

## **Please join our annual High Holydays Food Drive and Sisterhood supported “Project Stock the Shelves”**

Please join our annual High Holydays Food Drive, benefiting A Place To Turn, our neighboring food pantry on Hartford Street. As we prepare for Yom Kippur, we join hundreds of other congregations in collecting food for the hungry. Together we can continue the Torah tradition of leaving the produce of the “corners of our fields” for the needy.

Between 18 and 20 million Americans are estimated to go hungry year round; eight million who are suffering from hunger are children. The recent economic effects of the COVID pandemic only exacerbated this national crisis.

Drop off your donations in paper bags at Temple Israel any day the week of September 18th. If you are attending Kol Nidre services (Sunday, September 24th), please bring your donation with you; a vehicle from A Place To Turn will be available for collection. Your donation should be non-perishable high protein food—canned goods, cereal, rice, beans, pasta, peanut butter, baby formula or other dry staples. Please no glass containers; **all items must have a current expiration date and be unopened**. If you prefer, you may make a donation directly to A Place To Turn at: <https://www.aplacetoturn-natick.org/donate/>

The timing of this particular project has spiritual significance. On Yom Kippur morning, we read in Isaiah: “Is not this the fast that I have chosen? ... Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry?” But it also has material significance. During these difficult times, your contribution is especially important. By donating food to feed the hungry and homeless, we will continue to answer Isaiah’s call.

When our members participate in this hunger relief drive, we substantially contribute to meeting the hunger needs of our Metrowest community. Please join the many Temple families who have made this program a significant part of their Yom Kippur practice.

In addition, Sisterhood will be continuing their program, “Project Stock The Shelves,” collecting donations for our local food pantries throughout the year. Please consider leaving a contribution in the collection bin inside the front entrance to the Temple anytime during the year.