

These organizations need our support to keep offering food and supplies to those in need, and to advocate for more just and compassionate policies.

### **West Side Campaign Against Hunger**

In the midst of this pandemic, our friends at West Side Campaign Against Hunger, one of the largest Emergency Food Providers in NYC, are continuing to support the most vulnerable New Yorkers with sidewalk distribution, virtual social and supportive services, and their mobile food pantry, which has been rapidly expanding its partnerships to serve the community. WSCAH's food costs continue to increase, as do new customers seeking services. In April, 1200 new families visited their 86th Street Pantry seeking support. If you have the means at this time, please consider a donation to help them meet their increased costs as they purchase more food to meet the growing need and deploy their mobile food markets across the city.

Watch this video to learn more about WSCAH's work: <https://vimeo.com/411048587>

Please donate here: <https://www.wscah.org/donate/>

### **MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger**

MAZON works with local, state and federal leaders to protect and strengthen federal nutrition programs and advocate for public policies that address the root causes of hunger. Much of MAZON's advocacy centers around strengthening SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the federal government's program to supplement the food budgets of families in need.

Please sign petitions at <https://mazon.org/take-action> to be part of the 3 main campaign issues:

- Prioritizing SNAP Improvements in the Next COVID-19 Relief Bill
- Supporting Military Families Facing Barriers to Receiving Funding for Food Assistance
- Supporting College Students Struggling with Food Insecurity

Go to: <https://mazon.org/what-we-do/our-initiatives> to see their initiatives for communities including: gay and lesbian seniors, rural, remote and Native Americans.

### **HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)**

HIAS advocates for the protection of refugees and displaced people, to assure they are treated with the dignity they deserve, and works to resettle refugees and immigrants, reunite them with their families, and provide legal services.

Sign a petition to protect Asylum Seekers in the time of COVID-19 here:

<https://act.hias.org/page/18154/petition/1>

Purchase artisan goods made by refugees, helping to change their lives:

<https://www.thegoodtrade.com/features/artisan-goods-made-by-refugees>

### **Backpacks For the Streets**

BFTS packs backpacks filled with a dozen food items and other necessities such as toiletries, first aid kits, socks, flashlights, and brings them to people living on New York City Streets.

Donate or sign up to volunteer here: <https://backpacksforthestreet.org/volunteer/>

Order directly what they need in each backpack here: <https://backpacksforthestreet.org/amazon/>

**If you can, please DONATE!** Many of us often seek opportunities to collect food or otherwise feel the tangible contributions of our efforts – but donating funds can often help organizations to feed those who are hungry in greater ways than household donations of food. Click to learn why donating is essential, and truly makes an impact:

<https://communityactionprovo.org/food-donations-vs-monetary-donations/>

<https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-blog/donating-food-food-bank-consider-cash-instead-canned-goods>

Wondering what the Torah has to say about ensuring that all those in our midst have access to food and community, to justice and safety? Here is a starting point:

### **ויקרא Vayikra • Leviticus**

19: 9-10 And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corner of your field, neither shalt you gather the gleaning of your harvest. And you shall not glean your vineyard, neither shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the Lord your God.

19: 13 You shall not oppress your neighbor, nor rob him – the wages of a hired servant shall not abide with you all night until the morning.

19: 15 You shall do no unrighteousness in judgment; you shall not respect the person of the poor, not favor the person of the mighty; but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.

19:18 ...You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord your God.

19: 33-34 And if a stranger sojourn with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger that sojourns in your land shall be unto you as the home-born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

23: 22 And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corner of your field, neither shall you gather the gleaning of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor, and for the stranger: I am the Lord your God.

### **דברים Dvarim • Deuteronomy**

24: 14-15 You shall not oppress a hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of your brethren, or of the strangers that are in your land within your gates. In the same day you shall give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and puts his soul on it: lest he cry against you unto the Lord, and it be a sin on you.

24: 17-22 You shall not pervert the justice due to the stranger, or to the fatherless; nor take the widow's raiment to pledge. But remember, you were a slave in Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you; therefore I command you to do this thing. When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat your olive tree, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow. When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean it after you; it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow. And you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt; therefore I command you to do this thing.

And one more bonus quote from the prophets:

### **ישעיהו Yeshayahu • Isaiah**

58: 10 If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.