

Hunger Bits

*Doug Sensabaugh, Hunger Action Coordinator
Shenandoah Presbytery – No. 9*

We give gladly to help with hunger relief in many ways. Here are some of the programs we support through our contributions.

Hunger Facts: *United States.* * In 2003, nearly 36 million people in the United States lived below the poverty line – 4.3 million more than in 2000. Of those living in poverty, 13 million were children – 17.6 of those under the age of 18 in the U.S. * Forty percent of requests for emergency food come from working families. * People receiving food stamps increased to 24.61 million by August 2004, compared to 17 million in 2001. A weak economy and better outreach programs are credited with some of the increase. Source: Bread for the World.

Enough for Everyone is the Presbyterian Hunger Program's response to a deep concern for global economic justice and a commitment to live out our faith in Jesus Christ with integrity. The four projects of Enough For Everyone seek to address fair trade, sweatshops, debt and credit, and energy efficiency. Over 1,800 congregations have become involved in the Presbyterian Coffee Project, purchasing over 59 tons of fairly traded coffees in 2004. Over 40,000 Sweat-Free Ts from the women's cooperative in Nicaragua have been sold. An additional 12,000 t-shirts are ordered. Interest in Oikocredit – Investing in Hope – is growing. Conferences and presbyteries are requesting workshops on this program of special interest during 2005, the International Year for Microcredit. Congregations are considering their use of electricity and have received all the brochures and poster for the Electric Stewardship Project.

Craigsville Area Food Pantry had a very successful year in 2004. In the seven months of operation, they served 954 families and 2,074 individuals. Of those, 475 were under 18 years old and 441 were 65 or older. Over 70,435 pounds of food was distributed by more than 60 volunteers accumulating 1,000+ hours of service.

Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission served 15,394 Free meals between January and March of 2005! Feeding those in need is an important part of the Mission's ministry that responds to the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of the disadvantaged of the community. For 45 years, they have served the whole needs of their community.

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