



The Impact to The Ark Community This High Holiday Season



This High Holiday season, your synagogue plays a crucial role in helping The Ark meet the growing need in our community. After a challenging year with SNAP reductions and rising costs, more individuals and families are turning to The Ark for help. Your congregation can Pack the Pantry by donating dollars, shopping and shipping through Amazon, or organizing a collection drive to collect the kosher food and household items our clients need most.

CHANGES TO SNAP IN ILLINOIS

- Nearly 1.9 million Illinois residents rely on SNAP.
- Up to 450,000 residents lost a portion or all of their monthly SNAP benefits beginning November 1, 2025.
- 120,000 Illinoisan SNAP recipients could lose benefits due to stricter work requirements effective May 1, 2026.
- The State of Illinois is projected to lose \$800 million annually in federal funds.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In Fall 2025, The Ark community responded, providing more than \$80,000 in food security funds in addition to two months's supply of pantry items through the High Holiday Collection Drive. Please join us again this year.



High Holiday Collection Drive

CLIENT IMPACT THIS YEAR

- More than 3,400 individuals received food through The Ark's kosher food pantries.
- 70% of Ark clients rely on our food pantries every month.
- Over 2,500 individuals rely on SNAP benefits for food each month.
- Client benefits range from \$24/month to \$1,200/month based on household size.
- Estimated \$2.5-\$4 million in lost client benefits annually.

GROWING NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY

**More than
400 households**

visited The Ark's food pantry for the first time in the last year.

The Ark distributed
**23% more
food packages**
than the previous year.

**20% increase
in households**
used The Ark's pantries over the last year.

MEETING THE MOMENT

The Ark depends on the strength and compassion of our community. We remain deeply committed to supporting every member of our community in need and are profoundly grateful to our donors whose generosity keeps our shelves full and our clients nourished. Join us over the High Holiday season to help Pack the Pantry.



Scan for three ways to give:
arkchicago.org/packthepantry

The Ark | arkchicago.org | 773-973-1000

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United Fund in Serving our Community.



Voices of The Ark



ARK CLIENT SINCE 2016

Meet Rachel

I'm a working mother of five, my youngest just an infant, and SNAP is the only reason I'm able to feed my kids. My income is so low that every dollar matters, and keeping a kosher household makes groceries even more expensive. I fought to keep SNAP during my divorce because I have custody, and without it, I'll struggle to pay rent and utilities. My case manager at The Ark explained that I'm at risk of losing SNAP just because one child moved out. Reapplying is stressful, and in the meantime, I'm scrambling, not to mention that SNAP doesn't even cover diapers and feminine care products. The Ark is there for me, but they alone can't help me keep the lights on.



ARK CLIENT SINCE 2020

Meet Deborah

From the moment I walk in to The Ark pantry, I always feel welcomed, cared for, and uplifted. Every volunteer puts in such genuine effort to make sure I am treated with kindness, dignity, and respect, and that warmth truly stays with me long after I leave. I am deeply thankful not only for the food itself, but for the comfort and encouragement that come with it. The fresh fruits and vegetables are always so vibrant and high-quality—often even better than what I find in stores—and it helps me feel healthy, nourished, and supported. It is a blessing to receive food that is thoughtfully chosen and shared with such love and intention. Thank you, your kindness makes a difference, and I am truly grateful for you, the volunteers, and the care that fills The Ark.

The Ark is where Chicagoland's Jewish families and individuals can experience the life-changing power of self-reliance.

All Ark services are confidential and free of charge.

The Ark | arkchicago.org | 773-973-1000

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