

# Feed My Sheep John 21:18

A newsletter from the Hunger Task Force of the Southern Ohio Synod

July-August, 2011

## KRAFT FOODS MOBILE PANTRIES SERVE OHIO'S HUNGRY

Kraft Foods Foundation, along with its founding partner Feeding America (formerly Second Harvest), has come to Ohio again, to Springfield this time, to fight hunger, with one of 25 mobile food pantries the Kraft Foods Corporation has had serving around the country for the past three years. Last year a Kraft mobile pantry began serving in Cincinnati. This announcement comes at a time of economic downturn in the Springfield area and increased need, when millions of Americans are faced with food insecurity—recurring lack of access to adequate amounts of nutritious food—and one in three children goes to bed hungry each night.



The Kraft Mobile Pantry, literally a pantry on wheels, will help feed thousands of Americans at risk of hunger by bringing food directly to communities that are currently underserved by food pantries, soup kitchens, and other emergency-feeding programs. Even in urban settings, there is an increase in “food deserts”—places where there are no supermarkets or grocery stores within walking distance. Many people, newly in need of food assistance do not know where to get help.

The brightly colored beverage-style trucks directly provide hungry families with balanced meal options including Kraft pastas and cheeses, Oscar Meyer meats, along with fresh fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. Stops are made at neighborhood food pantries, soup kitchens, churches, schools or parking lots an average of three times a week. Families who visit the vehicles will be allowed to select food as they would at a farmer’s market.



Over the last 25 years, Kraft has contributed \$770 million in funding and food to support Feeding America and other hunger relief initiatives worldwide. Kraft has donated \$4.5 million over a three year period to Feeding America, its initial partner in this effort, to purchase the 25 mobile pantries. Since 1997, Kraft has provided more than 1 billion servings of fresh food worldwide. Around the world, Kraft contributes approximately \$100 million annually in food and money to community organizations in more than 130 countries.

Feeding America’s network members supply food to more than 25 million Americans each year, including 9 million children and 3 million seniors. Serving the entire United States, more than 200 member food banks operate 63,000 agencies that address hunger through emergency food assistance and programs.

Jeff Miller, Director of Operations, Second Harvest Food Bank of Clark, Champaign, and Logan Counties, said it is not yet clear when the vehicle may be in operation, but the goal will be to work with local agencies and civic organizations to serve residents of these counties.

President and CEO of Feeding America, Vicki Escarra, stated, “Hunger in America is increasing at an alarming rate. For more than a quarter century, Kraft Foods has consistently provided the resources and innovation to help fight hunger in the United States. In these difficult economic times, it’s more important than ever to reach the hungry. Kraft has helped us (Feeding America) fund a creative program to serve those most in need. Together we’re feeding America, one meal and one mile at a time.”

## SHERROD BROWN URGES EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR FOOD BANKS

With nearly one in seven Ohio families lacking reliable access to healthy food, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown joined several colleagues in sending a letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack urging him to use existing funding to purchase additional Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) food, which would be distributed to food banks in Ohio and across the United States. TEFAP, which helps supply low-income senior citizens and families with nutritious meals, includes foods such as canned fruits and vegetables, meat, poultry, fish, beans, pasta, peanut butter, rice, and soups.

In this poor economy, many Ohio families are still struggling to balance mortgage payments with grocery and utility bills. TEFAP helps fill the gaps for many Ohio families by providing nutritious food—in many instances through local food pantries and banks. Without additional support from the USDA, Ohio food banks could face bare shelves as a result of rising demand. By using existing funding, USDA can purchase additional food for the TEFAP program and help ensure that fewer Ohio families have to go hungry this year.” Without any additional purchases of TEFAP commodities by USDA, the funding levels for the program will drop by approximately 45 percent in FY2011. Many food banks in Ohio face the prospect of seriously depleted food stocks in the coming months.

## AMPLE- HARVEST HELPS DISTRIBUTE GARDEN FRESH PRODUCE

Nancy Michaels, of the ELCA Hunger Staff, recently posted this information on ELCA's *Hunger Rumbblings*:

At this time of year, many congregations, and individuals, have more fresh produce in their gardens than they can use, and they are more than willing to share, if they just knew where to take it. Much of the produce—zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, etc—is taken to workplaces and churches, and left for the taking, or given to neighbors, family and friends. So why is it that so many are hungry, when so many others have food to give away?

