

## *Hazon Relief Garden Initiative*

Passover is around the corner; a time where we are grateful for the bounty on our table and sharing meals with family and friends. In times long passed, Passover was a holiday celebrating the planting of our seeds. In this, Hazon's year of environmental teshuva, we hope to return to that tradition. But this year hasn't quite gone to plan so far.

As the immediate repercussions of the Covid-19 crisis take hold in communities around the world, Hazon in Detroit is looking at its neighbors and partners for ways in which we can help those most in need in our community. The coronavirus crisis is presenting an onslaught of challenges too great for anyone to address fully in the short or long-term. However, as a community, we can come together in tangible ways in order to assist our neighbors.

This week, as this unique global situation develops at an ever more rapid pace, we officially entered the spring season. While the start of spring signifies a great many things, it also brings us closer to the planting of our summer seedlings. Often a simple hobby for the urban or suburban gardener or a fun activity for community organizations, the many gardens in our area could do much more: they could provide a significant source of fresh produce for those most in need come the summer harvest.

We believe that if every participating garden in every Jewish household and community organization could produce an additional 10% in their harvest to be donated to their nearest food pantry, we could make a significant impact together. Not only would this provide a much-needed service to those less fortunate, but it will act as a community building exercise that can engage people at every age while still adhering to social distancing guidelines.

To help the community in this effort Hazon will deliver 2-5 gallon buckets worth of compost and seed packets of peas, lettuce and kale; seeds that can be sown in cool weather, free to whomever is willing to grow a little extra to donate to local food pantries. We will also make sure to point participants in the direction of helpful online gardening resources so even the first-time gardener can feel confident getting started.

If interested, please complete an interest form by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions or are seeking further information, please email Wren Hack at [wren.hack@hazon.org](mailto:wren.hack@hazon.org). Deliveries will begin the week of March 31st and continue as long as we have compost. Donations for this project gratefully appreciated by clicking [here](#).

With your help we can get seeds in the ground soon and food on the tables of those in need this summer. Before Passover begins, before we gather at the seder table as one Jewish family – virtually or in-person – we can sow the seeds for our future.

Wren Beaulieu-Hack, Director, Hazon

