

Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia Mitzvah Food Program 2100 Arch Street, 7th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103

MITZVAH FOOD PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020

Deirdre Mulligan Senior Manager, Mitzvah Food Program

INTRODUCTION

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia (Jewish Federation) was founded in 1901 by a union of nine agencies dedicated to helping Philadelphia's Jewish community absorb immigrants fleeing religious persecution and economic hardship. More than 100 years later, Jewish Federation has grown to become Greater Philadelphia's central nonprofit Jewish community organization. Partnering with leading service providers, Jewish Federation's social services planning division, the Commission for Social Responsibility, works to meet basic needs and support independence for more than 20,000 vulnerable individuals by providing emergency relief, home care, socialization, and other lifesaving services. Through the Mitzvah Food Program, the Commission for Social Responsibility provides food for people experiencing food insecurity.

The Mitzvah Food Program (Food Program) was piloted in 1996 to alleviate hunger and malnutrition among vulnerable families in Greater Philadelphia. With broad-based support from the region's Jewish community and hunger relief agencies, the Food Program, which initially distributed food through a single community site, has expanded its geographic reach throughout Philadelphia and into the region's inner-ring suburban communities. Currently, the Food Program's hunger relief program serves older adults and families through five pantry sites located in Center City, Northeast Philadelphia, Mainline, Lower Bucks County, and Old York Road. The Center City, Northeast Philadelphia, and Mainline sites are located in Jewish centers, while the remaining pantries are located in synagogues.

The Food Program mobilizes a workforce comprised primarily of volunteers. The over 500 Food Program's volunteers are recruited and trained by staff and experienced volunteers. The Food Program volunteers benefit from the dedicated support of an Advisory Committee of active community members, local nutritionists, and volunteers and site leaders from each food distribution site.

The Food Program works with local and state hunger relief organizations, synagogues, and community organizations to acquire low-cost food staples for its food packages. In addition, the Food Program partners with volunteer groups throughout the region to organize food drives whose goal is to supplement the Food Program's nutritionally balanced food packages with fresh produce, baked goods, frozen meat, fish, other perishables, and toiletries.

The Mitzvah Food Program is sincerely grateful to its volunteers for their dedication and hard work throughout the year, and to the community for continuing to donate funds and food. The Mitzvah Food Program could not exist without their support.

2019-2020 Mitzvah Food Program Advisory Committee

Joseph Bey	Eva Khaitman
Sam Brint	Mary Kirsh
Brona Cohen	Jill Kleeman
Lori Dabrow	Janice Mininberg
John Eskate	Robin Rifkin
Brian Gralnick	Piotr Staniszwski
Jeremy Heller	Sharon Stumacher Gold
Lee Hillerson	Stuart Warsetsky
Madelyn Karasick	Amy Wittenstein
2040 2020 Mitmuch Food Drowson Staff	

2019-2020 Mitzvah Food Program Staff

Deirdre Mulligan, Senior Manager Phillip Holtje, Program Associate Natalya Gorbachik, Care Manager Sabina Dopiro, Site Manager, Northeast pantry Yana Bril, Care Manager, Northeast pantry Keisha Whatley, Delivery Volunteer Coordinator, Northeast pantry Nicole Riffel, Stock Associate, Northeast pantry

GENERAL INFORMATION

The mission of the Mitzvah Food Program is to provide food and basic staples in a caring and dignified manner community members who are in need, and to educate and advocate on their behalf.

The Mitzvah Food Program operates five pantry locations that distribute perishable and nonperishable food packages. This mission is support by an alliance of caring individuals, synagogues, and organizations. All pantry locations welcome all who are in need, regardless of race, religion, income, gender, or age.

The Mitzvah Food Program's food comes from contributions from the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, individuals, and organizations; SHARE's State Food Purchase Program and TEFAP' food purchases; and various Philabundance programs such as Grocers Against Hunger program and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program for older adults.