There is an organization that is trying to change that and would like some help. It is a national not-for profit whose purpose is to connect gardeners who have excess produce with food pantries that can take it. The website, [AmpleHarvest.org](http://AmpleHarvest.org) allows gardeners to search by location for nearby food pantries that accept fresh produce. They currently have almost 4000 food pantries registered . . . but there are some 30,000 in the U.S. Nancy suggests helping Ample-Harvest in the following ways.



- 1.) If you are involved with a food pantry, ask them to register. It's free, and all the pantry has to do is fill out a short form on their website. The pantry can specify things like what types of produce they can accept, and what times of day or week they can take it. Since many of them don't have refrigeration, this is important; they can't store fresh food very long and may need people to pick it up fairly soon after they receive it.
- 2.) If you are a gardener (or know someone who is) tell them about Ample-Harvest. Gardeners can go to [AmpleHarvest.org](http://AmpleHarvest.org), enter their location, and see if there are any nearby pantries that will accept their surplus. (And the more pantries that register, the more luck gardeners will have using the site.)

These seem like simple yet helpful requests, so they are passed on to you. Please help. If you want to go a step further, the website has additional resources like fliers you can post at your local garden store. Together we can help ensure the bountiful harvest of summer and fall is eaten and not wasted.

## MALARIA – ON THE ROAD TO ELIMINATION?

A new report on malaria research says funding has risen dramatically this past year, and should lead to new drugs, vaccines and other weapons for the fight against malaria within a few years. This news was posted on Sarah Bosley's **Global Health Blog**, as well as other science researchers' blogs this past month.

In Bosley's report, she states she spoke to Professor Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Executive Director of the Roll Back Malaria partnership, which coordinates one global effort. Bosley asked whether this means that the mosquito-borne disease that kills 800,000-1,000,000 a year – mostly small children – in developing countries is on the way out. Coll-Seck replied the roll-out of bed nets to protect against mosquito bites at night, indoor spraying with insecticide, and better access to good treatment has enabled 40 countries to cut malaria deaths and cases by 50% in the last few years. "This has put it in the minds of all people that it is possible to defeat this disease and have, one day, a malaria-free world," she said.



More than 100m treated bed nets have been distributed in the fight against malaria.

Photo by Kim Ludbrook/EPA

Some countries have eliminated malaria completely – such as Morocco in the last two years. Others are making impressive progress, such as South Africa and Swaziland, where cases have dropped by 90%. This is the way it has to happen, with one region or country after another eliminating the disease. It will take time. "We will one day go towards eradication, but it is not now," said Coll-Seck. "We are not saying tomorrow we will eradicate malaria. We have a long way to go. We need new tools and the financing of malaria must be sustained."

One of the tools needed, Coll-Seck mentions is a vaccine which is now in final trials in Africa, and it is hoped, may give children 50% to 60% protection.

But, there are hurdles ahead. 1.) Sustained finance is still the number one priority. Funding overall for malaria (not just research) plateaued in 2010. Some 70% of it comes through the United Nations Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which is struggling to keep donations up. 2.) Resistance to the only drug that works well – artemisinin – underlining the need for new drugs and the importance of using existing ones properly. And 3.) Maintaining a strong and a well coordinated partnership between all the countries and organizations involved in the fight against malaria, which include the Lutheran Malaria Initiative and the ELCA Malaria Campaign along with other faith based efforts.

Recent research indicates scientists have discovered two drugs that may help. One drug is *ivermectin* which has been given regularly to people in Africa to prevent river blindness. This drug has been around for 30 years, originally as a veterinary medicine against worms - which means it is off-patent and cheap. It is used in annual campaigns in Africa to fight the parasitic roundworm, which causes river blindness, and also to treat children in the west with head lice. The effects of the drug on parasite transmission last for more than two weeks. The task now is to find how often people need to take *ivermectin* to keep malaria at bay. Like vaccination, everybody would need to be dosed for the benefit of all, because the mosquito has to bite for the drug to take effect and kill it. This research is being done in Senegal by the University of Colorado.

Another drug, *astemizole*, developed to treat allergies, has also been identified by US researchers at Johns Hopkins' Bloomberg School of Public Health as a potential cure for malaria. Tests in mice show that the antihistamine also kills the malaria parasite. It is already licensed for use in people, so it could be developed for use as a malaria drug in about 12 months. Because astemizole is no longer under patent, it can be manufactured at very low cost. These breakthroughs have excited researchers because of the high cost of developing other anti-malarial treatments. "Time and money are major roadblocks when it comes to developing new drugs for neglected diseases like malaria," said David Sullivan, who led the team at the Johns Hopkins.

