

THE ALASKA FOOD COALITION



October 17, 2007

Dear Member,

You are very familiar with the face of hunger. You see it walk through your door with ever increasing regularity. Each day, with each person you help, you are trying to change that face.

Food is the most basic service you can provide, but on another level, you can use your voice to end hunger.

The information below is basic facts about hunger in Alaska. There are lots of ways to use this information:

- Put these facts in your publications and other marketing materials.
- Connect these facts with stories from your organization. Do you have a client that is working but still needs your services? Do you have a client that has to choose between eating and paying for medical service? Ask them if they would be willing to tell their story. Use their story to make hunger real for those that don't see it every day.
- Memorize these numbers and be able to tell them to anyone that asks. Work this information into conversations. You are the voice to end hunger---the more you talk about it, the more people will be educated and motivated to join the cause.

You never know when you will have the opportunity to speak to someone that is interested in your cause and could help make a difference. From your local area all the way to the federal government, you can help end hunger for all Alaskans!

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Kerri Burrows
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Hunger in Alaska: Basic Talking Points

Did You Know...

...in 2005, **12.2** percent of Alaskan households were unsure where their next meal would come from? This equates into more than **80,000** Alaskans at risk of going hungry and is up from 8.7 percent in the last 7 years.

...in rural Alaska more than **20** percent of households experience food insecurity?

...approximately **9.9** percent of people in Alaska live in poverty, including **11.8** percent of its rural population?

...**one in eight** Alaskans accesses the charitable food network at least once a year?

...**29** percent of households accessing Alaska's charitable food network include at least one employed adult?

...**32** percent of food recipients in Alaska have to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care?

...the Food Stamp Program, the largest federal food resource, reaches only **59** percent of eligible Alaskans?

...more than **10,000** kids that would be eligible for free or reduced-price breakfast go to schools that don't offer school breakfast?

...the average monthly Food Stamp benefit per participant in Alaska is **\$120.58**, equaling **\$1.34** per meal.