Distribution sites:

- 1. Beth Sholom Congregation, Elkins Park Old York Road
- 2. Jewish Community Services Building, Philadelphia Center City
- 3. The Barbara and Harvey Brodsky Enrichment Building, Bala Cynwyd Main Line
- 4. KleinLife, Philadelphia Northeast
- 5. Tifereth Israel of Lower Bucks County, Bensalem Lower Bucks

For 2019-2020, the following types of food packages were provided:

- **Mitzvah**: 3-4 days' worth of nutritious non-perishable food such as pasta, marinara sauce, tuna, soup, cereal/oatmeal, boxed milk, peanut butter, etc.
- **Produce**: 3-4 days' worth of fresh fruits and/or vegetables such as apples, bananas, potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, etc.
- **Protein/Dairy**: 3-4 days' worth of fresh and/or frozen proteins and/or dairy items such as chicken, beef, fish, milk, cheese, yogurt, etc.
- Grains: 3-4 days' worth of fresh and/or frozen grains such as bread, bagels, etc.
- **Other**: 3-4 days' worth of non-food items such as toilet paper, paper towels, personal care items, etc.
- Emergency and Large Family: 3-4 days' worth of additional food for households in crisis and/or with special dietary restrictions, or families of four or more in need of additional support.
- **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)**: Food boxes containing nonperishable food and perishable cheese provided in partnership with Philabundance and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). These additional food boxes were distributed to qualifying older adults in Northeast Philadelphia (see Northeast pantry highlights for details).

HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICAL SUMMARY 2019-2020

Hunger Relief

With your support, in the last fiscal year, the Mitzvah Food Program's network of pantry sites provided food security to 8,227 individuals. Of the individuals served, 20% were children in low-income families and 40% were older adults. Of the recipients who reported their income levels, 82% were living at 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (an annual income below \$17,240 for a family of two).

Approximately one Mitzvah Food Package is equivalent to 18 lbs, one Produce Package is equal to 3 lbs, one Fresh Protein/Dairy Package is equal to 2 lbs, one Fresh Grain Package is equal to 1 lb, and one Other Package is equal to 2 lbs. Last year, the Mitzvah Food Program provided 938,020 **pounds of food** to food insecure families.

- This included the following food packages: Mitzvah, Produce, Holiday, Emergency, and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) boxes.
- 181,915 pounds of provided food was fresh produce, which was distributed via all distributions at all sites.
- 47,425 pounds of fresh protein, which was distributed at two walk through, and online ordering locations Northeast and Main Line.

In addition to distributing food directly at its sites, the Mitzvah Food Program coordinated over 700 food deliveries per month to those who lacked mobility or affordable transportation and therefore could not pick up food packages. The Mitzvah Food Program provided specialized food packages to meet the needs of those recipients with health-related dietary restrictions such as lower-sugar diets for diabetics and lower-salt diets for those with hypertension, as well as those requiring OU level Kosher certification.

Critical Resources

Beyond providing supplemental food packages to those in need of hunger relief, the Mitzvah Food Program has social workers on staff who connect recipients with other agencies that provide supportive services to help recipients forge pathways out of poverty. The Mitzvah Food Program's referral services included:

- **Connecting clients to a wide variety of community resources** through the Food Program's relationships with Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Philadelphia and Benefits Data Trust.
 - Provided information and referral services to 3,549 households, including site-specific resource lists.
- Determining client eligibility for SNAP (food stamp benefits) and assisting the application process in partnership with Jewish Family and Children's Service a care manager visited each pantry to aid recipients in the process of signing up for Food Stamps (SNAP) and other public benefits. The care managers screened 201 families for benefits.
- Distributing information about emergency relief, public benefits, and care management services through site-based resource centers and knowledgeable site leaders who manage them.

Hunger Awareness

The Mitzvah Food Program coordinated education campaigns to raise further awareness of poverty and hunger in the region and to mobilize the community in support of hunger relief efforts. In 2019-2020, the Food Program:

