

**200,000**  
**REASONS**  
to fight childhood hunger





# Who are the Food Insecure?

- ✓ 1 in 5 children nationally live in food insecure households.
- ✓ *Defined as those households who have*  
“uncertain, insufficient, or unacceptable availability, access, or utilization of food...  
Households often make trade-offs among needs to ensure their long-term viability as units.”

*(As defined by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, & Medicine)*



# Who are the Food Insecure?

- ✓ Nearly 85% of families that use food pantries and receive SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) have at least one person in the household that **works full time**.
- ✓ A higher percentage of families of color experience hunger but "white" families also make up a larger percentage of the actual number of families who live with food insecurity.
- ✓ The average value of food received from a food pantry per month is estimated at only \$50.



# Food Insecurity in Arkansas

- ✓ **1 in 4** children in Arkansas live with food insecurity, worse than the national average.
- ✓ In 2011, this was estimated to be little over **200,000 children**.
- ✓ In 2017, Feed the Gap reports the number is down to approximately **176,000** in Arkansas.
- ✓ Still, **25%** of Arkansas' children are hungry.



# AR UMC Responds with 200K Reasons

*An Initiative of the Arkansas United Methodist Church to:*

**AID** in bringing down the number of food insecure children in our communities by partnering with agencies and sharing resources

**ADVANCE** sustainable ministries that not only feed children, but develop relationships

**ADVOCATE** in our local communities and through our state representatives to provide funds and programming that would sustain a long-term decrease



# Why Arkansas United Methodist Churches...

- ✓ There are hungry children in every county in Arkansas.
- ✓ There is at least 1 United Methodist Church in every county.
- ✓ Our ministry to the poor becomes a means of grace by which God does His work of holiness in us. It becomes a way by which God perfects us in His love and makes us Christ-like. *John Wesley*



## Putting our Faith in Action

- ❖ Goal: by 2018, 65% of our churches involved in 200K Reasons by doing something to alleviate hungry children.
- ❖ Goal: By 2020, 100% of our churches involved
- ❖ Be transformed by and transformational in our ministries to our neighbors who are hungry.



# The 5 most effective ways to reduce childhood hunger

**According to top experts in food insecurity:**

1. SNAP Assistance for families
2. Out-of-school meals
3. Food pantries in schools & churches
4. Access to low cost food
5. Financial management skills





## What can we do?

**FEED** Offer ready-to-eat food items, after school meals, holiday, and summer feeding ministries.

**GLEAN** Give fresh produce to hungry neighbors, local food pantries, or start a community garden *with* your neighbors.

**PROVIDE** Backpacks filled with food for the weekend, canned goods for a school pantry, assistance with SNAP Application forms, or breakfast in the classroom.



## What can we do? (continued)

**TEACH** Offer cooking, budgeting, shopping and financial management skills through such programs as Cooking Matters Classes and Cooking Matters at the Store.

**WITNESS** Become local champions, advocating for relief programs and teaching local agencies, your representatives, and school boards about issues that affect the working poor and hungry.



# Conversation Starters

- ❖ How is your church fighting childhood hunger?
- ❖ Where is the potential for adding or expanding ministries that help hungry children & their families?
- ❖ How are you working within your mission field?
- ❖ How have you seen transformation in the life of your volunteers, church family & those you serve?

**200,000**  
**REASONS**  
to fight childhood hunger

