# Leket Israel – The National Food Bank

Founded in 2003 by Mr. Joseph Gitler, Leket Israel is the only organization in Israel dedicated solely to rescuing food for the benefit of people who need it. As the leading food rescue organization in Israel, Leket Israel is the expert in the field, rescuing and redistributing tens of thousands of tons of food to the needy through partner NPOs, “Friends of Leket Israel.”

Leket Israel achieves this goal by rescuing food from a variety of different sources: picking fresh produce from the field, collecting leftover agricultural produce from packing houses, and rescuing meals from various suppliers of prepared food.

The rescued food is transported via Leket Israel’s complex logistical system. The system is based on a fleet of refrigerated trucks and a fleet of refrigerated vans that bring the food to the sophisticated logistical center, where it is stored under optimal conditions. The logistical system is responsible for efficiently distributing high-quality rescued food from the logistical center to NPOs throughout the country, in strict compliance with food safety guidelines.

In an effort to enhance and support the health and well-being of the underprivileged, Leket Israel places special emphasis on distributing highly nutritious foods including fruits and vegetables, prepared meals, and foods high in protein, calcium and vitamins.

Leket Israel’s success is possible because of the extraordinary generosity of approximately 50,000 volunteers a year from all over the country and the world. This is an inspiring network of volunteers who dedicate their free time to devotedly picking, harvesting, collecting, preparing, and distributing food.

Leket Israel constantly strives to realize its vision in which all suitable, nutritious food surpluses are rescued. Therefore, it is seeking new sources of rescuable food and is working to expand its network of partner NPOs, “Friends of Leket Israel,” in order to provide food for the disadvantaged population.