



More southeast Michigan children and families are hungry than ever before in Gleaners' history.

Many of our neighbors – young families, seniors and children – have experienced hunger during this prolonged recession. Here's a look at who is hungry in southeast Michigan.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- Children comprise about one-third of those in poverty in southeast Michigan.
- The region is serving 250,000 free or reduced-price school lunches everyday.
- The child poverty rate in Michigan increased from 14% in 2000 to 19% in 2007.

UNEMPLOYED AND UNDEREMPLOYED

- Unemployment in Michigan is 15.2% – the highest in the country.*
- Michigan is the only state to see median household income fall for two years in a row.
- 21.5% of part-time workers in Michigan want to be working full-time.
- Unemployment has doubled or nearly doubled in all southeast Michigan counties from July 2008 to July 2009:

Livingston 6.6% to 13.4%
Oakland 7.2% to 15.5%
Macomb 9.3% to 18.6%
Wayne 10.9% to 19%
Monroe 10.9% to 17%

POOR AND IMPOVERISHED

- In 2007, about 600,000 people in southeast Michigan were living at or below the poverty level.
- Michigan is the only state where poverty rates rose last year.
- More than 45,000 families in Michigan slipped into poverty from 2006 to 2007.
- 636,782 people in Michigan are experiencing "extreme poverty," living on a yearly income of less than \$10,325 for a family of four.

Tough Choices in Tough Times

The worst choice struggling families face is whether to spend limited funds buying food or to simply go without. When families' situations get this dire, emergency food must be readily available.

To learn about how you can help Gleaners feed our hungry neighbors, visit www.gcfb.org for volunteer and giving opportunities.

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 Kids Count Data Book, U.S. Dept. of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Michigan League for Human Services.

NOTE: Economic projections conclude that regional poverty and unemployment rates will continue to rise in 2010. *As of July 2009 (find latest statistics at www.bls.gov)

Job loss, wage cuts and other hardships are driving our neighbors to food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters.

More people in southeast Michigan are hungry because they are earning less money. Some are falling into poverty, and thousands more are falling into lower income levels, not earning enough to cover food, shelter and other basic needs. How did they get there?

JOB LOSS OR WAGE DECREASE

Some slid down economically due to reduced pay rates or reduced hours. Others lost their jobs completely. Whatever the case, household incomes are decreasing dramatically – so much, that ends no longer meet. Even with the help of unemployment benefits (which average \$1,276 per month in Michigan) many families cannot cover their basic needs.

EXPIRATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Others find themselves needing emergency food because their unemployment benefits have run out. In fact, within the next six months, a projected 93,000 families in Michigan (50,000 in metro Detroit) will have exhausted their unemployment benefits. Gleaners expects that these families will need an average of 80 pounds of emergency food per month until they secure other government assistance or land a job.

ALREADY POOR

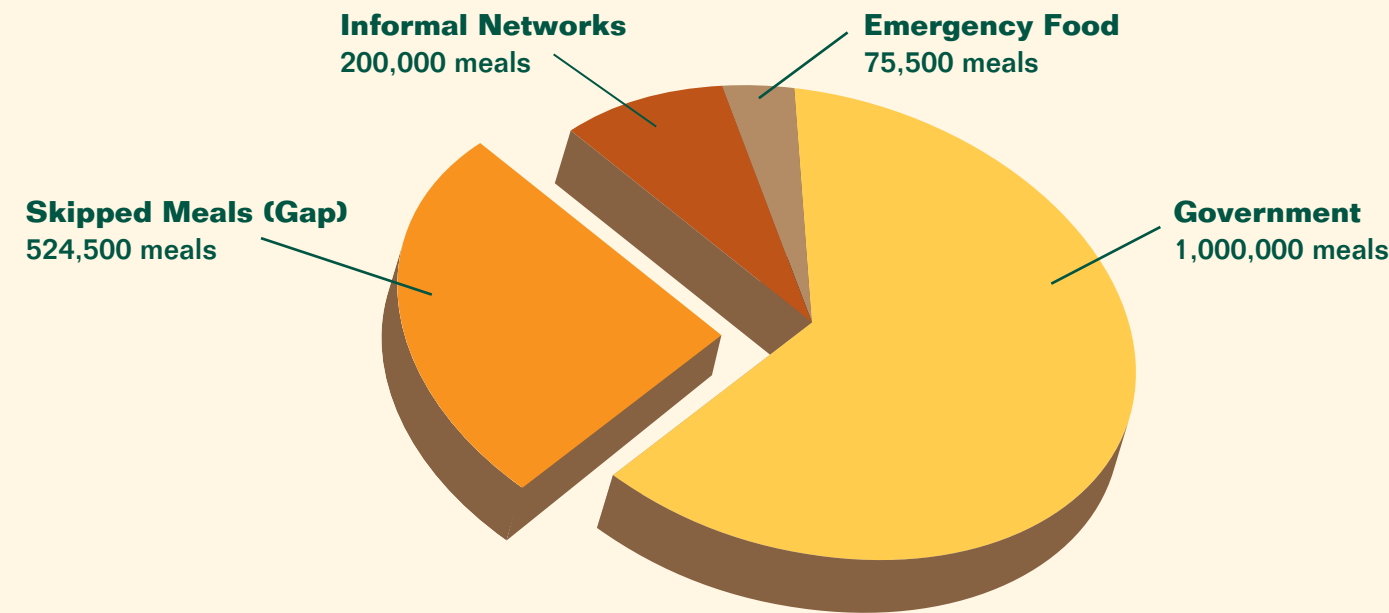
In southeast Michigan, 600,000 individuals (13.2% of the population) live in poverty. They need 1.8 million meals a day from sources such as:

- Government programs (food stamps/bridge cards, subsidy programs).
- Informal networks (friends, family, etc).
- Emergency food providers (like Gleaners' partner agencies).

