



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Met Council's 50th Year

JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023



Joseph S. Allerhand & Benjamin Tisch, Co-Presidents ♦ Richard Mack, Chair
David G. Greenfield, Chief Executive Officer

Feeding the hungry. Serving the poor.
Changing lives.



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These individuals inspire and guide Met Council with their leadership, generosity, and dedication to our mission:

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David G. Greenfield

Letter From Our CEO

Dear Friends,

Poverty rates among New Yorkers grew dramatically last year, and more than half of NYC residents (56%) now have incomes below 200% of the poverty line.

Unprecedented, sustained inflation and the end of pandemic support have been devastating to the most vulnerable in our community.

Yet Met Council's comprehensive and culturally attuned services helped hundreds of thousands of struggling New Yorkers move from crisis to stability. As the largest Jewish nonprofit organization in the United States dedicated to fighting poverty, the story of the past year is best told in the numbers.

We are grateful to all our generous funders who supported us in 2023, enabling us to feed the hungry, shelter the poor, help survivors of family violence and elder abuse attain safety, prevent evictions and utility turnoffs, and secure SNAP benefits and tax refunds for eligible low-income individuals and families.

We also thank the more than 1,800 volunteers who contributed their time and energy to helping us achieve our mission.

For 50 years, Met Council has championed the most vulnerable in our community. As new challenges arise, we are committed to be here for the next 50 years and beyond to meet these critical needs. Without your partnership, none of this would be possible.

Thank you,

David G. Greenfield
Chief Executive Officer



OUR MISSION AND PROGRAMS

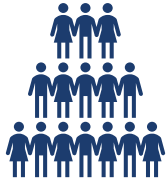


Met Council advocates for the poor and disadvantaged, and helps vulnerable people in the New York region move from crisis to stability. With 150+ food distribution partners, 19 affordable housing buildings, 15 Jewish community councils and other community-based partners across the tri-state area, we serve and strengthen individuals and families in the neighborhoods in which they live.



As an organization founded on Jewish values, we serve people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical ability, language, or religion.

FY 2023 IN NUMBERS



- 150,000 people per month sought food at Met Council-supported pantries.
- 281,649 people in 13 counties across the region received food for Passover.

- 14,192,815 pounds of food distributed, more than triple pre-COVID levels.
- 2,912 people enrolled in grocery home delivery program for Holocaust survivors.



- \$30,081,312 in annual SNAP benefits secured.
- \$1,624,378 in federal and state tax returns to 925 clients.

- 2,261 survivors and other seniors received safety net services.
- 974 repairs helped 263 low-income seniors remain safe in their homes.



- 1,846 volunteers gave 21,362 hours of service, assembling food & care packages.
- We expanded corporate impact partnerships and volunteer events in the suburbs.

- \$1,028,282 in aid prevented hundreds of evictions and utility shut-offs.
- 1,073 clients assisted with family violence prevention services.



- More than 1,100 units of housing offer security and safety to very low-income elderly individuals and couples as well as formerly homeless New Yorkers.

- 340 people helped with job coaching, resume assistance, and job training, 102% more than last year.





FOOD PROGRAM

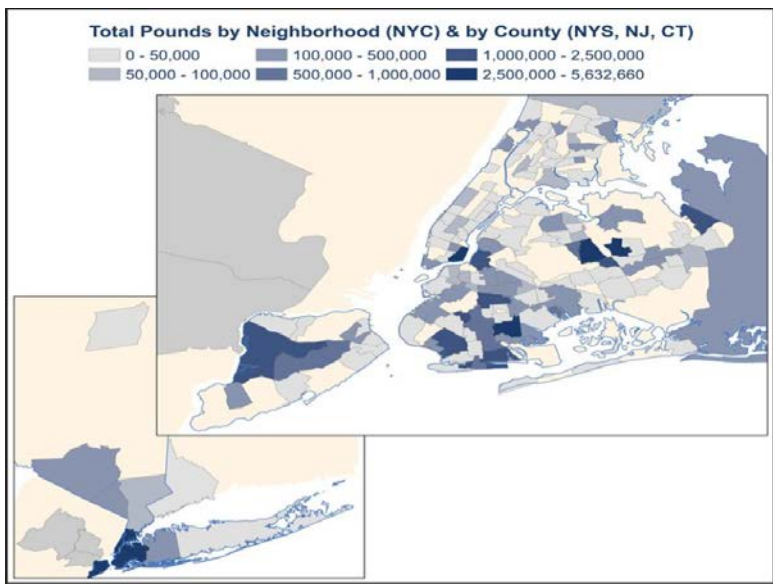
Met Council is the largest provider of emergency kosher food in the U.S. Our network serves all who are hungry and specializes in meeting the cultural needs of food-insecure households that observe religious dietary practices.

