

HUNGRY LONG ISLANDERS...HOW CAN THIS BE?

**“There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.”
– Mahatma Gandhi**

It's a “SNAP”: Putting Healthy Food Within Reach & Why it Matters

MICAH*: An Interfaith Advocacy Campaign to End Hunger & Poverty on Long Island
(*Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)

“Do Justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.” Micah, 6:8

***Rising Costs of Food**

***Food Insecurity**

***More People Reaching Out in Need**

***Economic Recession**

***The New Face of Hunger**

***Unemployment**

***Homelessness**

Did you know that **SNAP**, the *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program* is the new name for the federal *Food Stamp Program* as of October 1, 2008? The new name reflects a focus on nutrition and putting healthy food, such as fruits, vegetables and whole grains, within reach for low-income households.

SNAP (a.k.a. food stamps) is the federal name for the program. State programs may have different names.

Whether you live alone or live with others, whether you have children or not, sometimes you can't pay all the bills and still have enough money to buy food. Hard-working folks who need help putting food on the table sometimes avoid asking for help because they fear that getting “food stamps” will be humiliating and incredibly difficult—and then turn to already-overwhelmed emergency food pantries when the cupboards are bare. Here are some things that those in need may not know—that you might be able to tell someone:

- ❖ You don't have to be on welfare or public assistance to get SNAP benefits.
- ❖ You may be eligible even if you're working or receive regular income such as Social Security/pension.
- ❖ You do not have to be fingerprinted to apply for SNAP.
- ❖ Minimum monthly benefit increased to \$14 and indexed it to inflation.
- ❖ Minimum standard deduction increased to \$144 and indexed it to inflation.
- ❖ Retirement and education accounts are no longer considered countable resources.
- ❖ All dependent care costs (child care and care for elderly or disabled household members) are now considered when determining eligibility and benefit amount.
- ❖ The application is only two pages, not the lengthy form required for TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families)

Visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/FSP/>
to find out whether you could be eligible for benefits and how to apply.

To learn how you can get involved, or make a donation to the MICAH campaign, contact Rev. Thomas Goodhue at L.I. Council of Churches (licchemp@aol.com) or LICC Advocacy Director Neelofer Chaudry (liccmicah@aol.com)