Putting Faith into Action: What You Can Do to Fight Hunger

Tennessee Justice Center
Bread for the World

July 27th, 2017
The Tennessee Justice Center...

• Advocates on behalf of poor Tennesseans:
  • in areas of public policy having the greatest impact on their health and welfare;
  • by means which afford clients opportunities to make their own voices heard; and
  • which emphasize collaboration across lines of race, class and generation.

• Supports the work of others engaged in similar advocacy efforts, beyond state boundaries, on behalf of the poor.
What does TJC do?

- Advocate for Tennesseans
- Provide trainings
- Help clients one-on-one
Statewide Reach

TJC Clients Served by County in 2016
87 out of 95 counties
Hunger and Poverty in the U.S.

Marlysa D. Gamblin
Bread for the World
Today’s Roadmap

• Who is Bread for the World?
• Hunger and Poverty in the U.S. and Tennessee
• Policies to End Hunger!
• Next Steps!!!
Who is Bread for the World?
Who is Bread for the World?

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation’s decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad by 2030. By changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities in which we live.
Who is Bread for the World?

“If you extend your soul to the hungry. And satisfy the afflicted soul. Then your light shall dawn in the darkness. And your darkness shall be as the noonday.”

-Isaiah 58:10
Who is Bread for the World?
Hunger and Poverty in the U.S.

- **42 million** people experience hunger
- **86% of the counties** with the highest rates of child food insecurity are rural
- **45 million** people live below the poverty line
Hunger and Poverty in TN

Tennessee is the 11th Hungriest State!

What does this mean?
Hunger and Poverty in TN

More than **1 million** Tennesseans struggle to put food on the table.

Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2017
Hunger and Poverty in TN

1 in 7 households struggles to put food on the table

One in four children living in Tennessee face hunger

70 percent of people in Tennessee who are hungry live in households who are working!
Hunger and Poverty in TN

55% households live on less than $50,000

Households in Tennessee
Hunger and Poverty in TN

55% households live on less than $50,000

An individual must earn $12.80 per hour to provide for his or her family. Yet many workers only earn $7.25 per hour.
Hunger and Poverty in TN

1 in 2 Tennesseans would fall into hunger or poverty if they lost a job or got sick.
Hunger and Poverty in TN

Unemployment also contributes to hunger in Tennessee

Source: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 2017
Policies to end hunger & poverty

• What can we do to end hunger and poverty in Tennessee and in the U.S. overall?

• **Strengthen Anti-Hunger Programs:** including programs with access to food, shelter, and healthcare.

• **Strengthen our Workforce:** Workers should earn above-poverty wages and have benefits for their family.

• **Strengthen outcomes for our future:** Children can be supported to graduate from high school and go to college.
Policies to end hunger & poverty

Strengthening Anti-Hunger Programs

- HOUSING
- NUTRITION
- FOOD
- HEALTHCARE
Policies to end hunger & poverty

Strengthening Anti-Hunger Programs

FOOD
- Meals on Wheels
- School Lunch
- Summer Meals
- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

HEALTHCARE

Close to Two-Thirds of SNAP Recipients Are Children, Elderly, or Disabled

- Children: 44%
- Elderly/disabled: 20%
- With children: 21%
- Without children: 15%
- Non-elderly, non-disabled adults: 36%

Source: CBPP tabulations of USDA 2015 SNAP household characteristics data.
Policies to end hunger & poverty

Strengthening Anti-Hunger Programs

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- School Lunch
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HEALTHCARE
- Medicaid

Medical makes low-income families less vulnerable to hunger

In 2010, Medicaid lifted at least 2.6 million people above the poverty line.

Medicaid cuts out of pocket expenses for low-income enrollees.

Medicaid recipients were 40% less likely to be forced into debt or leave other bills unpaid.

Policies to end hunger & poverty

Strengthening Anti-Hunger Programs

**FOOD**
- Meals on Wheels
- School Lunch
- Summer Meals
- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

**HEALTHCARE**
- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Affordable Care Act

22 million Americans will lose health care coverage by 2026 under the new healthcare plan proposals.
Policies to end hunger & poverty

Strengthening Anti-Hunger Programs

**FOOD**
- Meals on Wheels
- School Lunch
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- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

**HEALTHCARE**
- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Affordable Care Act

If the Affordable Care Act is repealed, **1 million people** in Tennessee would be **uninsured**, compared to 664,000 people currently uninsured.
Policies to end hunger & poverty

Strengthening Our Workforce

- Above Poverty Wages
- Stronger Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Jobs with stronger benefits
Strengthening Our Workforce

- Above Poverty Wages
- Stronger EITC
- Stronger Job Benefits

Did you know that wages since 1979 have only increased between $2-6 for the average American worker?

Wage stagnation increases hunger and poverty. Workers should be wages that allow them to live and thrive!
Questions and Discussion
Thank you!

Stay tuned for our second webinar on August 17th!

Feel free to reach out to me via email at mgamblin@bread.org for more info!
Next Steps

Join our 2nd webinar!
Thursday, August 17th, from 11am CST/12pm EST
to learn how you can activate your faith!

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