So far all attempts to control malaria using drugs have encountered the eventual problem of resistance.



Until these drugs are proven effective to eliminate malaria, the most cost-effective methods to fight the disease continue to be education about malaria, the use of insecticide-treated bed nets, the development of medical treatment centers closer to populated areas, and the training of health care workers. The Lutheran Campaigns are expected to continue to the year 2015. This year, more synods have been added to the initial six pilot synods which began the campaign in 2010. More will be added each year until, hopefully, all ELCA congregations are part of the campaign to eliminate the disease. The ELCA goal is raise \$15 million by the 2015. The road to eliminating the disease is indeed slow and long but appears to be steady.

## ELCA, LWR'S MALARIA PROGRAMS SHOW RESULTS

Working with The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, ELCA and LWR are working to make sure people have the knowledge and tools they need to prevent malaria. In Tanzania alone, malaria kills more than 60,000 people each year. Individual Lutheran parishes are at the frontline, and malaria programming is reaching more than 1.7 million Tanzanians by :

1. Training 1618 leaders and 837 parish volunteers on use of insecticide treated nets.
2. Training church volunteers to educate congregations on malaria symptoms and seeking medical treatment as soon as they have symptoms. Early diagnosis helps prevent malaria deaths.
3. Increasing use of bed nets. Net ownership in households participating in the malaria programs rose from 55% In 2009 to 87% in 2010.
4. Training Health Care workers from 5 hospitals and 26 dispensaries to protect the most vulnerable—more than 84,000 pregnant women—with prenatal care.
5. Training hospital and church workers on malaria diagnosis and use of anti-malaria drugs.
6. Reaching more that 33,990 children under 5, a group very vulnerable to malaria.

The programs are proving effective. Deaths from malaria have been reduced from 1,000,000 per year in 2009 to just over 800,000 in 2010.

For more information visit the ELCA and LWR websites.

## INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Pastor Joene Herr, Southern Ohio Synod's Malaria Campaign Coordinator, reports how one lady's personal effort raised \$270. Following is a summary from an email Pastor Herr received from Yvonne Jones, a member of the First English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cincinnati Ohio.

Ms. Jones writes about reading an article in the March issue of *The Lutheran*, ab how net corsages, made by a church in New York to be worn on Mother's Day, were sold with the proceeds going to the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Ms. Jones purchased materials for about \$30, which she considered her personal donation, and made the corsages. She then sold them to members of her congregation, as well as to members of Church Women United. As of the date of her letter, she had raised \$270, and she was hoping to sell more.



Instructions for making the corsages may be found on the SOS website under Malaria resources.



Another individual effort, this time by a child, is reported by Pr. Lisa Arrington, Hope Lutheran Church, Cincinnati. Pastor Arrington writes that her sister-in-law, who is not Lutheran, is very active in her church in Murfresboro, TN.

After doing a global barnyard box with Hope Lutheran Church, she was looking for the next global cause she could share with her young grandson, Jackson. Pastor Arrington told her about the malaria initiative and need to purchase mosquito nets. Her sister-in-law told her grandson Jackson, who then shared information about malaria and the need for mosquito nets with his class at school. Soon after, malaria and mosquito nets became a class project.

## POTLUCKS TO END WORLD HUNGER

This is a growing program, and so is the new website. In order to provide the tools, resources, and connections to all who are joining in this project, creation of a new website has begun. Now joining in this effort is Rev. Kate Murray. Pastors Mike Poole and Kim Conway are thankful for all those who are able to share their resources to ensure that this project continues to grow as people reach out further to end a pandemic that needn't exist. They ask that those who go to the website be patient as some things move from the previous blog onto the new website. Also, you are invited to share ideas or suggestions you might have on how to increase the usefulness of this website, [www.potluckstoendworldhunger.org](http://www.potluckstoendworldhunger.org). Please schedule your next potluck. Potlucks to End World Hunger can also be found on Facebook.

## ELCA HUNGER GRANT HELPS INTER PARISH MINISTRY

*Audrey walked in needing help. Her two teenage sisters moved in with her. She went from being single, making ends meet on a meager income to having to provide for a family of three. Audrey didn't know how she was going to afford food for everyone. She decided to visit Inter Parish Ministry (IPM). IPM was able to provide her with food and clothing when she needed it most.*

*Larry had been out of work for five months. He was short of money and couldn't buy enough food to feed his family of five. Larry never visited a food pantry before but was led to one of IPM's Choice Food and Clothing Pantries by a good friend. The support he received at the pantry gave him hope to continue on. He interviewed at several places in the days that followed his visit. He called IPM when a new job came through. Larry said "Without IPM I would have not had the courage to keep going. You made a difference in our lives."*



These are just two stories from the hundreds of people who have been helped by IPM. **This support is made possible through** donations, gifts and grants, including a **2011 Evangelical Lutheran Church of America Domestic Hunger Grant**. Such support brings hope to people who IPM serves. They are people who experience food insecurity in Cincinnati's Metropolitan Area, eastern Hamilton County and Clermont County, Ohio. People of scarce means live in the low income areas that dot these counties.

