



Message from Sam Rozenberg, Yad Ezra President



The fall is a very important and meaningful time for Yad Ezra and our community. Approximately two weeks from receiving this newsletter, we will be celebrating Rosh Hashana, a time of introspection when we review mistakes we've made during the past year and begin planning the personal changes we want to make for the coming year. In a little over a week, our annual fundraiser will take place and pay tribute to this year's honorees, Rachel and Jason Zimmerman. The revenue raised by the fundraiser is needed to keep our warehouse shelves stocked with healthy kosher and desirable groceries. We are grateful to our honorees, dinner co-chair people Molly and Aaron Cherno, Rachel and Josh Oppener and Bluma Schechter and fundraising committee members who helped ensure the success of the event by engaging the support of their friends, families and neighbors.

Your support helps Yad Ezra continue with its mission of serving the community's needs, assuring that no person goes to sleep hungry nor is forced to make tough choices between paying rent, seeing a doctor or being able to put food that meets their religious and cultural value system on the table.

As supporters of a non-profit, it is our responsibility to ensure that our money is spent wisely by the organization we support. Yad Ezra must maximize our benefit to the people we serve and the community in general. To that effect, I am happy to assure you that the resources you make available to us are in good (helping) hands. 85% of the total dollars donated to Yad Ezra goes towards food distribution. This statement is backed by the fact that Yad Ezra is a recipient of Charity Navigator's highest rating (4 star), a fact that the board and I are extremely proud of.

As we move into a new year, Yad Ezra will continue to provide assistance to those most vulnerable in our community. We do this with dignity and respect. We continuously tweak the process, mindful of the fact that there is no limit to improvement whether one is an individual or an organization.

On behalf of Yad Ezra's board of directors, I wish you and your families a healthy and happy new year.

Message from Rachel Morof, JOIN Summer Intern

Interning at Yad Ezra over the summer has been a great learning experience for me. On my first day of work, I learned in depth about what this agency does and the impact it has on the Jewish community. As an intern, I was considered a "floater" and would help with small tasks that any of the staff needed. I also was in charge of contacting synagogues for the Yom Kippur Food Drive, working on advocacy projects and updating the volunteer database. Each day consisted of new tasks, surprises and a continuous learning experience.



One of the most rewarding experiences I had at Yad Ezra was working during client hours. I helped with client intake and also walked clients through the line for them to receive food. Every client I helped was so grateful and appreciative of our services. By having hands-on interactions with the clients, it opened my eyes to see how wonderful, resourceful and impactful Yad Ezra is in the Jewish community. Yad Ezra has taught me that there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to keep this organization thriving. All of the amazing things Yad Ezra accomplishes is done by seven hard working staff members and could not happen without the support of the community. I am so grateful that the JOIN program placed me at Yad Ezra for my internship, for it has helped expand my understanding and knowledge of hunger within our community.



Judge Michael L. Stacey Healthy Snack Program Helps Children of Yad Ezra Client Families

Thanks to a most generous gift from the Judge Michael L. Stacey bequest, approximately 2,000 healthy snack packages have been distributed to children of Yad Ezra client families since the beginning of the year. Every month each child receives his/her own bag of snacks that includes granola bars, Skinny Pop, pretzels, fruit roll-ups, fresh fruit, juice and other healthy and fun-to-eat foods.

Yad Ezra Partners with MAZON for SNAP Outreach

Yad Ezra is one of 13 organizations in the country that is participating with *MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger* and the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies in a program to register low income individuals over the age of 50 for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as 'food stamps') benefits. This effort has been generously funded by the Walmart Foundation. For more information, please contact Lea@yadezra.org or call 248-548-3663.

Are you 50 years or older and in need of food assistance?

If your monthly income is less than the amount listed, you may be eligible for SNAP/food stamps:

HOUSEHOLD Gross Monthly Income SIZE (130 percent of poverty)

1 person	\$1,276
2	\$1,726
3	\$2,177
4	\$2,628
5	\$3,078
6	\$3,529
Each additional person	+\$451

*Different limits apply for applicants age 60 and older, or who are receiving SSI or SSD benefits.

SNAP/food stamps are accepted at thousands of food retailers – even farmers' markets – and help stimulate the local economy.

MAZON | A Jewish Response
To Hunger



Local Chef/Restaurant Owner, Zack Sklar, Creates Signature Spice Mix for Yad Ezra Clients

Zack Sklar, a partner in Peas and Carrots Hospitality created a homemade Garam Masala spice mix that is being distributed to Yad Ezra client families to use when preparing chicken, vegetables, eggs, soups and other food items from the pantry. Yad Ezra's Volunteer Committee assembled the spice mix, researched and printed recipes along with a list of the nutrition and health benefits of each of the spices. The spice mix which includes cumin, coriander, black pepper, cardamom, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg is available to volunteers and supporters of Yad Ezra for a small donation. Contact the office 248- 548-3663 for more info.

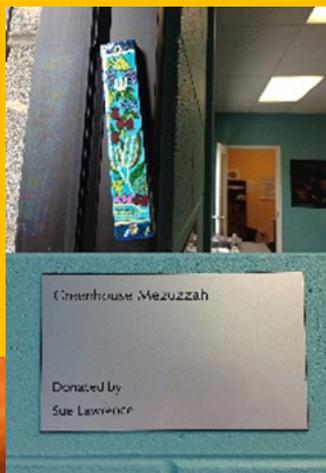
Yad Ezra's Annual Fundraising Dinner September 28, 2016

This year, Yad Ezra will pay tribute to Rachel and Jason Zimmerman at the organization's annual fundraiser scheduled for September 28th at Adat Shalom Synagogue. Co-chairs for the event are Molly and Aaron Chernow, Rachel and Josh Oppener and Bluma Schechter. Check out our website www.yadezra.org or call the office 248-548-3663 for more information!



