
Total Revenues, Support and Restrictions Released	\$9,915,330	\$63,146	\$9,978,476
EXPENSES			
Program services	\$8,178,572	-	\$8,178,572
Support services	674,529	-	674,529
Fundraising	1,389,256	-	1,389,256
Total Expenses	\$10,242,357	-	\$10,242,357
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(\$327,027)	\$63,146	(\$263,881)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$8,358,813	\$1,122,632	\$9,481,445
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$8,031,786	\$1,185,778	\$9,217,564

Full financials available at mazon.org/financials

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$883,212	\$413,404
Accounts receivable	1,551	175
Promises to give	32,800	-
Investments	8,191,865	8,833,340
Deposits and prepaid expenses	246,592	195,539
Right-of-use asset	2,007,065	800,480
Property and equipment, net	381,717	325,786
Total Assets	\$11,744,802	10,568,724
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$72,157	\$23,797
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	164,626	158,568
Grants payable	170,000	-
Right-of-use lease liability	2,120,455	904,914
Total Liabilities	\$2,527,238	\$1,087,279
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions:		
Board designated - operating reserves	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000
Undesignated	6,731,786	7,058,813
With donor restrictions	1,185,778	1,122,632
Total Net Assets	\$9,217,564	\$9,481,445
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$11,744,802	\$10,568,724



A Jewish Response To Hunger

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FORTY YEARS OF IMPACT

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