During 2010 alone the Choice Food Pantries had more than 11,000 visits by food insecure people. 2011 visits are trending higher than this, showing an increase of 30% during the first quarter.

Inter Parish Ministry (IPM) was founded 48 years ago as a non-profit agency to help low income people meet their daily needs and give them opportunities to help break the cycle of poverty. Their work involves offering two Choice Food and Clothing pantries. One is located in Newtown, Ohio and the other is in Batavia, Ohio. Other IPM services include emergency assistance, a back-to-school backpack program and holiday assistance. More information about IPM is available on their website at [www.interparish.org](http://www.interparish.org).

## CONGREGATIONS IN ACTION

### Faith Lutheran, Whitehall

Pastor Eric Moehring, youth, and their chaperones, wearing T-shirts emphasizing the ELCA Malaria Campaign, left after their commissioning service on July 10, for a mission trip to Charleston, WV. They joined other young people from five other congregations in the Southern Ohio Synod. The youth helped with the Boys and Girls Clubs in Charleston and staffing vacation bible schools at local churches.



### Messiah Lutheran Church, Urbana,



Amazing Grace Day Camp was held at Messiah, Urbana in June. One of the service projects for the children at camp was collecting canned goods for the local food pantry. If they collected 50 cans, they got to dump buckets of water on their counselors on water day. If they got 75 cans, they got to wrap the head counselor up in toilet paper like a mummy. If they brought in 100 cans, they got to give Pastor Mike Poole a pie in the face. 105 cans of food were collected! To the left is a photo of Pastor Poole being “pied.” In the one hundred degree heat... it didn't take long for the whipped cream to start to.... well you can image.

### Redeemer Lutheran Church, Columbus

Approximately 50 children attended the “Jungle Adventure” Vacation Bible School during the week of June 19 at Redeemer, Columbus. Some of the students were Redeemer members **but the majority were children from the neighborhood**. Redeemer members registered the students, taught, cooked, cleaned up, told stories, planned games, watched younger children, and provided “transport” from one station to another. One member transformed the building into a jungle, with a baobab tree in the sanctuary and a waterfall in the fellowship area. The students learned about animals of the jungle and how we can help those living in the jungle and other parts of Africa. The offering of more than \$70 was designated to the ELCA Malaria Campaign. On Thursday evening a program summarizing the week was held for the parents, who then joined their children in the basement for an ice-cream social.



For the second summer Redeemer has a program called “Make Room to Feed Neighbors.” In the previously empty area of the U-shaped complex, 10 raised beds, were built in 2010. This summer a few children’s wading pools were added, so more seeds could be planted. One member carefully raised a fence to cordon off the area putting chicken wire at the bottom to keep out the “mooching” wild life (although on clever bunny managed to get through). Other members of the congregation assisted in planning and planting the garden, weeding and de-bugging the plants, tying up the tomatoes, and watering.

The first give-away Saturday was June 25. Greens were given to neighbors from the community as well as to others who drove by and saw the signs. The “shop keepers” also give advice on how to prepare the Swiss chard, mustard greens, or beet greens. Also to be given away are peas, cucumbers, and zucchini, and looking forward, beans and tomatoes as well. Gardening neighbors of the church are reading the signs—and bringing in the abundance from their gardens to share as well.

In August a community celebration is planned for a Veggie Cook-off and some entertainment; a great way to help the neighbors and give fresh produce to those who need it.

## North Riverdale Lutheran Church, Dayton

The month of May was designated as Malaria Month. This year is the congregation's 100th Year Anniversary so members kept it simple because of the many other events already planned. A mosquito net was hung at the back of the church and people were asked to donate money by tossing coins and bills into a large container. Throughout the month of May, the Sunday bulletin and church newsletter were filled with facts about the disease and explaining how just a few dollars could save a life. All facts and bulletin inserts were taken from the Southern Ohio Synod web page. A simple display was also placed at the back of the church next to the mosquito tent. The kids had a lot of fun tossing money into the container. During the month, \$725 was raised representing \$2.50 per baptized member and enough money to purchase over 70 nets ... which translated to more than 70 lives saved. Not bad for a simple display asking people to toss in some money.

