

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

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Passover 2024
Pesah 5784



On Passover, we celebrate our own freedom from the yoke of tyranny and oppression, but we also remember those in our world who are not yet free. This year, as we prepare special foods for our seder meals, we call to mind the millions of people in this country and around the world who remain enslaved by hunger and poverty. Moving from consciousness to action, we can take the next step to help those in need by contributing the money we would have spent to host one additional person at our holiday tables to hunger relief organizations.

This year, we'd like to suggest four organizations as possibilities for giving to combat hunger, each of which does wonderful work:

PHILABUNDANCE (www.philabundance.org) builds partnerships between hundreds of food producers and food pantries in the Philadelphia area to get food to the hungry people who need it.

MAZON (www.mazon.org) assists hungry people of all faiths and backgrounds across the United States in accessing the vital nutrition they need to build healthy, productive lives.

AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE (www.ajws.org) works with partner agencies around the world to help the hungry.

LEKET ISRAEL (<http://leket.org.il/english/>) serves as Israel's largest food bank and food rescue network actively working to alleviate the problem of nutritional insecurity among Israel's diverse population.

WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN (<https://wck.org/relief>) works with local communities in Gaza and other areas impacted by natural disasters and humanitarian crises to provide locally sourced, freshly made nutritious meals.

We live in the richest nation in the history of the world, and yet we know that so many people, including thousands in our own area, millions across America, and tens of millions around the world, live on the brink of hunger. Through our contributions, each of us can play a vital role in addressing this terrible situation.

Each year at the seder we lift up our matzah and recite from the Haggadah, "Let all who are hungry come and eat." Symbolically opening up our seder tables to the hungry through a donation to one of the organizations listed above gives real meaning to that invitation. You can donate and find more information at the websites of these organizations, and the Mazon and AJWS websites also have readings about feeding the hungry to use at your seder.

During Passover, we share a special obligation to use our own freedom on behalf of others who desperately need our help. Thank you for doing your part to fulfill the mitzvah of feeding the hungry this year.

Hag Sameah,
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