



March 2008

Introduction

Background

A February 2008 report released by Israel National Insurance (Social Security) indicates that 1,700,000 Israelis, including 36% of children and 23% of the elderly live below the poverty line. At the same time that social service organizations struggle to feed the poor, large quantities of food are discarded by food producers due to a lack of public awareness, and the means and logistics needed to collect and redistribute the food.

The paradox of hunger and the large scale food wastage led in 2003 to the establishment of Table to Table. Today, operating from offices in Ra'anana and Nesher, Table to Table's staff and volunteers collect on a monthly basis, 50,000 meals and 200 tons of produce and manufactured perishable items that would otherwise be discarded from hundreds of suppliers. The food is then redistributed free of charge to 100 non profit organizations serving a wide range of at-risk population groups including the elderly, the invalid, children at risk and the working poor, in an area covering thousands of square miles.

Request for Assistance

Table to Table estimates that organizational activity will increase by 50% in the coming 12 months. In order to achieve this growth, the organization requests the support of its various projects, which include:

- The Night Time Food Collection Project: Each month through the project, 200 volunteers collect in the late evening 16,000 meals from 400 weddings, bar mitzvahs, restaurants and shopping malls. Estimated packaging and administrative costs for the project for the year are \$74,125, or \$0.38 per meal saved.
- Truck Purchase: With the growth in organizational activity, Table to Table is in need of an additional 15 ton refrigerated vehicle to ensure maximum efficiency of its food rescue activities. The truck will play a major part in salvaging from throughout Israel large quantities of (a) produce from packing houses and (b) perishable items from food manufacturers. The cost of the truck and refrigeration unit is \$128,000. Table to Table would be honored to provide the donor with naming rights.
- Senior Citizens Project: Through the project, Table to Table contacts community day care centers for the elderly throughout the country to ascertain their needs, and gives the centers preference in the distribution of excess food rescued by the organization. Table to Table estimates that by year's end it will redistribute 3,000 meals and 10 tons of produce and

perishable items a week to 15 community centers for the elderly in central Israel and the periphery. Estimated packaging, food transportation, and administrative costs for the project for the year are \$49,100.

- **Project Leket:** Project Leket is a gleaning initiative that sends volunteers into fields to collect fruits and vegetables left by farmers at the end of season' harvest. Currently through the project, 3,000-4,000 volunteers per month rescue 110-130 tons of produce for the benefit of the needy. The project will undergo considerable expansion in the coming 12 months. Estimated cost of the project for the year is \$329,024, or \$0.10 per pound of produce saved.
- **Leket Work Project:** Despite Project Leket's success, its thousands of volunteers are unable to rescue all the produce becoming available to the organization. In order to make best use of this excess produce, Table to Table will in 2008 hire 15 Arab Israeli women on a full time basis to glean for the benefit of the country's needy. Through the project, Table to Table will save over 115 tons of produce per month and provide an important work opportunity to those who were previously unemployed. Estimated cost of the project for the year is \$234,076 or \$0.08 per pound of produce saved.
- **Food Raisers:** Table to Table employs two food raisers to work specifically in the recruitment of food producers to its programs. It is expected that through the food raisers' efforts Table to Table will by December 2008, rescue each month 65,000 meals 300 tons of produce and perishable manufactured items. Estimated cost of the food raisers employment for the year is \$84,384.