But members giving didn't stop at mosquito nets. On July 20<sup>th</sup>, Riverdale, along with members from St. Paul Lutheran (downtown Dayton), and Our Savior Lutheran (Oakwood) congregations combined efforts to raise money for **Potlucks to End World Hunger** and held a potluck supper to support the ELCA program. For information, visit the website [www.potluckstoendworldhunger.org](http://www.potluckstoendworldhunger.org) or [www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger). Potlucks are easy and fun fellowships. Members from the participating congregations gathered with each family bringing something to share for dinner. This year the event was hosted by St. Paul. North Riverdale hosted the event last year and raised \$810. Besides the potluck, a short program on hunger issues in Dayton was presented and a pie auction was the highlight of the evening. For more information, contact Pastor Monte Stevens at North Riverdale.

## St. John's Lutheran Church, Covington

In September, 2010, Youth minister Laura Schmidt and the children of the congregation decided they wanted to purchase 50 nets for the malaria campaign within the next year. To raise the money, a large jar was placed in the sanctuary into which children placed their coins each week during the children's sermon (adults also contributed). The older children then counted and rolled the coins which were deposited into a special account each Monday morning. This July, the children presented a check for \$500 to the Southern Ohio Synod to purchase 50 nets, saving as many as 300 lives.



*Editor's note: The malaria campaigns at North Riverdale and St. John's are excellent examples of how a simple campaign can be effective. If your congregation has not yet joined the ELCA Malaria Campaign, this "jar method" might be helpful. Resources, such as bulletin inserts, posters, and other information are available on the synod's website.*

*Once members are given information, learn of the importance and the attempts being made to save lives, most are willing to give. People are anxious to do the Lord's will, if they know their gifts are actually being used for such a purpose. Please, **be the leader** if your congregation is not yet involved. The ELCA Malaria Campaign continues until 2015. Malaria is preventable; it is treatable; and perhaps in the near future, eliminated.*

**Hunger Task Force Members** Rev. Henry Zorn, chair; Rev. Glen Bengson; Terry Bruns; David Drumm; Rev. John Eilert; Rev. Ruth Fortis; Rev. Joene Herr; Hilde Hildebrandt; Rev. Katie Kerrigan; Lora Jollis; Rev. Mike Poole; Rev. Monte Stevens; Kathleen Zwanziger; Rev. William McKee, synod staff; Susan Truchses, newsletter editor

**Important bulletin from Bread for the World on next page...**

# URGENT

***This addendum is an Urgent bulletin, received from Bread for the World President David Beckmann. Please consider helping in this fight. Help stop cuts to programs for hungry and poor people.***

Speaker Boehner is considering funding cuts to programs that benefit hungry and poor people. The consequences of these cuts would be devastating.

- \* Call the Capitol Switchboard toll-free at 1-800-826-3688.
- \* Ask for Speaker Boehner's office.
- \* Let him know you are in his state, and that you urge him to create a circle of protection around funding for programs for hungry and poor people.

It only takes a minute to help-thank you.

Negotiations around reducing the federal deficit have intensified over the last 48 hours. Congress is considering significant spending cuts to programs that are vital for hungry and poor people. It's nonsense. Programs for low-income people did not cause the budget deficit, and cutting them would harm low-income families without improving our country's fiscal health. As people of faith, we have an obligation to help these families be heard, to insist that programs serving the most vulnerable in our nation and around the world are protected. Will you join me in letting Speaker Boehner know we simply can't let this happen?

Many members of Congress have said they will not vote to raise the debt ceiling unless it is accompanied by significant spending cuts or controls. Raising the debt ceiling simply allows the government to pay its existing obligations; it does not authorize the government to spend more money. We are alarmed that provisions harmful to hungry and poor people may be attached to the bill in order to win enough votes for passage.

Here is our challenge: Our members of Congress only listen when we speak as one, loud and clear. And, that means you! Bread for the World is standing with a number of other organizations to oppose cuts to these effective programs that prevent hunger. We need your help-your voice-to send a strong message that Congress must form a circle of protection around funding for programs that benefit hungry and poor people.

The next few days of negotiations are critical. We must raise our voices and call on Congress to act before August 2. Thank you in advance for calling your members of Congress and for supporting hungry and poor people.

Grace and peace,



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