



## Hunger Action Team 2021 Annual Report

**“For I was hungry, and you gave me food...” Matthew 25:35**

**ISC Hunger Action Fund Grants:** The ISC Hunger Action Team Zoom-met during the Illinois Covid-19 Safety Protocols. In January, we finalized plans to distribute the \$4,016 in donations received as the “Noisy Offering” recipient during the 2020 ISC Annual Meeting. Grants were disbursed to 15 food missions representing all 9 regions of the Illinois South Conference.

With on-going donations, we continued a \$250 monthly grant to Uni-Pres Kindercottage.

**DuBois Fall Festival:** To raise additional funds, we sponsored a stand of hand-crafted items at the DuBois Fall Festival in October. We received items from ISC churches for the stand.

### **Education and Advocacy:**

We represent Illinois South Conference Hunger Action at the quarterly meetings of the [Metro-East Food Pantry Coalition](#). The meetings are open to all persons working in food missions and are an excellent resource for food pantry leaders and church food mission leaders. The University of Illinois Extension sponsors the meetings and arranges for speakers from Operation Food Search, St. Louis Foodbank, United Way, etc. The meetings are held via Zoom. For information and resources, contact Katrina Galati at [kgalati@illinois.edu](mailto:kgalati@illinois.edu).

**Bread for the World:** Hunger Action Team Members continued to attend monthly zoom meetings with the Edwardsville Chapter of Bread for the World. This non-partisan group continued advocacy to encourage favorable legislation to feed hungry people. Charitable food programs provide only 1 out of every 20 bags of groceries that feed people who are hungry. Federal, state and county governments provide the rest. Go to [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) to learn how you and your church can participate in the 2021/22 Offering of Letters to encourage Congress to support strong investment in child nutrition and to improve children’s access to feeding programs.

Members continued to educate themselves concerning programs to end hunger. This year’s book study was [Silence Can Kill](#) by Arthur Simon, founder of Bread for the World (and brother of Paul Simon of Illinois.)

All are welcome to join. Contact Jane Klopstein: [jklopf1@gmail.com](mailto:jklopf1@gmail.com)

**Summer Hunger Action Challenge:** The Hunger Action Team actively recognized churches doing Hunger Missions during the summer months.

**Eliminate Food Waste:** 40% of food produced in the United States is wasted each year. To encourage less food waste, garden produce recipes were published in the ISC “Weekly Connection.”

### **Prayer:**

The Hunger Action team requested prayer for food ministries each week in the ISC “Weekly Connection.”

### **September Hunger Action Month:**

A list of actions to promote Hunger Missions was published in the ISC “Weekly Connection.”

## **[Covid-19 Virus Effects on Food Insecurity and How You Can Help](#)**

**We can not conclude this report without discussing the impact of the Covid-19 Virus on food insecurity for the people of Illinois.** The Pandemic has wiped out a decade of progress made to decrease food insecurity in Illinois. In 2008, we had almost reached pre-Great Depression levels of 10.1% food insecure Illinoisans. Food insecure is a way of stating that a person does not have food available for the next meal for themselves or their children.

**2020 is predicted to reach 15.1% food insecurity for all of Illinois. However, food insecurity is higher in rural areas and in almost all the counties covered by the Illinois South Conference.** (For data on your county, see the Hunger Action Fund brochure on the Conference website.)

**Of food insecure Illinoisans, over 35% do not qualify for any federal, state, county programs. Churches and other non-profits are struggling to fill this gap.** (Data from Feeding America/Dr. Craig Gunderson, College of Agriculture, Consumer, Environment at University of Illinois.)

### **How you can help:**

- 1. Volunteer at your local food pantry.** Many tasks are non-contact: stocking shelves, filling boxes.  
**Volunteer through a harvest gleaning program.** See St. Andrews Society.org; USDA Farm to Table program; Endhunger.org.
- 2. Donate.** Pantries/foodbanks have partnerships which enable them to buy more food than you can purchase with the same amount of money on a retail food donation. Any donation - food or money - is needed and greatly appreciated.
- 3. Advocate.** Contact elected officials to protect and increase SNAP (foodstamps) - the first line of defense against hunger.
- 4. Fundraise.**
- 5. End food waste in your own household.** Donate extra garden produce to your local food pantry. Don't buy more than you can use – food that is later thrown in the trash. Before the Pandemic, 40% of food produced in the United States ended up in landfills. The Pandemic has highlighted and increased food distribution problems that already existed.

**Donors are protected by the *Federal Good Samaritan Act* and benefit by tax law for “enhanced deduction.”**

Thank you to the Illinois South Congregations for their support of the Hunger Action Fund. Be assured that 100% of your donations go to food programs for the hungry. Donations can be made payable to the ISC Hunger Action Fund and mailed to the ISC Highland Office.

IF FOOD MISSION PROGRAMS ARE YOUR PASSION, please know that we are always looking for volunteers for the Hunger Action Team. Contact Carol Shanks: [shanks@htc.net](mailto:shanks@htc.net).

We thank you for this opportunity to answer Jesus' call to feed the hungry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Shanks, Chair  
Sue Tinge, Vice Chairperson/Recording Secretary  
Linda Schaller  
Karen Pepmeier  
Margie Lindhorst