



'HUNGER HITS HOME'- Description & Facts

SHORT SYNOPSIS

In the wealthiest nation in the world, one in five children live in the shadow of hunger. HUNGER HITS HOME, a collaboration between Food Network and Share Our Strength, takes a first-hand look at the crisis of childhood hunger in America through the eyes of those on the frontlines of the battle.

LONG SYNOPSIS

In a land of unprecedented wealth and abundance, one in five children is at risk of going to bed hungry each night. As part of a five-year-long partnership with Share Our Strength, the nation's leading organization working to end childhood hunger in America, Food Network presents HUNGER HITS HOME, an urgent call to action against the crisis facing America's most vulnerable citizens: our children.

Every day, more than 16 million children in the U.S. struggle to get enough to eat. HUNGER HITS HOME is a first-hand look at the crisis of childhood hunger in America through the eyes of the people on the frontlines—parents and children, anti-hunger activists, educators and politicians committed to eradicating the problem. The film takes a heart-wrenching and inspirational look at the causes, complications and misconceptions about childhood hunger in the United States, as well as some of the innovative solutions being put into practice today.

Against the backdrop of an ongoing economic downturn that forces more and more Americans to slip beneath the poverty line, the film crisscrosses the country to the homes of three hardworking families. In Virginia, an ex-military man with four children struggles to make ends meet in a civilian job. In Texas, a single father is on the verge of losing his home and unable to feed his 10-year-old son. In New York City, a young couple lacks access to the fresh fruits and vegetables their children desperately need. No community is immune to childhood hunger.

However, HUNGER HITS HOME also offers hope by profiling the heroes who are taking a stand in this critical battle. From the founder of a food pantry who makes it her personal business to get groceries into the hands of those in need and an elementary school principal who refuses to allow a before-school breakfast program to fail to sweeping government efforts to ensure children receive nutritional support, the film chronicles efforts large and small that help fulfill Share Our Strength's commitment to ending childhood hunger in America by 2015.

Do You Know The Facts About Childhood Hunger In America?

- **More than 16 million kids** in America live in households that struggle to put food on the table. [[USDA Household Food Security in the United States in 2010](#)] That's **one out of five kids**.
- There were **over 16.4 million children** in America living in poverty in 2010. That's almost **1 million more** than in 2009. [[U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports](#)]
- **9.8 million kids** get free or reduced-price school breakfast on an average school day, more than ever before...but **10.5 million eligible kids** go without. [[Food Research and Action Center, School Breakfast Scorecard, School Year 2010-2011](#)]
- **Only 1 in 7 kids** who get free and reduced-priced school lunches receive summer meals. [[USDA Food and Nutrition Service](#)]



- Almost **45 million Americans** used SNAP during 2011. Nearly 75 percent of these citizens are in families with children and more than a quarter are in households with seniors or people with disabilities. [[Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)]
- Over **18.5 million American children** received SNAP benefits in 2010. [[USDA "Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2010"](#)]
- **Nearly half (49.2 percent)** of American children will receive SNAP benefits at some point in their lives, according a study in the Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine. [[USA Today, 11/02/09](#)]
- The average monthly SNAP benefit in 2010 was \$133.79 per person, or **\$1.48 per meal**. [[USDA SNAP monthly data](#)]
- 37 million Americans – including **14 million children** -- received food from Feeding America in 2010. **That's 1 in 8 Americans**. [[Feeding America Hunger Studies 2010](#)]

Money = Meal Equivalencies

- \$1 can help connect a child to 10 meals.
- \$5 can help connect children to 50 meals.
- \$10 can help connect children to 100 meals.
- \$10 can help connect a kid to a whole summer's worth of free lunches.
- \$25 can help provide a month's worth of 'super snacks' to a child in an afterschool program.
- \$100 can help deliver mobile meals to a child in need for three months.
- \$250 can help provide children in underserved communities with 2,500 meals this summer.
- \$500 can fund recreational equipment and activities at local summer meals sites and dramatically increase participation in these programs.
- \$1,000 can fund a community-wide outreach campaign that will help kids in underserved communities find free, healthy meals and great summer programs all summer long.
- \$2,500 will cover the cost of a new refrigerator for a summer meals program in an underserved community.
- \$5,000 can enable Share Our Strength to help establish a new summer meals site that will serve children healthy meals all summer long.
- \$10,000 can help connect children with up to 100,000 healthy meals this summer.