

About the Hunger Ministries Program

For over thirty years, the Hunger Ministries Program in the Presbytery of Detroit has quietly provided food to people in need throughout the Metro Detroit area. Nine congregations are in a covenant relationship with the presbytery to provide groceries and hot meals to their neighbors who might otherwise go without enough to eat. Together, they serve an average of 2,000 people each month.

Neighbors turn to **St. John's** in Detroit for a hot lunch three days a week. Each person also receives a sack lunch on Thursday so that they have food for the weekend. Groceries are provided at the end of the month so that people have enough until their next check arrives.

Neighbors of **Park United** in Highland Park turn to them for hot meals and groceries as do the neighbors of Detroit **Westminster and Trumbull Avenue**.

Neighbor's turn to Detroit's **Calvary and Trinity; Lincoln Park**, and Southfield **Covenant** for groceries each month. Some who come to these food pantries are in need of regular assistance, while others face emergencies and need help from time to time.

Neighbors come to **Calvin East** in Detroit on Wednesday evenings during the school year. The children receive tutoring and a meal where their families join with others from the church and community.

The Presbytery of Detroit provides each partner congregation with a monthly stipend to aid in their efforts. These funds come from Shared Mission Giving, donations to Cents-Ability, and direct gifts to the Hunger Ministries Program. At times churches in the presbytery collect food which is distributed among the churches. Because the monthly stipend is not enough to cover all of the expenses, each church must contribute to their individual program and often church members pay for food from their own pockets so that they can meet the needs of those around them.

Fort Street Presbyterian's Open Door Program also shares extra food donated to them with our partners. This project provides perishable food to those churches that have the facilities to store and distribute it. This has enabled several of our churches to provide better quality food in greater quantity.

There are many ways that individuals and congregations can support the Hunger Ministries Program.

1. Send a financial gift to the Presbytery's Hunger Ministries Program. Every dollar we receive goes to support the work of our partner churches.
2. Promote Two-Cents a Meal or Cents-ability within your congregation. You keep 25% for your hunger activities and send the rest to the presbytery for distribution to our local churches and to international relief efforts.
3. Collect non-perishable food for distribution among our churches. We will even pick up large loads! We especially need canned tuna, chicken, peanut butter, and boxed milk.
4. Volunteer to prepare a hot meal with our churches engaged in this ministry. Serving a hot lunch does not need to be costly to your church, but it makes all the difference to a person who might not otherwise have one. Help unload the truck at Fort Street! It takes several people to unload, sort, and repack the many pallets of food that arrive every week.
5. Pray! Nearly half of the children in the metro Detroit area are food insecure. A growing number of low income seniors must make a choice between food and medicine. Pray for those who are hungry and pray for churches and community organizations that work to alleviate hunger.

Your congregation's gift of money, time, food and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

For more information on how to support this ministry or if we can provide a program or support to your congregation, please contact me at 313.345.6550, ext. 207 or by email to Unah@detroitpresbytery.org.