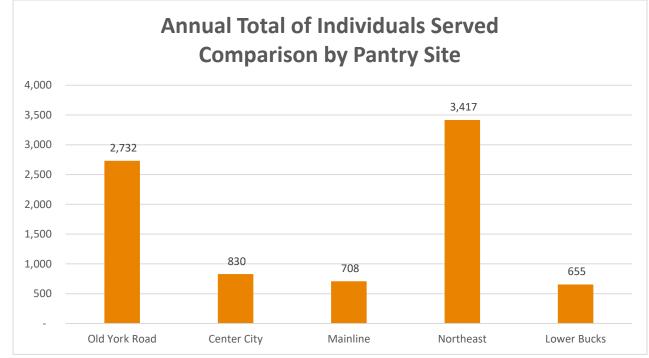
- Organized a food drive geared toward collecting food and raising community awareness
 - The High Holiday Food Drive collected over 40,000 lbs. of food.
 - Approximately 40 synagogues and community organizations participated.
- Encouraged support for federal and state legislation to alleviate hunger by distributing calls-to-action to our 3,549 recipient households and to our 18 committee members to:
 - Contact their state representatives to increase funding for the State Food Purchase Program (SFPP), which provides food pantries and soup kitchens with in-kind nutritious food. The SFPP provides cash grants to lead agencies in each county which they use to buy food in bulk and distribute it to food pantries, soup kitchens, and other charitable food programs.
 - Contact their Federal Congressmen and Senators to vote for responsible funding of the Farm Bill to not negatively affect food insecure families.
- **Provided volunteers with information and statistics on poverty and hunger** through presentations, discussions, reports, and on the website:
 - Organized a total of 539 volunteers, including volunteers for 38 food donations and five food drives (on top of the Food Program's large, annual holiday food drive), 35 volunteer groups, and 68 youth volunteers.

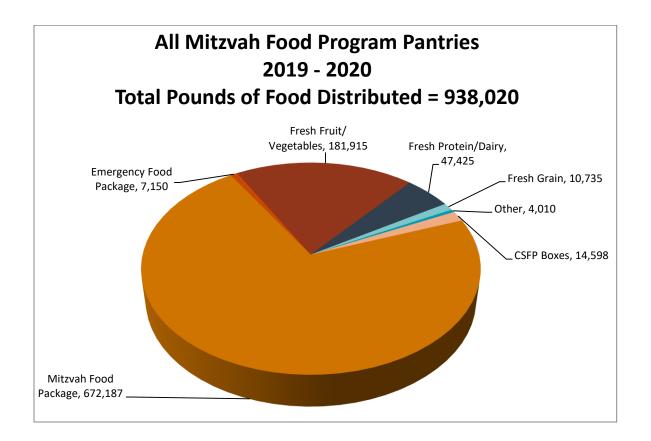
Covid-19/Pandemic Response

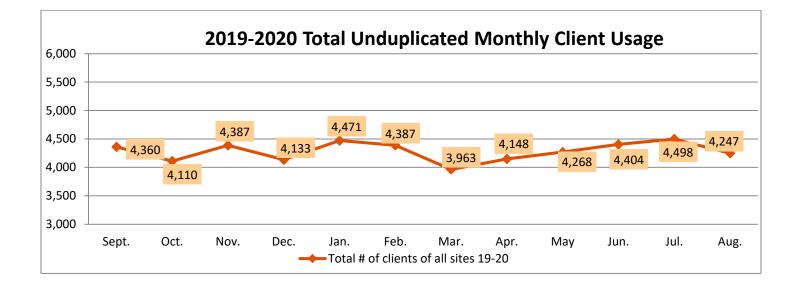
Starting in March, 2020 all food pantries switched to a contactless system due to the pandemic. This means that all clients were not allowed into the pantry spaces for safety reasons. Any location that did not have access to SmartChoice distributed low-sugar, low-salt pre-packed bags with very limited ability to adjust the bags. All deliveries were made contactless too – volunteers delivered the bag to the door step, rang the bell, and left. Clients who had the ability to order from home with SmartChoice were encouraged to do so and have done so. There has been about a 10% increase of client usage of SmartChoice from home. Locations are either utilizing a drive through method where the clients drive up in their cars and the food package is placed in the trunk or a walk up method, very similar – the clients bag is put on the table and the client takes the bag. Little/to no physical contact with clients/staff/volunteers.

The volunteer pool has changed due to the pandemic too. Previously, 80% of the volunteers were 60 or older (retirees) and who are a vulnerable population to COVID-19. These volunteers either have opted out of coming in or the various locations say they cannot come in for safety concerns. The volunteers that are coming in are 'family' units – people who live together or 'pod' together which allows for them to interact safely between each other if they cannot stay six-feet apart (safety protocols). PPE is available and mandatory for all who work/volunteer/utilize the pantries.

