



Daily Bread

Rocky Mountain Synod Hunger Network Core Team

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Contribute to the Year-End PUSH!

The Hunger Network's challenge to use a World Hunger Appeal coin box as a reminder to contribute to this life-saving work all year is still working! **We continue to run slightly ahead of last year's giving.**

Through November, contributions to World Hunger Appeal (plus Stand with Africa) from the Rocky Mountain Synod for the last two years are:

2007—\$544,077

2008—\$581,978

Fiscal year 2008 ends January 31, 2009. There is still lots of time to keep filling your own box or planning your year-end gift AND to encourage others to do likewise. Unfortunately, the needs continue to rise even faster than our contributions.

Make sure your congregation's treasurer/bookkeeper mails ALL hunger dollars to the synod office (or the national WHA office) before the end of the fiscal year. DON'T ASSUME ANYTHING. It's always good to check and make sure the contributions are going where they were intended to go!



**How do you raise awareness and MONEY for the World Hunger Appeal in your congregation?
How do you encourage advocacy and simple living?
Send your stories and ideas to Carol McDivitt**

(mcdivittc@mindspring.com) for the next issue of the Daily Bread. Part of our focus will be on ELCA funded water and seed projects! The deadline is February 1—don't miss your chance to be in print.

Our Day to End Poverty: 24 Ways You Can Make a Difference

This book by Shannon Daley-Harris and Jeffrey Keenan with Karen Speerstra is one I recommend for *everyone* who knows that there is great poverty and suffering in our world and who sometimes feels overwhelmed by the scope of the problems.

Each of the 24 chapters includes stories of real people (like us) who are making a difference, as well as suggested actions that we might take. A wide variety of topics from combating hunger to encouraging education to expanding the use of technology are included.

Some readers will see that something they are already doing is part of the fight against poverty and be empowered to expand their reach. Others may see a new opportunity. The book is a buffet of ideas to be sampled, so reading a chapter at a time over an extended period works well. Some readers may want to start by reading about specific issues they are passionate about, while others may want to start with topics they know nothing about. Either strategy works.

Caution: The book was written for an ecumenical audience so church-specific programs, such as the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, are not included as examples. However the chapter on selecting poverty-alleviating organizations for donations includes an excellent checklist that highlights the importance of effectiveness, transparency, and long-term stability—qualities that the WHA embodies!

The book was published by Berret-Koehler Publishers, Inc., San Francisco. The Hunger Network will distribute copies of this book at the Theological Conference in January.

— Pauleta Terven

Plan NOW for the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 1

The senior high youth group of **Christ Lutheran Church in Highlands Ranch, Colorado**, has participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring over the last four years. We started out small the first year, just collecting dollars at worship services.

Since then, we have participated in all sorts of blitzes: Urban Peak, Denver Rescue Mission, Grant Avenue Street Reach, Marion Soup Kitchen, and COMPA Food Bank. Our senior high youth even started leading services during the Super Bowl weekend. One of our youth is so passionate about hunger that every time he gives the sermon on hunger his message brings tears to our eyes.

During our first year, we collected about \$500. Last year we collected over \$1,200 and 1100+ cans of food. It is neat for our youth to see the benefits of their work because we have chosen to have all the proceeds stay in our area.

Youth all across the country participate in this event. It is a powerful experience once youth take ownership and are passionate. We have been planning this year's blitzes (that will start in January). Our youth want to end hunger, starting in their own neighborhood. They hope to get the Denver Broncos on board this year and are planning to do a presentation for Pat Bowlen.

Participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring is easy. Go to www.souperbowl.org. The site will give you lots of ideas and show you ways to get involved. We challenge any church to register for the first time and see how it will change your youth and congregation!

—Gary Knutson, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Editor's Note: Past issues of the *Daily Bread* have featured stories of how other congregations have participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring. For the 2008 event, 2,346 ELCA groups registered. Those groups reported raising over \$975,000 for anti-hunger charities, of which \$85,500 was earmarked for the World Hunger Appeal.



Some Food for Thought...

- * Don't forget that **Lent** and **Easter** are great times to emphasize the World Hunger Appeal. Many congregations have shared their activities in past issues of the *Daily Bread*. In 2009, Ash Wednesday falls on February 25 and Easter is April 12. Start planning SOON!
- * The **2008 Ending Hunger Summit** focused on immigration. If you want to continue learning about this complicated topic, check out the website of the **Immigration Policy Center** (www.immigrationpolicy.org). Two particularly interesting documents were featured in the On Point Highlights email for the week of Thanksgiving. "Opportunity and Exclusion: A Brief History of U.S. Immigration Policy" is a report focusing on how the laws governing immigration have changed constantly—and often arbitrarily. "De-Romanticizing Our Immigrant Past: Why Claiming 'My Family Came Legally' is Often a Myth" is a fact sheet on how the definition of who came to the country "legally" and "illegally" has changed with the evolution of immigration laws. To access these documents, go to the IPC website and click on "Immigration On Point" at the top of the page.
- * **The Lutheran World Federation** is a global communion of 140 member churches representing more than 68.3 million Lutherans, including the ELCA. A third of all WHA dollars go to LWF projects. The executive committee of LWF recently issued a **pastoral message on the global financial crisis** stating, in part: "We find it painful to note how quickly massive financial resources could be mobilized to prop up the financial markets and institutions in this moment of crisis, when in much better economic times a fraction of those resources could not be found to eliminate extreme poverty around the world."
- * **Lutheran World Relief**, another major partner that receives a third of every WHA dollar, reminds us that the **Global Food Crisis** is taking a MAJOR toll on the world's poorest people. We have hungry people in the U.S. and all of us are tightening our belts this year; but we have *starving* people in the world's poorest countries! Your hunger dollars are their lifeline.

Urban Servant Corps (USC)

The USC is a Lutheran volunteer program involved in ministries serving inner-city Denver. They have programs (speakers and plunges) to offer YOUR CONGREGATION. Contact them at **303.894.0076** or servantcorps@earthlink.net. Their website is www.servantcorps.org.

Looking for Resources?

www.elca.org/hunger (World Hunger Appeal)

800-638-3522 ext. 2764

email—hunger@elca.org

www.lwr.org (Lutheran World Relief)

888-294-9660

www.augsburgfortress.org/elcahunger
(Augsburg Fortress)

800-328-4648

www.elca.org/advocacy
(advocacy page of the ELCA website)

Be part of the E-Advocacy Network!

www.bread.org (Bread for the World)

800-822-7323

www.simpleliving.org
(Alternatives for Simple Living)

800-821-6153

1-2-3 CONTACT!

Congregational hunger leaders should make sure they (and others who work with them) are receiving the two ELCA World Hunger Resource Packets and the quarterly issues of the *LifeLines* newsletter. Go to www.elca.org/hunger/contact or call 800/638-3522, ext. 2764, to sign up.