



Hunger Task Force

For San Joaquin County

Co-chairs:

Stockton Mayor Ann Johnston,
Supervisor Larry Ruhstaller,
San Joaquin County, Co-chairs
Co-facilitators: Ted Van Alen and
Tim Viall

Members:

Blue Cross of California
California Food Policy Advocates
Catholic Charities, Diocese of
Stockton
Central United Methodist Church
Community Partnership for
Families of San Joaquin
Mayor Ann Johnston
Anne Baird
Emergency Food Bank of
Stockton/San Joaquin County
Family Resource and Referral
Gospel Center Rescue Mission
Health Plan of San Joaquin
Interfaith Council of San Joaquin
Kaiser Permanent
Lao Khmu Association
People and Congregations
Together (PACT)
NAACP Stockton Branch # 1078
The Salvation Army - Lodi
The Salvation Army - Stockton
St. Mary's Interfaith Services
San Joaquin County:
Human Services Agency
Public Health Services
San Joaquin County Office of Ed
San Joaquin Data Cooperative
Second Harvest Food Bank
Tracy Interfaith Ministries
United Way of San Joaquin County
University of California
Cooperative Extension Service
USDA, ARS, Western Human
Nutrition Research Center
Way of Christ Community Church
And others!

Task Force Committees:

Community Food Security
Network
Food Development
Legislative Advocacy
Senior Nutrition Programs
Youth and Family Nutrition and
Education

Meeting Dates for 2011:

Quarterly meetings: April 15, July
15 and Oct. 21, 9:00-10:30 AM, at
Health Plan of San Joaquin, 7751
S. Manthey Road, Lathrop, CA

Contact the Task Force:

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Progress Report, April, 2011: Our goal, ending hunger and food-insecurity in San Joaquin County!

Since the 2005 publication of the California Food Policy Advocates/UCLA Center for Health Policy Research state-wide Health Interview Survey and the fact that San Joaquin County was tied for the fourth worst county of 58 counties in California for its percentage of hungry and food-insecure residents, concerted work by members of the Hunger Task Force has greatly improved the lives of our residents.

As a result of the California Food Policy Advocates/UCLA studies publication in local newspapers, the Hunger Task Force was formed in early 2006, with Mayor Ed Chavez and County Supervisor Steve Gutierrez as Co-Chairs. The basic question raised was, "How do we reduce the level of hunger and food insecurity in our county?" To the credit of these two civic leaders, they decided to take action and invite other leaders to join them in an effort to reduce hunger. Today, Stockton Mayor Ann Johnston and County Supervisor Larry Ruhstaller hold the Co-Chair leads, and scores of agencies have proved that, by working together, we can find new ways to reduce the levels of hunger in San Joaquin County and improve the health and vitality of our county residents.



Above left, Stockton Mayor Ann Johnston makes point at quarterly task force meeting while Rich Fowler of Catholic Charities looks on. At right, George Manalo-LeClair of California Food Policy Advocates addresses Hunger Summit crowd in January, 2010!

Since the Task Force's formation two Hunger Summits have been held (January of 2010, 2011), the County's first-ever Hunger Survey was undertaken and published (late 2009/early 2010), five committees advance our goals and the Task Force continues to meet quarterly. We welcome new members and involvement in the five Task Force committees (see p. 2), working to bring further progress to our goal of ending hunger and food-insecurity in San Joaquin County.

We're happy to report on considerable progress made in recent years! In the first four years of the Task Force, progress has been made in Food Stamp (now titled Cal Fresh) outreach and enrollment, with Catholic Charities initially teaming with San Joaquin County's Human Services Agency, now joined by the Emergency Food Bank. A host of faith-based volunteers have been trained in outreach, with more progress expected in this critical area.

Concentration on an increased food supply to food banks has paid dividends, with Tracy Interfaith, Salvation Army-Lodi, San Joaquin County USDA Commodities and the Emergency Food Bank teaming up to survey and seek new food donors. San Joaquin County CDBG grants in 2010 and 2011 have allowed well over 1.0 million pounds of fresh produce to be trucked into our County through the state-wide Farm to Family program, benefitting the clients of over a dozen agencies with more nutritious meals, and, ultimately, healthier lives.

Community nutrition education has been enhanced, with a focus on developing skills in food resource management, budgeting to stretch the food/food stamp dollar, and safe, healthy food preparation. The Emergency Food Bank launched a Mobile Farmer's Market program to take nutrition education, fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the county. Nutrition, food management and safety classes through UCCE, CUFF, County Public Health and Human Service Agency, local schools, the EFB and other agencies have furthered the effort to improve family health. The Master Gardener program's reintroduction to the county is inspiring community and school gardens. Please see p. 2 for an update on current committees and the Hunger Survey. **Join in our progress; get involved in 2011!**

Committees and Goals for 2011; join up, make it happen!

