

Do you know the face of hunger in your community?

- ✓ **New Hampshire does not measure hunger directly – hunger and food insecurity are measured by proxy utilizing poverty statistics**
 - 95,090 people in NH lived below the federal poverty line in 2005
 - 29.5% were children under the age of 18
 - 11.9% were seniors aged 65 or over
 - The federal poverty income guideline for a family of four in 2006 is \$20,000
 - 9,572 people were living in poverty in Merrimack County in 2005

- ✓ **The USDA Household Food Security Survey, 2002-2004**
 - Food insecurity is defined by households that do not have adequate access to healthy food for an active, healthy lifestyle. Food insecurity with hunger means that families go without food for some days out of the month and in severe cases children go without food for one or more days in a month.
 - 6.4% of NH households experience food insecurity – not knowing whether they will be able to access enough food throughout the year
 - An additional 2.4% of NH households experience both food insecurity and hunger

- ✓ **America's Second Harvest Survey, 2004**
 - 45% of NH food pantry/shelter said they had to choose between paying for food or paying for medicine or medical care
 - 42% of NH food pantry/shelter said they had to choose between paying for food or paying utility bills.
 - 27% of NH food pantry shelter said they had to choose between paying for food or paying for rent/mortgage.

- ✓ **Other facts**
 - The majority of NH poor and food insecure work
 - In general food stamp benefits last only three weeks; this holds true even when trying to purchase the lowest cost foods
 - The competing basic human needs, food, shelter, clothing cannot be met with low wage jobs