Yad Ezra receives Bequest from the Estate of Sue Lawrence

Sue Lawrence, a longtime Yad Ezra volunteer passed away earlier in the year. Her commitment continues with a bequest that includes a generous contribution that is being used to purchase groceries for the clients and a gift towards Yad Ezra's Giving Gardens project. As a tribute to Sue, we asked Rabbi A. Irving Schnipper, one of Yad Ezra's earliest supporters and founders, to hang the mezuzah in Sue's honor.



Interested in learning
about what's
happening at the
Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher
Giving Gardens Project
featuring the
Gerri Lester Greenhouse?

Contact carly@yadezra.org
to subscribe to our online
newsletter so you can stay
informed!



Yad Ezra, NEXTGen, Repair the World and Hazon Sponsor Do it for Detroit Event

Thanks to a five year grant from the William and Audrey Farber Family, we are able to continue to assist fledgling anti-hunger organizations in the greater community by inviting them to submit a request to fund their projects. Volunteers and staff from the four sponsoring agencies reviewed the grant proposals and narrowed the choices down to three finalists. At the June event, each of the finalists made their pitch to audience members who then voted on which finalist should walk away with the first, second and third monetary prizes. Winners were the following:

- 1st place – Detroit African Women’s Coalition for Liberated Land - \$3,000
- 2nd place – Fireweed Universe City - \$2,000
- 3rd place – D-Town Farms - \$1,000



From L>R: Representatives from Fireweed, Detroit African Women's Coalition, D-Town Farms

Reflections from Katie Wallace, Yad Ezra Marketing and Development Professional



Having worked at Yad Ezra for almost three and a half years now, I have come to love this organization and what we do. Our ultimate goal is to help our community by providing groceries and household goods to low-income families. We are doing a mitzvah on a daily basis. It doesn't get much better than this.

As Yad Ezra's resident marketing pro, I work behind the scenes most of the time. I make sure fundraisers and events are successful and that we are promoting ourselves positively. It's always great to report what amazing work we do, but sometimes I forget firsthand what a wonderful feeling it is. This summer I was reminded of that.

One Thursday night, I had the opportunity to fill in for Darlene Rothman, our client/volunteer manager for client hours. I met with three different people who were coming to Yad Ezra for help. The first man had his electricity shut off and lost all the food in his refrigerator and freezer. He also had to be at work in 25 minutes but wanted to make sure he had food for his family. I told him "Let's get you some bonus items and fresh produce for now, and come back Monday with the completed application so we can give you the full experience of coming to Yad Ezra." The man was so appreciative. The second woman I helped had been couch surfing from friends and family and had no income. She really needed our help. I was glad that we were able to provide her with groceries as well as many resources for her to help her get back on her feet. The last woman I helped came in just as client hours were ending. It didn't matter to me. It didn't matter to some of the volunteers. They packed her cart with all of the bonus items while I met with her and helped her fill out her shopping list. We went through the warehouse picking out all the food she wanted and the whole time she was in awe of the great service we were providing her. While her cart was being weighed she gave me a huge hug and hugged the volunteer that helped her through the line. It took a night like that to remind me why I'm here at Yad Ezra and why what we do here matters to so many people. Nights like this inspire me to continue to be a hard worker and strive to make Yad Ezra the best it can be.

On Wednesday, July 27th, I received a private message on Yad Ezra's facebook page from one of our supporters who shared with us a picture of South Oakland Shelter's empty shelves in their food pantry. He asked if there was anything we could do. We had closed early that day but I made a point to call David, our warehouse manager, and tell him we have to do something the next day. We ended up bringing 1,300 lbs of non-kosher food to their building and the entire staff was so enthusiastic and grateful. One social worker even told me that now she needs to rebuild a food package that she was bringing to a client that afternoon because there was now good food for them and not just the scraps "from the bottom of the barrel." It was like Chanukah/Christmas in July. SOS is our neighbor and to be able to help them out was a fantastic feeling.

Moments like this remind me that what we do matters and that in the end, people are only going to benefit from our services.

KUDOS CORNER

Special thanks to the following for recently volunteering

- FCA (Fiat Chrysler Automobiles) - Motor
- Citizens Volunteers
- Ford Motor Company Volunteers
- Jewish Medical Student Association - Wayne State University
- Repair the World
- Chabad of Novi
- Eleanor Roosevelt Hadassah Group
- Berkley High School - NHS Students
- Royal Oak High School – NHS Students
- Oakland Jr. Grizzlies Hockey Team
- Berkley High Hockey Team
- Adat Shalom
- Akiva Hebrew Day School
- NEXTGen Detroit
- Berkley High Volunteer Club
- Have a Heart Group
- Beth Jacob / Bais Yaakov
- Hillel of Metro Detroit
- Berkley High School – Autism & Cognitive Impairments, Extended School Year Program

• And...

Thanks to Jeff Katz and Robert Tokar of Wolverine Group, for the preparation and mailing of the newsletter



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WSG

**2850 W. 11 Mile Road,
Berkley, MI 48072**

Your Donation Dollars at Work:

Yes, I/we would like to make a contribution to Yad Ezra!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ _____

Please make check payable and mail to:

Yad Ezra, 2850 W 11 Mile Road, Berkley, MI 48072

Or, you may charge your donation to your VISA,

Mastercard, Discover or AE

Minimum charge requested is \$18.00 please!

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ 3/4 digit code: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____



Yad Ezra gratefully acknowledges your gift!