The following are comparison charts for the Mitzvah Food Program's network of pantry sites:







Mitzvah Food Program Northeast – Kleinlife – 4 Days per Week Walk-Through Hours and Bi-Monthly Delivery Distributions

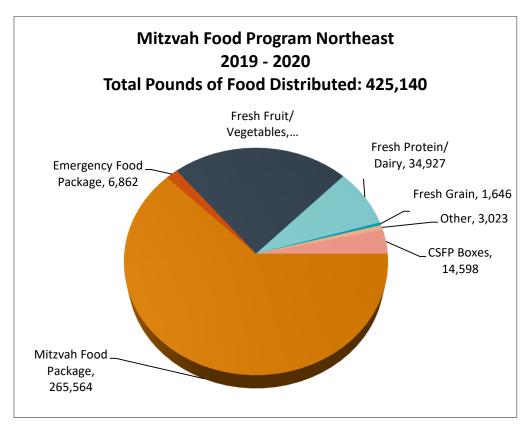
From September 1, 2019, through August 31, 2020, Northeast pantry located at Kleinlife:

- Served 3,417 unduplicated individuals in 1,809 households in Northeast Philadelphia.
 - These recipients utilized the SmartChoice ordering system either in the pantry or ordered from home.
 - $\circ~$ This was a 6% increase in the number of individuals served, as compared with the previous year.
 - Of the individuals served, 14% were children, 30% were adults, and 56% were older adults.
- Due to the pandemic saw a 10% increase in the amount of households using SmartChoice from home.
- Delivered bi-monthly distributions to 100 households.
- Distributed approximately 425,140 pounds of food.
 - This number represents an 8% increase in the number of pounds of food distributed from the previous year.

This pantry site is organized by a full-time Site Manager, full-time Social Worker, part-time Volunteer Coordinator, part-time Stock Associate, and 127 volunteers (individuals and groups throughout the year).

Clients come to this site during appointment hours, with emergency provisions available as needed. Additional support was provided to families with increased need.

The Mitzvah Food Program Northeast pantry served a monthly average of 2,818 individuals in 1,529 households.



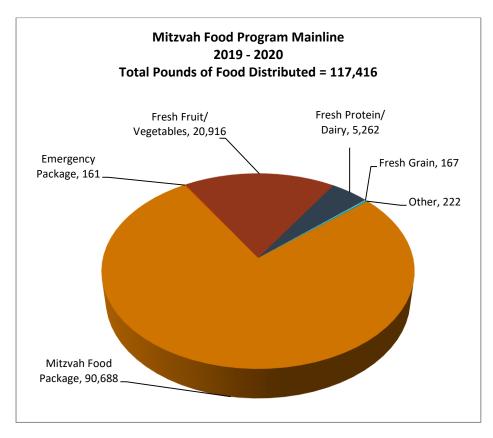
Mitzvah Food Program Main Line– The Barbara and Harvey Brodsky Enrichment Center – *Bi-Monthly Delivery and Weekly Walk-Through Distributions*

From September 1, 2018, through August 31, 2020, the Main Line pantry:

- Served 708 unduplicated individuals in 383 households in Overbrook Park, Upper Darby, Wynnefield, Mainline, and surrounding neighborhoods.
 - These recipients utilized the SmartChoice ordering system either in the pantry or ordered from home.
 - Of the 708 individuals served, 17% were children, 35% adults, and 48% older adults.
- Due to the pandemic saw a 5% increase of households using SmartChoice from home.
- Distributed approximately 117,4166 pounds of food through bi-monthly delivery and weekly walk-through hours (offering choice in the food items selected through both distributions).
 - Approximately 65,000 pounds of food were delivered on a bi-monthly basis; the remainder was distributed during the weekly walk-through hours.
 - Walk through clients had access to receive fresh dairy and frozen items.

This pantry site was organized by Jewish Federation's Mitzvah Food Program Social Worker and lead volunteer Diane Salvin with the support of 78 volunteers.

Mitzvah Food Program Main Line pantry served an average of 397 individuals in 240 households through its delivery and walk-through pantry operations.



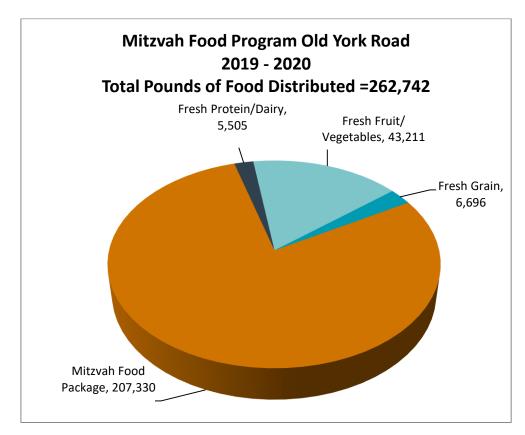
Mitzvah Food Program Old York Road – Congregation Beth Sholom – Weekly Walk-Through Hours

From September 1, 2019, through August 31, 2020, the Old York Road pantry:

- Distributed approximately 262,744 pounds of food (including produce, fresh grains, holiday, and emergency foods) through weekly walk-through hours.
- Served 2,732 unduplicated individuals in 769 households
 - Of the 2,732 individuals served, 25% were children, 55% adults, and 20% older adults.
- Due to the pandemic saw an increase of weekly recipients, from averaging 130 households a week to averaging 200 households a week.

