



Childhood Hunger Fact Sheet

Working families often fall between the gap where poverty officially ends and self-sufficiency begins. Nowhere is this more evident than in New York City. Many households earn too much to be eligible for food stamps, but they still need food. In New York City, a family of three earning about \$23,900 would not qualify for food stamps, but needs to earn over \$60,000 to be considered self-sufficient in most boroughs. According to data compiled by Feeding America, 25% of New York City children are food insecure. In the Bronx, the number is more than 30%.

City Harvest's Response:

Every week, City Harvest brings more than 70,000 children their next meal via its groundbreaking food rescue program. With a fleet of 18 trucks, 3 bikes, and volunteers on foot collecting food from New York City restaurants, local groceries, corporate cafeterias, manufacturers, and farms, this year the organization will deliver over 30 million pounds of food to soup kitchens, food pantries, and other community programs across the five boroughs.

With more than 25 years of experience tackling hunger, poor nutrition, and obesity among lower-income New Yorkers, City Harvest has emerged as a leader in children's nutrition education. In 2004, we launched our Fruit Bowl program, which supplies fresh fruit and low-fat dairy to more than 3,000 New York City children. Beyond meeting each child's immediate need by providing healthy snacks to preschoolers and school-aged children in 60 preschool and afterschool programs across the city, the initiative also gives children the longer term benefit of teaching them to make healthier food choices.

City Harvest also runs an annual "Feed the Kids" food drive from Mother's Day to Father's Day. New Yorkers can organize food drives to collect formula, baby food, afterschool snacks and other nonperishable nutritious foods for the city's hungry children. During the 2011 Feed the Kids drive, City Harvest delivered more than 155,000 pounds of kid-friendly food to community food programs serving children and families.

Skip Lunch Fight Hunger supports City Harvest's efforts to feed hungry children and families in New York City. This one-day fundraising initiative, conceived in 2002 by City Harvest Board Member Dana Cowin, encourages individuals at hundreds of companies and organizations across the city to donate what they would normally spend on lunch to City Harvest. In 2011, Skip Lunch Fight

Hunger teams raised nearly \$500,000 in a single day. Held annually, the next Skip Lunch Fight Hunger will take place in May 2012.

For its Healthy Schools program, City Harvest places food and nutrition coordinators in schools located in communities targeted for extra support through its *Healthy Neighborhoods* initiative. Coordinators work with students, parents, teachers, and administrators to help them get the most benefit from existing school food programs. Activities include increasing enrollment and participation in free and reduced price school meals and improving the overall environment around food and nutrition at school.

During 2009-2010, City Harvest led the NYC Alliance for CNR campaign to advocate for a child nutrition bill to meet the needs of NYC. In December 2010 Congress passed the “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act” that will govern the School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, WIC, CACFP, and other child nutrition programs for the next five years until “reauthorization” occurs again. City Harvest continues to work with local elected officials and the Office of SchoolFood to improve access to and quality of the school meal program that serves over half a million low-income children in New York City every day. For more information, visit www.cityharvest.org/programs/advocacy/child-nutrition-and-school-meals.

For more information about City Harvest, please call John McCook at 212-843-8365.