285
Pantries
and Sites

14.2 Million
Pounds
of Food

150,000
People
per Month

The end of pandemic-era emergency food programs and the steep, sustained rise in food costs cut into our ability to acquire as much food as last year. Even so, the 14.2 million pounds of food distributed in this year was **more than triple** the amount given out pre-pandemic.



FIGHTING FOR EQUITY

Our persistent education and advocacy efforts are influencing policymakers.

- The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, released in May 2023, included groundbreaking language committing the USDA to “work to ensure **equal access to all USDA feeding programs for USDA customers with religious dietary needs.**”
- NYC’s Community Food Connection programs now offers more kosher products.



FOOD PROGRAM, continued

LEADING THROUGH INNOVATION

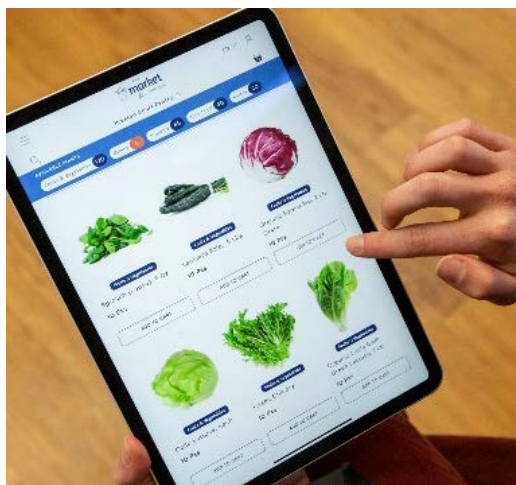
In 2023, Met Council introduced a new warehouse and pantry management system with online ordering—a ground-breaking advance in emergency food provision. Market by Met Council has since rolled out at more than a dozen pantries. It increases client choice, reduces waste, and simplifies data collection. The seamless system integrates all aspects of food ordering, inventory tracking, distribution and reporting.



IMPROVING ACCESS TO EMERGENCY FOOD

Met Council is a leader in addressing barriers to food access faced by those struggling to feed themselves and their families. We improve access through:

- Online ordering and scheduled pickups.
- A mobile pantry that reaches underserved neighborhoods.
- Home delivery for Holocaust survivors
- Partnerships with businesses like DoorDash for delivery to the homebound.
- Emergency Food Cards for people who can't get to pantries.





CRISIS INTERVENTION

Rental arrears were the top challenge our crisis clients faced this year as Housing Courts returned to pre-pandemic levels of hearing eviction cases. Both the number of people seeking help and the amount of their rental arrears is higher than ever.

More than 3,400
callers to our
Crisis Help Line

309% increase in
financial assistance
for rental arrears

2,740 families
received food cards
worth \$404,400

BENEFITS ACCESS

Met Council ensures that qualifying low-income New Yorkers receive safety net benefits like food, free tax prep, and health insurance. Outreach, education, enrollment and recertification helps thousands receive or retain benefits each year. The end of recertification waivers post-pandemic resulted in the need for thousands of people to recertify to prevent loss of benefits.

