

Challah for Hunger: A Backgrounder

Our history:

Challah for Hunger was established at University of Miami in 2010. The chapter became a national affiliate for Challah for Hunger in 2015, working with Challah for Hunger's national organization and donating a portion of its profits to Challah for Hunger's national philanthropy.

The student-run organization raises awareness and funds to fight hunger in South Florida and throughout the world by baking and selling challah bread. It also promotes building a community of students at the University of Miami by involving students, both Jewish and not Jewish, in an aspect of Jewish culture. 200 students are members of the organization's Facebook page for volunteers, and around 40 students are actively involved in the organization each semester.

What we do:

Student volunteers come together to bake plain, Nutella, chocolate chip, and cinnamon sugar loaves of challah on Thursday afternoons. They sell these loaves on Fridays on the University of Miami's campus for \$5.

Half of the money raised by the students is donated to M.A.Z.O.N.: A Jewish Response to Hunger, which is Challah for Hunger's national philanthropy. The remaining profit is donated to the Jewish Community Services of South Florida's Kosher Food bank. In the 2015-2016 academic year alone, the organization raised \$3,600.

M.A.Z.O.N.: A Jewish Response to Hunger is an international organization that provides people in need with access to nutritious food, creates government policies to aid those in need and works to eliminate hunger, poverty and disease in developing countries.

The Jewish Community Services of South Florida's Kosher Food bank is the only food bank in South Florida that observes kosher dietary laws. It also gives other daily necessities to struggling individuals and families and provides support services to those in need.

Additional information:

The University of Miami's chapter of Challah for Hunger is currently applying to become an official student organization through the University of Miami's Committee on Student Organizations and is unable to operate as Challah for Hunger during the application process. In order to remain functioning for the fall 2016 semester, and to continue its mission of raising awareness and fighting hunger, the organization has changed its name.

For the fall 2016 semester only, the organization will operate as Hillel Challah. During this time the University of Miami chapter will not be an affiliate for the national organization. It will instead focus on building a presence in the University of Miami community and encouraging more students to become volunteers. Student volunteers will continue to bake and sell challah each week and Hillel Challah will continue to donate its profits to M.A.Z.O.N.: A Jewish Response to Hunger and The Jewish Community Services of South Florida's Kosher Food Bank.

Hillel Challah will return to the name Challah for Hunger and become a national affiliate again in spring 2017 when its application to become a student organization is approved.

How to get involved:

All University of Miami students can join the organization. To get involved, join the Hillel Challah Fall 2016 Facebook group for volunteers. Students interested can also contact Challah for Hunger's president, Maya Lubarsky, 954-240-6960.

How to purchase challah:

Challah is available for purchase in the University of Miami's University Center breezeway, 1330 Miller Drive, on Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Links to preorder challah are posted every Monday on Hillel Challah at the University of Miami's Facebook page.

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