This food pantry site was coordinated and maintained with the support of 54 volunteers, including two lead volunteers, Beverly McFadden and Stuart Warsetsky, coordinating a once a week walk-through distribution.

Mitzvah Food Program Old York Road pantry served an average of 1,256 individuals in 311 households each month through its delivery and walk-through pantry operations.



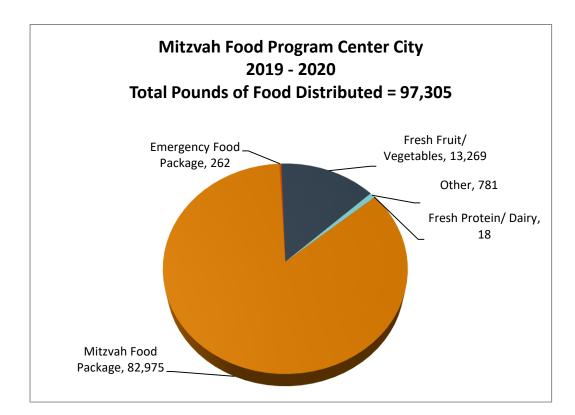
Mitzvah Food Program Center City - Jewish Community Services Building- *Bi-Monthly Walk-Through & Delivery Distributions*

From September 1, 2019, through August 31, 2020, volunteers at the pantry at the Jewish Communal Services Building:

- Distributed approximately 97,305 pounds of food through its bi-monthly walk-through pantry and its food package delivery program, offering choice in the food items selected for both programs.
- Due to the pandemic the bi-monthly Friday distributions for Older Adults is paused. There has been and 20% increase in the amount of households getting food delivered from this location.
- Served 830 unduplicated individuals in 384 households in the Greater Philadelphia region.
 - Of the total 830 individuals served, 27% were children, 41% were adults, and 32% were older adults.

This Mitzvah Food Program pantry at Jewish Community Services Building is organized by the Mitzvah Food Program Associate and supported by 49 volunteers.

Mitzvah Food Program Center City served an average of 411 people in 200 households.



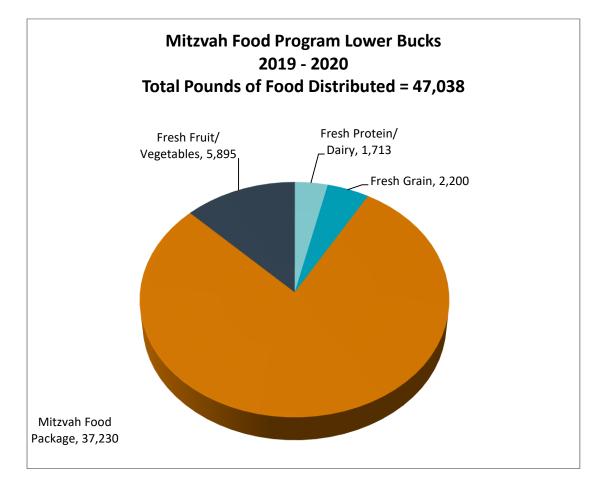
Mitzvah Food Program Lower Bucks - Congregation Tifereth Israel - Weekly and Monthly Walk-Through Hours

From September 1, 2019, through August 31, 2020, the pantry at Congregation Tifereth Israel:

- Distributed approximately 47,038 pounds of food.
- Served 655 unduplicated individuals in 258 households in Lower Bucks County.
 - Of the total 655 individuals served this year, 28% were children, 37% were adults, and 35% were older adults.

This Mitzvah Food Program Lower Bucks is supported by 31 volunteers, including two lead volunteers, Mary Kirsch and Janice Mininberg.

Mitzvah Food Program Lower Bucks served an average of 268 people in 123 households.