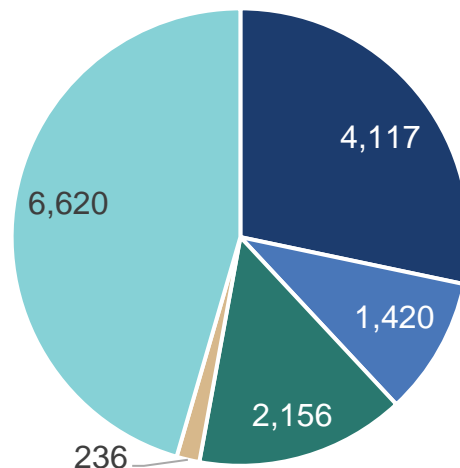
77% increase in
benefit retention
assistance

\$1,756
average tax refund
secured

91% acceptance rate
for new SNAP
enrollees

Actions to Help Clients Receive or Retain SNAP Benefits

- Pre-screenings
- New Applications
- Recertifications
- Mediation
- Case Changes & Periodic Reports





AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Met Council provides safe, secure, and affordable housing for low-income seniors and the formerly homeless.

On-site social services are available at each property. Residents get a safe, comfortable, and affordable place to live, *and* receive comprehensive services to meet their needs.

19
buildings

1,097
units

\$450
average rent paid

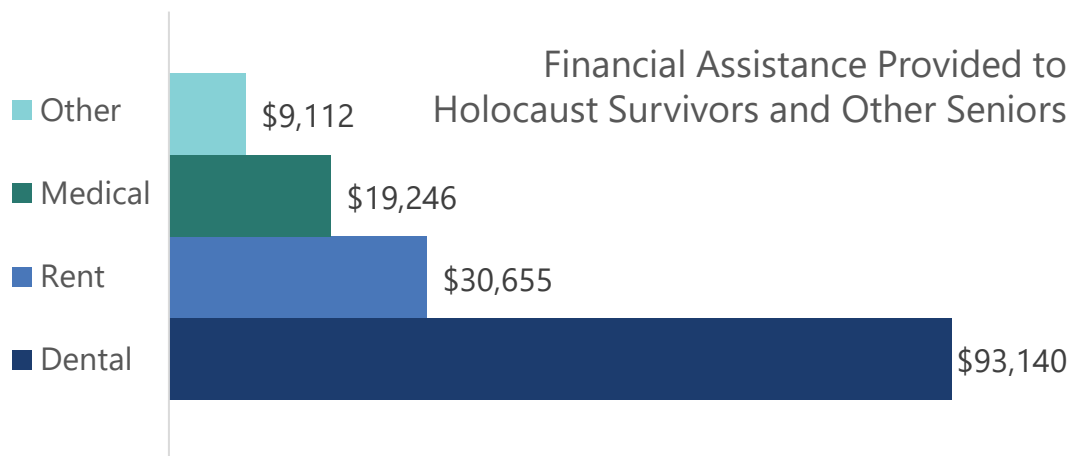
HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR & GERIATRIC SERVICES

Met Council's Elder Abuse Prevention program expanded dramatically this year, with help from a major contract awarded by the NYC Department for the Aging. Our home delivery program for Holocaust survivors continues to serve nearly 3,000 of our community's most vulnerable seniors.

40% increase in
Elder Abuse clients
over prior year

10+ languages
spoken by staff to
serve immigrants

\$23.44 average
cost of home safety
repairs for seniors





FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES

Met Council provides holistic, comprehensive services, from safety planning and trauma-informed psychotherapy to enabling self-sufficiency and healing. Our grassroots Jewish Community Outreach campaign, launched this year with funding from UJA, reaches influential individuals like mikvah attendants to raise awareness and let them know that Met Council is here to help.

