

National Anti- Hunger Organizations

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National Anti-Hunger Organizations Release New *2008 Blueprint to End Hunger on World Food Day*

WASHINGTON, D.C. October 16, 2008 -- The National Anti-Hunger Organizations (NAHO) today released the *2008 Blueprint to End Hunger* on World Food Day to provide the nation direction on how to end hunger in America.

“We have the ability and the means to end hunger in this country. It is first and foremost a matter of getting good nutrition to people who are unable to afford or access adequate amounts of nutritious food,” said H. Eric Schockman, Ph.D, Chair of NAHO. “The *2008 Blueprint to End Hunger* lays out simple, achievable goals for ending hunger in our nation. If we fail to end hunger in our nation, our land of plenty, then we are responsible for the tragedies that result—children who cannot learn in school because they are hungry, children who suffer physical and mental impairment because of inadequate nutrition, and seniors who suffer serious health consequences because they simply don’t have enough to eat.”

Over the years, U.S. leaders have worked together in a bipartisan fashion to develop national nutrition programs, such as the child nutrition programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly named the Food Stamp Program) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). These programs have been successful in helping to reduce U.S. hunger and are largely responsible for eradicating the kind of hunger and malnutrition that still exists in the developing world. These programs continue to serve as a major bulwark against hunger. But despite their effectiveness, the programs are under-funded and fail to reach many people who need food assistance. By strengthening the programs and improving people’s access to them, the United States can do much more to reduce hunger.

In 2004, the National Anti-Hunger Organizations (NAHO) issued the *Blueprint to End Hunger* - mapping out an effective and targeted strategy to address hunger throughout the United States.

Some progress has been made since that time. Critical new investments were most recently made in nutrition programs as part of the 2008 Farm Bill, including some of the policies advocated in the first *Blueprint*. But sadly, much work remains and many of the policies called for in the original *Blueprint* still apply.

More than 35 million Americans, including 12 million children, live with hunger or on the brink of hunger. The cost of food and healthcare is skyrocketing, and high rates of unemployment continue. Record numbers of people are enrolling in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the WIC and school meal programs, and, the nation's charitable emergency food distribution network is overburdened, with an estimated 20 percent increase in the number of people requesting food assistance over 2007.

NAHO Membership is comprised of: Alliance to End Hunger, Association of Nutrition Services Agencies, Bread for the World, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Congressional Hunger Center, Feeding America, Food Research and Action Center, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, National Association of Interfaith Hunger Directors, RESULTS, Share Our Strength, Society of Saint Andrew, The End Hunger Network and the World Hunger Year.

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