



OPERATION ISAIAH 5785

**"Offer Your Compassion to the Hungry...
Satisfy the Famished Soul"**

Thus Isaiah commands us in his towering Yom Kippur Haftarah. Afflicting our bodies through fasting makes us ever cognizant of those who daily go without, whose cupboards are bare, whose children go to bed each night with less than full bellies.

Operation Isaiah, the collection of non-perishable food, is a dramatic statement that we heed the call, that our observance on this day is not empty piety. Our religious social conscience is alive to the Mitzvah to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless.

Operation Isaiah is an effort to place the Mitzvah of hunger relief on the agenda of every Conservative synagogue. We urge every synagogue to encourage congregants to bring non-perishable food to Kol Nidre services or any time through Sukkot.

Synagogues can join by partnering with local food collecting organizations to host drives in their synagogues beginning on Yom Kippur.

Depending on available resources, synagogues can give out collection bags, offer large bins for collections, collect money in addition to food, or find other ways to be in partnership with local or national food justice organizations.



OPERATION ISAIAH 5785

Quick Start Guide

Want to be involved but don't know how to start?
Follow this quick guide to get your drive underway!

Publicity:

Publicize Operation Isaiah in all High Holy Day distributed communications. Post fliers encouraging participation. Urge all synagogue groups, especially religious school and youth groups to actively participate.

Collection

Arrangements: Reach out to a local food bank or pantry that will be able to distribute donations. If possible, find out their greatest needs and include that in your publicity materials.

Set-up:

Arrange how people can deposit their food donations. Food banks may be able to lend food barrels.

Additions:

Distribute designated synagogue return or Mazon envelopes so that members can participate through financial contributions to your local partner or Mazon.

Mazon envelopes can be ordered through their website:

<https://mazon.org/resources/resources-materials-request/>

Prepare pre-printed grocery bags to distribute as congregants depart on Rosh Hashanah as a reminder to return them on Yom Kippur

Follow-up:

After you've dropped off your food, make sure to thank your community. Try to find out how many pounds were donated. We'd also love if you share your results and story with us:

<https://forms.gle/oSQ56J5cAcGT3Nrr9>