On average, 61 new clients seen per month

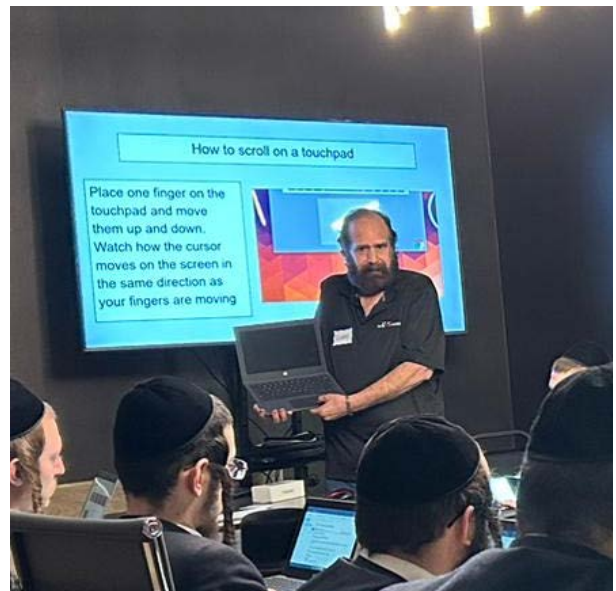
50% increase in clients served in the last 5 years

20,275 holistic trauma-informed services provided

Our staff are recognized experts, providing continuing education, training webinars, and workshops to the top schools of social work and the Manhattan District Attorney's office.

CHESED CENTER

Boro Park's full social service and food fulfillment center is bursting at its seams as its reputation for providing comprehensive services and computer literacy training grows. We are eager to move this program into the much larger, beautiful space of the new Brooklyn Hub being built by UJA-Federation.



289,611 pounds of food distributed

1,438 individuals received wide range of services

340 people sought career access support



VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Met Council's Manhattan Fulfillment Center has continued to serve as a major hub for volunteering. Individuals, families and groups come to pack food boxes and grocery orders, holiday packages, hygiene kits, school supplies, and other essential items for those in need.



Our new **corporate volunteer program** engages hundreds of professionals in social impact projects. Corporate sponsors recruit volunteers and contribute financially to provide essential supplies not covered by public benefits. This year, volunteers came from these companies:

- Apollo
- Deloitte
- Delivery Associates Ltd
- Etsy Inc
- Fried Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP
- Goldman Sachs
- Morgan Stanley & Co. Inc
- Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Met Council's **Under 40s Board** and its **Women's Philanthropic Group** are providing opportunities for engagement, giving, and broadening our community and corporate networks. Our volunteer engagement is also expanding into suburban counties in Long Island, Westchester and New Jersey.

689 new volunteers
contributed
7,964 hours

82 volunteer events
held with diverse
partners

23,362 hours
total contributed by
1846 people



SPECIAL EVENTS

In our 50th year, we held many special events to help those in need and garner support for our work.

- Rosh Hashanah food distributions help more than 117,000.
- Thanksgiving food packages reach 135,000 first responders, security personnel, and others in need with support from the Sol Goldman Charitable Trust.
- Henry Orenstein's legacy is honored at Met Council's 50th Anniversary Gala.



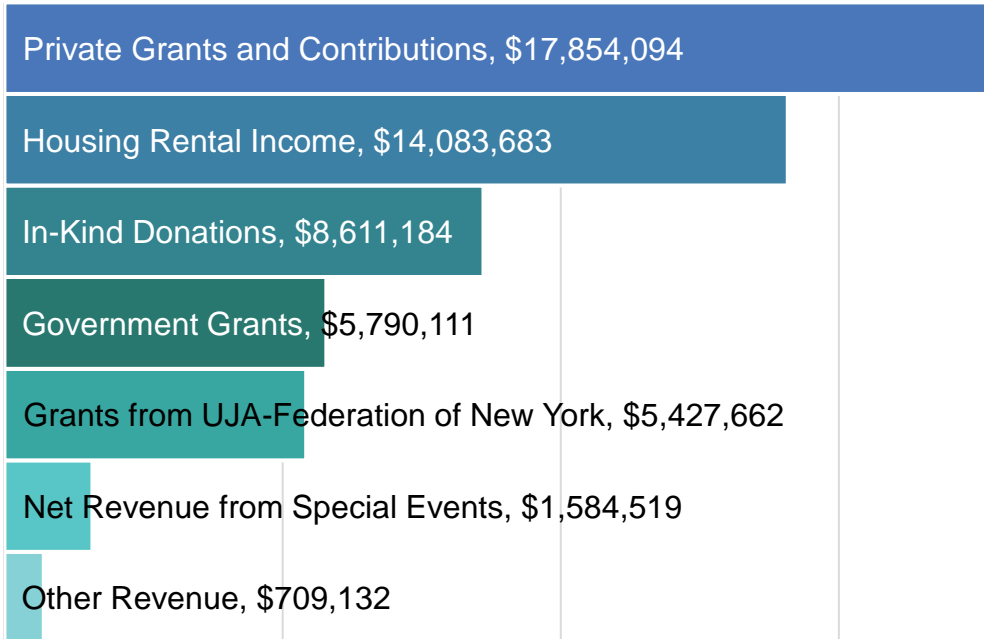
- 199 distributions help more than 280,000 people celebrate Passover in dignity in the face of the highest prices in recent memory for food.