These sources together provide only **1.3 million** meals per day.

The gap – **524,500 meals** per day – amounts to **six** meals per week per person being skipped due to lack of food.

Where People in Poverty Get Food



Gleaners is taking action to feed our hungry neighbors now and in the future.

Given the current and projected need for emergency food, Gleaners is implementing immediate and long-range plans.

SHORT-TERM SOLUTION: GET MORE FOOD OUT NOW

Sending more mobile pantries to communities where poverty is growing and the need for emergency food is not being met. The mobile pantry truck arrives in neighborhoods, delivering up to 16,000 pounds of assorted fruits, vegetables, baked goods and other food to needy households.

Increasing partner agency emergency food distribution by 8–10% by finding all possible ways to get them more food and help them to distribute it.

Growing children's access to food by enlisting more schools and community programs that reach kids. Gleaners' after-school KidSnack program, food-for-the-weekend Backpack Program, and summer meals program will distribute food to more than 28,000 children throughout next year.

LONG-TERM SOLUTION: EDUCATE AND INNOVATE

Gleaners is working with our community partners on long-term solutions to end hunger:

Teaching low-income households about nutrition, food budgeting, and gardening. Gleaners' Operation Frontline classes, for example, teach people how to make their food dollars stretch further and how to prepare foods that pack a good nutritional punch – lifelong habits that help to abate hunger and improve health.

Increasing participation in federal food programs. Gleaners is receiving more USDA food to distribute to neighbors in need and supporting local efforts to initiate mobile enrollment programs for the Michigan Bridge Card (food assistance).

Stimulating economic growth and increasing access to affordable, Michigan-grown produce. Gleaners is partnering with other agencies to pack and sell boxes of fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables to residents once a month – warding off hunger when governmental food sources run out.

Your Role in Hunger Prevention

We need your help now more than ever. More families are living in unstable, highly vulnerable conditions. Children are not getting enough food to eat. Parents are skipping meals entirely. You can be a part of the solution to end hunger.

Visit our website today at www.gcfb.org and learn how to help.





Report on Hunger

Hunger Crisis in Southeast Michigan

36% more Michigan children in poverty over the past 7 years

15% of our workforce unemployed

More families forced to choose between food and other essentials



An average person in poverty misses about six meals every week. There are 600,000 men, women, children and seniors in poverty in southeast Michigan.



How many meals could you go without in a week? How many meals could your children skip, or your elderly parents?

As Gleaners launches its most aggressive campaign ever, working to raise an additional \$4 million to close the hunger gap and distribute more food, we need your help. Be a part of the campaign against hunger by helping Gleaners collect food and funds: www.gcfb.org.

Area family struggles to meet basic needs even with unemployment benefits

Joe and his family never considered themselves middle class, but they always had enough money, living frugally, but comfortably. When he lost his manufacturing job last spring, Joe, his wife Tina, two teenage daughters, and his live-in mother all tightened their belts – getting rid of one car, budgeting carefully for groceries, and eliminating non-essentials like birthday gifts.



Joe bought health insurance for his family so that his younger daughter, who suffers with asthma, could continue medical care. Before long, he could not maintain the monthly \$1,000 COBRA premium, which was 85 percent of his unemployment benefit.

Joe quickly fell behind on the household bills. A major car repair put the family on the brink of losing everything, so Joe and Tina applied for government assistance and began using the Michigan Bridge Card to purchase groceries. But, by the end of the month, the family was still short of food and funds. Joe finally went to an emergency food pantry located at a nearby church to make sure his family didn't go hungry.

Working, single mother strains to put food on the table with no pay raise in sight

Jenna knew she had to do something when she could no longer give her three young children enough healthy food to eat. When she served well-balanced meals, there wasn't enough to go around. When she opted for cheap, filling food, meals stretched further, but her children, ages three to eight, were not getting enough protein, calcium or iron.



As a single parent working at a full-time, low-wage job, Jenna doesn't bring home enough to cover her monthly expenses. Over the summer, she started skipping meals so her children had enough to eat. Eventually she found a community center that serves hot meals two nights a week and offers a box of food monthly to those in need. The community center receives more than 60% of its food from Gleaners.

Now Jenna and her children can count on a nourishing, hot meal twice a week. And, the free food has allowed Jenna to afford balanced meals for her children the rest of the week. Until the economy improves and Jenna can increase her wages, the hot meals are allowing her to survive.