

## **HUNGER FREE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE**

#### The Challenge

In the United States, 33.8 million Americans struggle with hunger at some point during the year, 9.3 million of whom are children. And, at least this many depend on food banks and charities. Despite the success of the nation's nutrition assistance programs and the hard work of countless charitable groups, hunger persists in this nation of plenty.

Hunger in America is a condition of the lack of public and political will; it persists not because we lack the resources to end it, but because we lack a shared understanding of the problem, and the leadership and resolve to address it. True progress against hunger requires cooperation among elected leaders, program administrators, private enterprise, and nonprofit organizations at the national, state and local levels.

### **The Vision**

Guided by the experience of Ambassador Tony Hall's work as a Member of Congress from Ohio, the Alliance to End Hunger's *Hunger Free Communities Initiative* supports multi-sector collaborations seeking to assess and address the unique needs of those experiencing hunger in their communities. These coalitions—comprised of nonprofit, government, faith, and private sectors—range in scale from small towns and counties, to major metropolitan areas and states. Some are led by Members of Congress, governors and mayors, while others are entirely volunteer driven. At their core, these initiatives are formed around the belief that to end hunger at the local level a broad range of community stakeholders must unite behind a common vision and strategy.

The *Hunger Free Communities Network*™ is a forum for information sharing, resource development and capacity building. Bringing the Alliance to End Hunger's track record of brokering diverse partnerships to the local level, we support the network to better understand hunger in their communities and identify underserved populations, gaps among programs, and untapped resources. We invest in this network by providing multiple platforms that foster communication between anti-hunger coalitions and the sharing of best practices, including the Hunger Free Communities Summit and website.

The Alliance to End Hunger is helping Hunger Free Communities develop a foundation of public will—in communities and in Congress—to make a lasting impact in the lives of hungry people.

#### The Impact

Hunger Free Communities, which were championed by elected leaders, led by community stakeholders, and supported by the Alliance to End Hunger, have led to:

- Deeper understanding of hunger in our communities and among our political leaders
- Greater capacity and better coordination of emergency food programs
- Improved access to and enrollment in public nutrition programs

See reverse for the current Hunger Free Communities Network list.

For more information, email Minerva Delgado at <a href="mailto:mdelgado@alliancetoendhunger.org">mdelgado@alliancetoendhunger.org</a> or visit <a href="mailto:https://alliancetoendhunger.org/programs/hunger-free-communities/">https://alliancetoendhunger.org/programs/hunger-free-communities/</a>.



# HUNGER FREE COMMUNITIES NETWORKTM

State
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MN

Hunger Free Community Coalition or Organization	State
Harvesters - The Community Food Network	МО
NourishKC	МО
Great Falls Community Food Bank	MT
Livingston Food Resource Center	MT
Hunger Free North Dakota	ND
NH Hunger Solutions	NH
Hunger Free New Jersey	NJ
Anti-Hunger Task Force of Long Island	NY
Community Food Advocates	NY
Interreligious Food Consortium	NY
Poughkeepsie Farm Project	NY
Children's Hunger Alliance	OH
Hall Hunger Initiative	OH
Hunger Free Oklahoma	OK
Oregon Food Bank	OR
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon	OR
Hunger Nutrition Coalition of Bucks County	PA
MontCo Anti-Hunger Network (MAHN)	PA
Harvest Hope Food Bank	SC
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee	TN
Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty	TX
Smith County Food Security Council	TX
Hunger Free Alexandria	VA
Hunger Free Vermont	VT
Hunger Free King County	WA

www.alliancetoendhunger.org • 425 Third Street SW Suite 1200, Washington, D.C. 20024 • Tel 202.639.9400 • Fax 202.639.9401