

Five ways your church can respond to our hungry neighbors:



ONE GREAT HOUR of SHARING

Need is increasing. Both within the USA and throughout the world, the gap between those who have enough and those who don't continues to widen. One Great Hour of Sharing is a Presbyterian special offering, during the season of Lent, for responding to national and international need. The offering is shared between the Presbyterian Hunger Fund, the Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. For more information, see www.pcusa.org/oghs



THE SOUPER BOWL of SHARING

20 years ago, the youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina, invited 21 other congregations in collecting money on Super Bowl Sunday for local charities that provide assistance to those in need. Over \$50 million has been raised in cash and food for organizations that fight hunger. This is a simple way to benefit a local food bank or charitable organization. For more information, see www.souperbowl.org



GLORY GRILLE (<http://www.firstpresby-newcastle.org/>)

Glory Grille is a ministry of First Presbyterian Church, New Castle. It was created through a vision and a desire of the Deacons to serve the poor and vulnerable of New Castle. For the past five years, Glory Grille provides a safe, clean environment where anyone may come and enjoy a free lunch. Meals are served the first and third Saturday of each month. With the help of volunteers from other churches and organizations, over 110 people receive hot, nutritious meals and free clothing. For more information, call Janice Hanna, 724-652-7706.

HOLY REDEEMER MINISTERIUM SOCIAL SERVICES

20 years ago, Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish began a Social Service agency for the Ellwood City area. They provided the salary for the director and the location of the food bank. Area churches joined the Social Service agency by providing foods and money, and began referring requests to what became the Holy Redeemer Ministerium Social Service agency. This agency currently provides a food pantry and is a distribution center for the Pittsburgh Area Food Bank. It is also a clearing house for government social services with utility and rent assistance for Elmwood City area residents. For more information, call Carm Fury, 724-758-3465.

NEW CASTLE WEST SIDE FOOD BANK

Congregations on the west side of New Castle are joining efforts to create a Community Food Bank. Due to inadequate transportation, some residents of the two housing projects on the city's west side find it difficult to reach the current food banks on the east and south ends of New Castle. Given the current economic crisis facing our nation and our community, many families are unable to adequately care for their food needs. Hunger, poverty and unemployment are no respecter of race or religion. The Westside Community Food Bank will be sponsored by Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Independent and Baptist churches, expects to be operating by the summer of 2009. For more information, call Gary Mitchell, 724-654-1167.