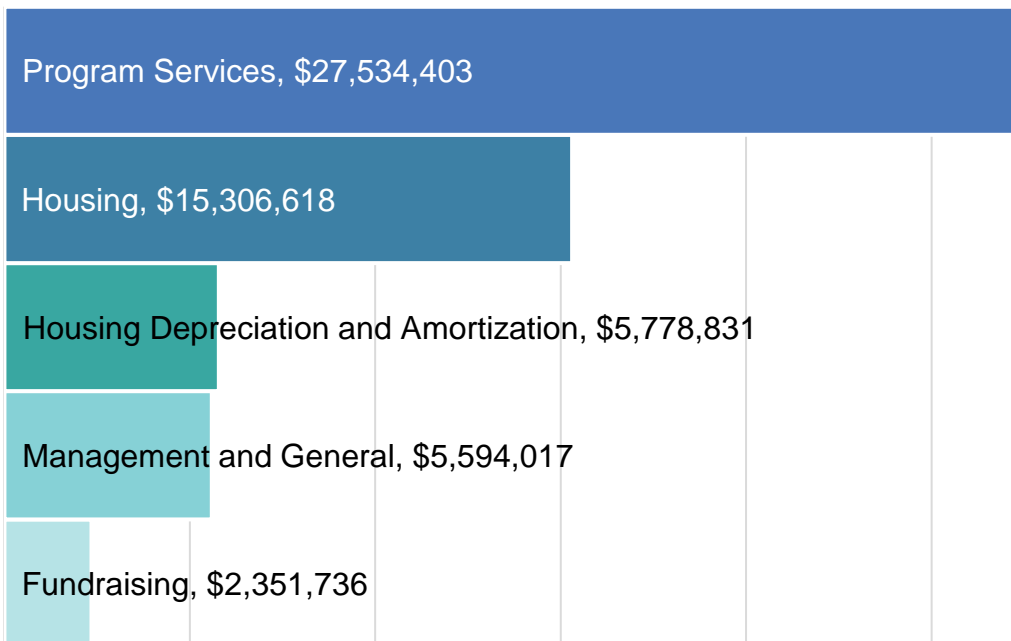
- Hate Has No Home Here events held across the city.
- Annual Legislative breakfast addresses food insecurity, hate crimes and antisemitism.

REVENUE AND EXPENSES

FY 2023 REVENUE: \$54,060,385



FY 2023 EXPENSES: \$56,565,605



CONTRIBUTIONS



We are grateful for the following contributions received from our generous donors and supporters during Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023).

\$500,000+

The Applebaum Foundation
Deb El Food Products
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\$100,000 - \$499,999

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CONTRIBUTIONS, continued



\$25,000-\$49,999

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The Potter's Wheel Foundation Inc.	Stacy and Ronald Scheinberg	

\$10,000-\$24,999

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MetCouncil.org

[instagram.com/MetCouncil](https://www.instagram.com/MetCouncil)

Feeding the hungry. Serving the poor.
Changing lives.