

# ***ENDING***

# **HUNGER IN OHIO**

## ***Facing Facts***

- In any given week, 207,700 different Ohioans receive emergency food assistance.
- 35 percent are children under the age of 18, with one out of 10, under 5 years old
- 9% are seniors, often on fixed income and deciding between meals, utilities, and medications
- 1/2 choose between paying for food or heating/utilities and 1/3 between food or rent/mortgages

## ***Understanding the Dilemma***

Most of us rarely spend a day with nothing to eat. Yet hunger is an everyday fact of life for an epidemic number of families. Poverty, of course, is largely responsible for hunger and unemployment--and underemployment--is the leading cause of poverty. In recent years, over a quarter of a million jobs have been lost in Ohio. While "welfare reform" is designed to train and move "able bodied" adult into jobs, many are still not able to get employment or earn enough to support their families. Congregations often provide food pantries and occasional handouts to help families to get by, yet solutions to ongoing hunger must include changing root causes of poverty.

## ***Committing to Long-term Remedies***

***Do Justice...Love Kindness...Walk Humbly"***

The mission of the Hunger Network is end hunger in Ohio  
The method is to change conditions which cause poverty  
The ministry is to advocate for personal compassion  
and economic for "the least of these"  
our brothers, sisters, and children  
in need

## ***Becoming Involved***

**2 cents-a-Meal:** Pray, keep informed, and contribute pennies within your family/church

**Congregational Contact Persons:** Lead your faith community to action

**Legislative District Coordinators:** Join with others in your area and work together for justice

**Tuesdays at the Statehouse:** Visit your legislators either at their state or local offices

**Public Policy Email Network:** Receive and respond to regular alerts on current issues

## **HUNGER NETWORK IN OHIO**

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