

Dear Ahavath Achim Family,

It is with a full heart and tremendous pride that I share with you, my Ahavath Achim family, the results of the 2016 Operation Isaiah food drive. We had an amazing year in 2015 when we collected 60,000 pounds of food to contribute to those in need through the Atlanta Community Food Bank. When that drive concluded, I discovered that we, as an entire Jewish community, only needed 92,000 pounds to reach a lifetime donor total of 1 million pounds. I set our community goal for 2016 at 92,000 pounds, recognizing that our very own congregation would most likely contribute the majority of that, as we have done in the past. I also recognized that asking all of you for another 60,000 pounds was a huge ask.

Thanks to all of your heavy bags of rice and giant cans of food plus all of your very generous donations, our synagogue has donated **104,340 pounds** of food to the Atlanta Community Food Bank this year. It's beyond amazing! Last year we donated an entire tractor-trailer full of canned corn plus all of our barrels of food. The photo of that huge trailer with our food was impressive. Well, this year, we are donating **TWO tractor-trailers** full of food in addition to our full barrels. Our AA Synagogue trailers contain a total of 86,500 pounds of canned peas. I, for one, cannot imagine how much that really is. With a little mathematical skill, we calculated that 86,500 pounds would equal approximately 51 million peas which would stretch 300 miles when placed end-to-end. That's quite an amazing sight to behold!

Our synagogue has accomplished an amazing feat. Not only did we supply more than enough to boost the entire Atlanta Jewish community total to **way over 1 million pounds**, but we will be feeding 87,000 people with your very generous donations. We are the founding congregation for Operation Isaiah, and we continue to be the community leader. Whether you brought food to the synagogue, contributed monetary donations for our personal shoppers, or both, you, our Ahavath Achim family, made a difference in people's lives.

The words "thank you" do not adequately express my appreciation to all of you for everything you have done and continue to do to make Operation Isaiah so successful. You continue to think of others and to reach into your heart to enrich the lives of others, most of whom you will never meet. I am so very proud to be a member of the Ahavath Achim family and to have been your leader in accomplishing this mitzvah.

Shalom,

Nancy Canter Weiner