

# *Hunger in Augusta, GA*

## **1. According to the [Georgia Food Bank Association](#):**

17.8% of Georgians – 1,693,710 Georgians – are food insecure (struggling with hunger), well above the national average.

27.9% of children in Georgia are food insecure. This means that 702,520 children in Georgia have been hungry without access to food in one of the the wealthiest nations in the world.

33% of food insecure children in Georgia live in households above 185% of poverty and likely ineligible for any federal food nutrition programs.

Unemployment and underemployment are driving the increase in demand for food in Georgia, with 27% of peopled served by partner agencies reporting they are seeking help for the first time in their lives.

Seniors with special dietary needs and larger households due to the economic distress of family members are increasingly turning to food pantries for help.

Nationally 45% of those struggling with hunger have incomes above 185% of poverty, and 53% of those in poverty struggle with hunger. Hunger in Georgia is not limited to the homeless and unemployed.

## **2. According to Golden Harvest Food Bank of Augusta:**

Many seniors face the choice between purchasing life-giving medicine, paying their electric bill, and securing the food they need to live.

For seniors living in poverty, the end of the month can be a frightening time, because housing and utilities have eaten up most of their Social Security checks and they find themselves staring into empty cupboards.

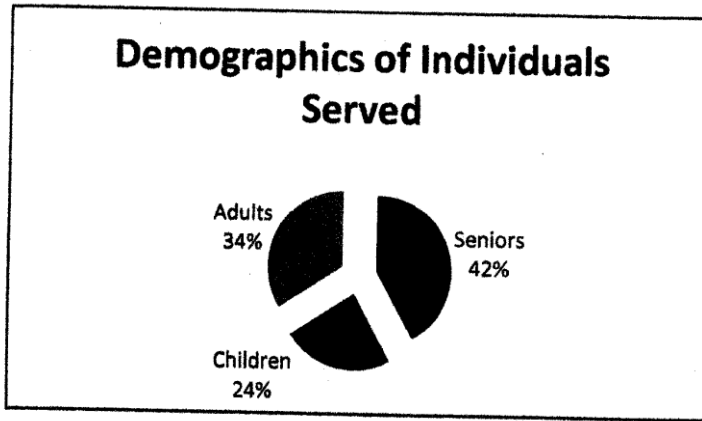
The median per capita income for seniors enrolled in the Senior Food Box Program is just \$8,328 per year. They have only \$694.00 a month to purchase everything necessary.

## **3. Demographics and facts in downtown Augusta:**

At least 66% of all DCCM clientele are seniors or children.

DCCM is the largest food distributor in Richmond County.

The number of clients has increased 65% from August 2010-August 2011.



In 2011, through August, DCCM provided nutritious food to 17,865 individuals. Food purchased from Golden Harvest Food Bank is 2-3 times higher than usual.

Church contributions have declined nearly 21% in 2011.

DCCM is classified as a “superpantry” because it distributes nearly 100 tons of food to clients every year. While most area pantries operate on an emergency basis only, limiting an individual to a few visits per year, DCCM has become a pillar of the community because of regular hours and consistency. It is conveniently located near several housing complexes and on Route 3 of the Augusta Public Transit system.

DCCM partners with Golden Harvest Food Bank to provide food for those in need. A bag of food typically contains an assortment of canned goods and frozen meat or vegetables. We also provide bread, milk, fresh produce, juice, and cereal when available.

Because some homeless clients do not have a means of preparing a balanced meal DCCM also offers “snack packs” of ready-to-eat, pre-packaged food to tide them over when soup kitchens and shelters are closed.