The Hunger Task Force Committees (below) will work collaboratively to accomplish an end to hunger and food-insecurity and thereby improve the health and lives of our clients, through these committees and their goals:

Senior Nutrition Programs - seeks solutions to poor nutrition and food insecurity experienced by our fast-growing senior population. Seniors have unique obstacles to food security, including limited access to transportation, dietary restrictions, chronic and acute illness, social isolation and lack of awareness of assistance available.

Community Food Security Network – seeks solutions to food insecurity in the community by gathering and sharing information about how to access food programs, including improving access to CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps). This committee has compiled a list of most food pantries in the county, including: food banks, meal distribution sites, church food pantries, commodity distribution sites and mobile farmer's markets.

Food Development - with assistance from the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, will increase food supply to area food banks. This includes collaboration of major food bank staff in outreach to grocers, distribution centers, truckers and food processors.

Legislative Advocacy – a Hunger Advocacy Network to advance local and state legislation, and serve as a mechanism of notification and response by local agencies and other interested parties to help shape public policy to end hunger and food insecurity.

Youth and Family Nutrition and Education – seeks to motivate youth and families seeking emergency food assistance to choose, eat and prepare healthier foods. This includes training volunteers and staff to teach food resource management, money management, nutrition, safe food handling, and healthy food preparation.

And, continue to advance earlier goals, set in 2006:

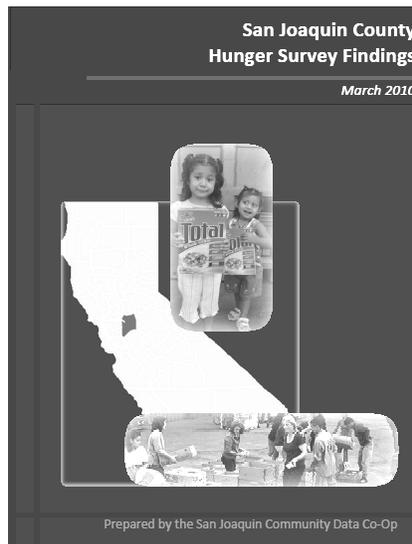
- Develop and conduct a **county-wide, multi-ethnic grassroots campaign.**
- Increase food supply and nutrition education** to area food banks.
- Expand and enhance **community nutrition education.**
- Expand, enhance the **Mobile Farmers Market program** in targeted census tracts where food access is a problem; and,
- Expand the **Legislative Advocacy Network and more effective lobbying at local and state levels.**

First-ever Hunger Survey provides startling insights...

The first-ever county-wide Hunger Study was a focus of the Hunger Summit early in 2010, the results of over 920 client interviews late in 2009, done by the San Joaquin Data Coop. Attendees received an overview of the Hunger Survey, and plotted ideas and programs to improve the life, nutrition and health of county residents. Additionally, the San Joaquin County Hunger Task Force was profiled and an update regarding Food Stamp registration progress was shared. Here are some startling revelations:

Sample, locations, demographics:

926 respondents filled out the Hunger Survey (responses on individual questions varied). 62.9% of the surveys came from Stockton locations, 30.3% were from Lodi, 5.4% were from Tracy, and 1.4% were from Thornton. 73.3% of the participants were female.



The average age of respondents was 41. 47.9% were Hispanic, 25.4% were White, 11.3% were Black, and 4.1% were Asian. 45.0% of the sample had an annual household income of less than \$5,000. 35.1% of the respondents were unemployed and 10.0% were employed full-time. The majority of respondents (72.6%) had children under the age of 18 living at home.

Health and Hunger:

38.0% had someone in their household who was in poor health.

Of those who noted that someone in their household was in poor health (n=409), 49.4% of respondents indicated that they or someone in their home has diabetes and 36.9% have heart

disease.

55.2% were putting off health care or dental care because they couldn't afford it.

Food programs:

38.4% were receiving food stamps.

25.5% of respondents who were not receiving food stamps noted that they did not think that they were qualified.

59.3% had needed emergency food while living in San Joaquin County.

19.9% were receiving food assistance for the first time on the day of the survey.

35.5% noted that it was necessary for them to seek emergency food due to a recent job loss.

74.9% of respondents rated the food that they had received as 'good' or 'excellent.'

Hunger and Nutrition at Home:

Because there was not enough money for food: 45.5% of adults in the household had cut the size of their meals;

50.7% had eaten less than they should have;

20.0% of adults in the household had not eaten for a whole day.

Hunger and Children:

25.8% of respondents indicated that they had cut the size of their child's meal because there wasn't enough money for food.

22.0% of respondents noted that their child or children had been hungry, but that they just couldn't afford more food.

For a full copy of the Hunger Survey for San Joaquin County, contact or call Tim Viall, 209-464-7369, or email Tim at: tviall@stocktonfoodbank.org.



Joe Chelli, director of San Joaquin County's Human Services Agency, shares Food Stamp outreach plans with other eager task force members.