MITZVAH FOOD PROGRAM FINANCES 2019-2020

In-Kind Food Support

- SHARE Food Program, a non-profit that provides discounted food to food pantries, shelters, and individuals, provided the Mitzvah Food Program with over \$260,750 worth of in-kind food support through the State Food Purchase Program (SFPP).
 - Unfortunately, this money is never a guarantee and the amount changes each year.
- Philabundance provided \$499,296 of in-kind food which included: food boxes from the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) at the Northeast pantry, and fresh and frozen products from local grocery stores to our pantry sites at Northeast and Main Line through their Grocers Against Hunger "satellite" program.
- Chelten House Products provided donated pasta and marinara sauce on a monthly basis (worth a total of approximately \$50,000) which SHARE received and delivered to the five pantry sites.
- Quaker Valley Foods provided donations of frozen poultry and fish worth over \$11,300 to the Northeast location.

Individual Donations

 182 individuals in our community gave gifts totaling \$649,025, representing 63% of Mitzvah Food Program's total cash revenue.

<u>Grants</u>

 The Mitzvah Food Program received grants totaling \$168,836, or 16% of Mitzvah Food Program's total cash revenue. The Jewish Federation's grant from the Jewish Community Fund supplied 21% of this year's total cash revenue.

Line Items	FY 2019 (actual)	FY 2020 (actual)	FY 2021 projected	FY 2022 Projected
Dates	9/1/18-8/31/19	9/1/19 - 8/31/20	9/1/20 - 8/31/21	9/1/21-8/31/22
Salaries	\$332,783	\$364,330	\$338,108	\$348,251
Social Security	\$22,419	\$23,877	\$25,865	\$32,849
403 B Contribution	\$8,207	\$8,487	\$11,720	\$12,892
Employee Benefits	\$38,478	\$34,564	\$50,325	\$60,390
Personnel Total	\$401,887	\$431,258	\$426,018	\$454,382
Programs and Services				
Supermarket Gift Cards	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Food (includes delivery costs)	\$136,488	\$173,625	\$181,500	\$199,650
Pantry Support	\$0	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Delivery (obsolete as of 2020 budget)	\$3,350	\$0	\$0	\$0
Consultant	-\$360	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Purchase/Lease	\$0	\$2,090	\$2,088	\$1,000
Program Supplies	\$26,206	\$19,724	\$22,000	\$22,000
Volunteer Recognition	\$1,113	\$133	\$1,200	\$1,200
Wakefern Food Corporation (SFPP)	-\$18,614	-\$55,655	\$28,912	\$28,912
JFRE Grant	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Misc. Expenses	\$215	\$138	\$300	\$300
Program and Services Total	\$148,398	\$148,055	\$246,000	\$263,062

BUDGET – 2019 Through 2022

Line Items	FY 2019 (actual)	FY 2020 (actual)	FY 2021 projected	FY 2022 Projected
Dates	9/1/18-8/31/19	9/1/19 - 8/31/20	9/1/20 - 8/31/21	9/1/21-8/31/22
Administrative Costs				
Cleaning	\$6,571	\$7,783	\$7,000	\$7,500
Rent/Electricity/Gas	\$8,000	\$12,018	\$12,000	\$12,000
Waste Disposal	\$5,374	\$7,946	\$6,000	\$6,250
Maintenance/General Repairs	\$646	\$10,875	\$7,000	\$7,000
Conferences and Continuing Education	\$2,139	\$294	\$3,500	\$3,500
Gifts/Awards	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
IT/Program Software	\$19,417	\$7,129	\$16,000	\$16,000
Staff Expenses - includes dues	\$1,713		\$95	\$95
Staff Travel	\$6,487	\$5,584	\$8,000	\$8,000
Admin Fee Expense	\$3,072	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel/Transportation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Printing/Duplicating	\$717	\$155	\$900	\$900
Postage	\$850	\$634	\$500	\$500
Telephone	\$7,205	\$7,775	\$6,100	\$6,100
Marketing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Website	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Administrative Total	\$62,191	\$60,193	\$67,095	\$67,845
Set-Up (JFCS Location)				
Construction (Mainline)	\$130			
Computers	\$0			
Total Set-Up	\$130		\$0	\$0
Building Cost				
Building Cost Allocation (Center City)	\$26,542	\$24,096	\$33,360	\$38,364
Phone Cost Allocation (Center City)	\$3,064	\$3,759	\$3,858	\$3,858
Total Building Cost Allocation	\$29,606	\$27,855	\$37,218	\$42,222
Total Expenses (Cash)	\$642,212	\$667,361	\$776,331	\$827,511
IN-KIND EXPENSES				
Programs and Services				
Food	\$1,058,894	\$1,058,742	\$1,133,334	\$1,133,335
Rent/Utilities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Expenses (pantry support,				
rent, Jewish Federation)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program and Services Total	\$1,058,894	\$1,058,742	\$1,133,334	\$1,133,335
Total Expenses (In-Kind)	\$1,058,894	\$1,058,742	\$1,133,334	\$1,133,335
Total Expenses (Actual + In-Kind)	\$1,701,106	\$1,726,103	\$1,909,665	\$1,960,846

