



Advocacy Update

Sent September 14, 2011

Working Together to End Hunger

Sisterhoods and their members participate actively in their congregational High Holiday food drives. Today's social justice e-mail provides a few suggestions and resources to expand your members' awareness of food needs and to plan a program later in the year.

WRJ has once again endorsed the Fighting Poverty With Faith (FPWF) interfaith mobilization. The 2011 mobilization, "Working Together to End Hunger," is organizing to protect the food stamp program, on which forty-four million Americans depend to feed their families. Now known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), 47.5% of its recipients are children and 8.3% are older adults. Concerned that funding cuts and structural changes would weaken SNAP and reduce availability of food for those in need, the mobilization is providing informative materials about the urgent need for food assistance programs and the ways in which SNAP can help local economies.

Please use the following resources to plan a program or spend a few minutes during your sisterhood's board meeting to inform your members about SNAP and "Working Together to End Hunger."

Resources on the Food Stamp Program and Hunger in the US:

[Food Stamps: The Struggle to Eat](#) – An article about the SNAP program from The Economist, July 14, 2011.

[Food Insecurity and Hunger Data](#) – from the Food Research and Action Center.

You can also ask members to bring in bags of food for your local food pantry or take the Food Stamp Challenge.

Global Hunger Shabbat, November 4, 2011

The American Jewish World Service (AJWS) is also focusing on hunger and starvation this fall. Concerned about the impact of current governmental food policies on people in the developing world, AJWS has organized "Global Hunger Shabbat and 18 Days of Action" to seek policies to support the grassroots programs in sustainable development that are successfully seeking to help their communities deal with food issues.

AJWS designed this program so that it could be implemented in homes, congregations, and communities. Adapt the resources available on the AJWS website to plan a sisterhood global hunger event. Sign up for the "18 Days of Action" advocacy campaign to support change in U.S. global food policies.

Crisis in East Africa

More than twelve million people in Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia, the Horn of Africa, remain in desperate need for food, water, and humanitarian assistance. The [World Food Program USA](#) website provides up-to-date information about the crisis and suggestions for action.

For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit www.wrj.org/social-justice-home

You can also contribute through the URJ Disaster Relief Fund. Checks can be sent to: Union for Reform Judaism (Attn: Africa Relief) 633 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017.

Canadian Donations: The CCRJ Social Action Committee recommends that contributions be sent to the UJA Federation of Toronto. The Canadian government is matching all donations up to \$50 million dollars.

Now, while we are experiencing the bountiful fall harvest season and are approaching the High Holidays, consider taking this opportunity to enhance what your sisterhood has been doing for your congregational food drive by including some stimulating programming on food issues during the new sisterhood year. We look forward to hearing about your efforts.