

## **KEY FINDINGS FOR SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF NORTHEAST TENNESSEE FROM HUNGER IN AMERICA 2010**

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee participated in Hunger in America 2010, a national hunger study conducted in 2009 for Feeding America (FA) the nation's largest organization of emergency food providers. The study was based on completed in-person interviews focusing on food providers and their clients who are supplied with food by food banks in the FA network. Key findings for Northeast Tennessee are summarized below:

### **HOW MANY CLIENTS RECEIVE EMERGENCY FOOD FROM SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF NORTHEAST TENNESSEE?**

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee provides emergency food for an estimated 70,500 different people annually.  About 10,900 different people receive emergency food assistance in any given week.

### **WHO RECEIVES EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE?**

34% of households have children under 18 years old  8% of households have children age 0 to 5 years  5% of households include the elderly  About 88% of clients are non-Hispanic white, 7% are non-Hispanic black, 4% are Hispanic, the rest are from other racial groups  21% of households include at least one employed adult  84% had incomes below the federal poverty level during the previous month.  11% are homeless

### **MANY CLIENTS ARE FOOD INSECURE WITH LOW OR VERY LOW FOOD SECURITY**

Among all client households served by emergency food programs of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee, 81% are food insecure, according to the U.S. government's food security scale, 44% of the clients have very low food security  Among households with children, 80% are food insecure and 34% are food insecure with very low food security

### **MANY CLIENTS REPORT HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES**

42% of clients had to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel  27% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage  39% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care  32% had to choose between paying for food and paying for transportation  43% had to choose between paying for food and paying for gas for a car

### **DO CLIENTS ALSO RECEIVE FOOD ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT?**

63% of client households receive (SNAP) Benefits; it is likely that many more are eligible  Among households with school-age children 67% and 69% participate in the federal school lunch and breakfast programs  Among households with school-age children, 12% participate in the summer food program

### **MANY CLIENTS ARE IN POOR HEALTH**

42% of households served has at least one household member in poor health

### **WHAT KINDS OF ORGANIZATIONS OPERATE EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAMS OF THE SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF NORTHEAST TENNESSEE?**

83% of pantries, 75% of kitchens, and 65% of shelters are run by faith-based agencies  Private nonprofit organizations with no religious affiliation make up a large share of other types of agencies

### **HAVE AGENCIES WITH EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS REPORTED CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF CLIENTS SEEKING SERVICES?**

Among programs that existed in 2006, 80% of pantries, 82% of kitchens, and 75% of shelters of The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee reported there had been an increase since 2006 in the number of clients who come to their emergency food program sites

### **WHERE DO AGENCIES WITH EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS OBTAIN THEIR FOOD?**

Food banks are by far the single most important source of food for agencies with emergency food providers, accounting for 75% of the food distributed by pantries, 40% of the food distributed by kitchens, and 43% of the food distributed by shelters

Other important sources of food include religious organizations, government, and direct purchases from wholesalers and retailers

### **VOLUNTEERS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE FA NETWORK**

As many as 96% of pantries, 94% of kitchens, and 78% of shelters in The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee use volunteers  Many programs rely *entirely* on volunteers; 67% of pantry programs and 25% of kitchens have no paid staff at all

For more information or to view the entire report visit [www.netfoodbank.org](http://www.netfoodbank.org)