MITZVAH FOOD PROGRAM UPDATES SUMMARY 2019-2020

- With the support of over 286 regular volunteers who packed food, delivered food, organized fund/food drives, and much more, the program provided food relief to 3,549 vulnerable households.
 - Organized a total of 539 volunteers, including volunteers for 38 food donations and five food drives (on top of the Food Program's large, annual holiday food drive), 35 volunteer groups, and 68 youth volunteers.
 - The Food Program organized one major food drive (geared at collecting food and raising community awareness) with approximately 40 participating synagogues and community organizations. The High Holiday Food Drive collected over 40,000 lbs. of food.
- 3,549 households reported their income level, 99% of those households were living at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- 40% of those recipients were older adults on fixed incomes and 20% were children in lowincome families.
- The Food Program coordinated food deliveries to 355 households, providing food to needy clients who were unable to travel to the pantry sites.
- The Food Program distributed 938,020 pounds of food, including 181,915 pounds of fresh produce and 47,425 pounds of fresh/frozen protein/dairy to over 8,227 individuals.
- The Food Program provided specialized food packages for households with health-related dietary restrictions. All MFP packages accommodated lower-sugar and lower-salt diets by having products available to accommodate these dietary needs and enhance nutrition.
- The Food Program provided information and referral services to 3,549 unduplicated households.

Mitzvah Food Program would like to acknowledge our 2019-2020 Volunteer Groups:

- Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's Women's Philanthropy
- Repair the World
- JEVS Human Services
- Drexel University
- George Washington High School
- Interfaithways
- Jewish Children's Folkshul
- Lakash Construction
- The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Am
- Abington High School
- The Connelly Foundation
- Seed the Dream Foundation
- The Patricia Kind Foundation
- The Leo and Peggy Pierce Family Foundation
- Passover League of Philadelphia
- Bank of America Foundation
- The William Goldman Foundation
- Beth David Reform Congregation
- Beth Sholom Congregation

- Congregation Adath Jeshurun
- Congregation at Wesley Enhanced Living (Martin's Run)
- Congregation Beth Am Israel
- Congregation Beth El of Lower Bucks County
- Congregation Beth El-Ner Tamid
- Congregation Beth Hamedrosh
- Congregation Beth Tikvah-B'nai Jeshurun
- Congregation Brothers of Israel
- Congregation Kesher Israel
- Congregation Kol Emet
- Congregation Melrose B'nai Israel Emanu-El
- Congregation Ohev Shalom
- Congregation Or Ami
- Congregation Or Shalom
- Congregation Tifereth Israel of Lower Bucks
- Congregations of Shaare Shamayim
- Har Zion Temple
- Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's NextGen
- Kehilat HaNahar, the Little Shul by the River
- Kesher Israel Congregation
- Kol Ami
- Lower Merion Synagogue
- Main Line Reform Temple
- Mekor Habracha/Center City Synagogue
- Old York Road Temple-Beth Am
- Or Hadash: A Reconstructionist Cong.
- P'nai Or Jewish Renewal Congregation of Philadelphia
- Perelman Jewish Day School Stern Center
- Shir Ami-Bucks County Jewish Congregation
- Temple Adath Israel of the Main Line
- Temple Beth Ami
- Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El
- Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel
- Temple Judea of Bucks County
- Temple Menorah Keneseth Chai
- Temple Sinai
- Tiferet Bet Israel
- Wesley Enhanced Main Line Living (formerly Martin's Run)
- YouthWorks
- Invisible Hands
- Philadelphia Academy Charter High School
- Israeli American Council

*Special thanks to SHARE's staff for collecting, storing, and delivering the donated food from the collection sites.