

# BEGINNING A HUNGER MINISTRY

## About NAMB's Domestic Hunger Funds

The North American Mission Board's Community Evangelism Unit administers the Domestic Hunger Funds program. The program represents 20 percent of monies designated by Southern Baptists to the Southern Baptist World Hunger offerings. Eighty percent is assigned to the International Mission Board. It is important to remember that every dollar is utilized exclusively to feed the hungry. Hunger funds cannot be used to cover any administrative costs.

The program is intended to share Jesus' love with the needy (see Ps. 107:9; Matt. 25:35). As a result, many have come to know Him as their personal Savior, and new churches have been formed. For example, hunger ministry gave birth to City Church in Amarillo, Texas, in an old abandoned downtown warehouse. The church and her visionary minister, Don Lane, continue to feed the hungry in Jesus name.

## The Challenge

Data analysis by the Children's Defense Funds indicates that full-time work at minimum wage does not guarantee escape from poverty. More than 34 million Americans are exposed to the threat of hunger. Each year, 11 million people experience hunger.

Attempts on welfare reform have not always been successful. According to a recent research by Tuft University, 35 states, more than two thirds of all states, have implemented policies that will worsen the situation of poor families.

## Our Cooperative Response

Amidst these circumstances, Southern Baptists have continually responded by contributing to the Domestic Hunger Funds (contact Sandy Wood at [swood@namb.net](mailto:swood@namb.net)). Another response to hunger is to develop a hunger ministry. Hunger ministries take the form of food pantries, soup kitchens, lunch sacks, bags of groceries, food program worship services, food drives, or simply vouchers for purchasing groceries. These ministries provide churches with unique opportunities to share with others the Bread of Life along with bread for living.

## Our Individual Opportunity

Any member or any church program or agency may initiate a hunger ministry. The key is commitment to serve others in the name of Jesus. We are reminded of our privilege to be fruit bearing branches of the Vine (see John 15:5). Branches that do not eat their own fruits but rather share them with those who have not yet been grafted in the Vine initiate hunger ministries.

## The Steps

Identify the hunger needs of the community. This will help you decide on the scope of your task.

- Find out if any other organizations are already servicing the hunger needs of that community.
- Learn about food banks. Salvageable food can be purchased at food banks at a per pound, inexpensive price.

- Learn about availability of surplus food commodities. Contact your local Human Services Department.

Identify your resources. Ascertain church groups (Sunday School, WMU, mission groups) that can provide volunteers, food supplies, financial help, or any other contributions to the hunger ministry.

Determine the type of ministry and its policies.

- Food pantry—Soup kitchen—Vouchers—Other
- Daily distribution—Weekly—Biweekly
- Witnessing practices—Follow-up ministry
- Record keeping—Reporting

Determine the additional dollar amount needed to start the project.

Request that amount from your local association or contact your state convention church and community ministries (CCM) staff for information on availability of hunger funds. The North American Mission Board (NAMB) distributes hunger funds to the state conventions.

### **About a Food Pantry**

In planning a food pantry it is very important to be culturally sensitive. For example, some ethno-cultural groups would prefer rice instead of potatoes.

- Make a list of items needed for the food pantry (please, see *Suggested Items* below). Divide the list among mission groups, Sunday School classes, and others who want to help. Ask each group to supply the items on its list. After the pantry has been stocked, ask the groups to take turns restocking monthly. Provide groups with a list of special items needed.
- Purchase additional food as needed. In addition to joining the local food bank, develop a contact with a wholesale food distributor or grocery store.
- Label storage shelves. Arrange items neatly and in a workable order.
- Arrange food items in an orderly manner. Stock only basic items that are in good condition, not cast-off, out-of-date things that no one wants or needs.
- Plan to discard outdated items. Write dates received on labels. Discard unused items on a regular basis.
- Divide large bags and boxes of food into smaller containers. Macaroni, rice, grits, meal, and dried beans can be frozen for 24 hours, then placed in plastic milk cartons or other containers. They will then keep for quite a while on the shelf.

#### ***Suggested Items for a Food Pantry***

Be sure that emergency food is nutritious and non-perishable. For example:

- Nonfat dry milk
- Canned vegetables
- Pancake mix (complete)
- Pancake syrup
- Oatmeal
- Grits
- Cereal
- Shortening or oil
- Baby food
- Tomato sauce
- Spaghetti sauce

- Chili
- Canned tuna, salmon, mackerel, and sardines
- Vienna sausage, other meats in pull-top cans
- Canned fruit and fruit juices
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Macaroni, noodles, or other pasta
- Salt
- Rice
- Dried beans and peas
- Beef stew
- Instant potatoes
- Biscuit mix
- Box meals
- Soups (dried or canned)
- Paper goods: paper towels, bathroom tissue, facial tissues

### ***Suggested Emergency Grocery Pack***

When preparing grocery packages, think about the ethno-cultural background of the beneficiaries. Consider also their age and living conditions. People without cooking facilities would benefit from

pre-cooked, canned, or packed food.

- 1 48-ounce can of orange or grapefruit juice
- 2 boxes of cereal or 1 box of pancake mix (complete)
- 4 macaroni and cheese dinners (complete)
- 1 pound of dried beans
- 4 1-quart packages of dried milk
- 1 box of crackers
- 3 cans of meat
- 2 packages of cornbread or biscuit mix
- 4 cans of soup
- 4 cans of vegetables (yellow and green)
- 1 pound of noodles or spaghetti
- 2 cans of pork and beans
- 2 cans of tomato sauce
- 2 cans of fruit
- 1 package of bathroom tissue
- \$10 credit voucher for eggs, bread, and milk

### **A Word about Evaluation**

There are two main reasons to develop an evaluation system for the hunger ministry. First, it may serve as a progress report. Hearing about God's work through this ministry will inspire the local church. Secondly, if the ministry receives funds from NAMB, the local association and state convention will need to report quarterly about the use of those funds.

The evaluation instrument may be a simple form. An example of items to include could be the number of people served, witnessing results such as professions of faith, baptisms, and Bible study groups. Additional items could be church member participation, number of volunteers involved, personal testimonies of volunteers, networking opportunities with other evangelical groups and/or community resources.

### **How to apply for Hunger Funds**

1. Keep in mind that NAMB's domestic hunger funds are used to demonstrate Jesus' love by assisting people who are afflicted by hunger. Secure an application from your local associational office and find out if your local association has any guidelines pertaining to hunger ministries.
2. Follow the procedures of your local association. If the association has none, contact the church and community staff at your state convention's office. If you have difficulties finding the information that you need, contact the Community Evangelism Unit, Hunger Funds office at the North American Mission Board, (770) 410-6360; fax: (770) 410-6008; e-mail: [swood@namb.net](mailto:swood@namb.net)

Visit us on our Web site: [www.namb.net/hunger](http://www.namb.net/hunger)

*NAMB exists to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, start New Testament congregations, and minister to persons in the name of Christ, and to assist churches in the United States and Canada in effectively performing these functions.*



# **DOMESTIC HUNGER FUNDS**

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## **POLICY AND GUIDELINES**

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The North American Mission Board's (NAMB) Domestic Hunger Funds are used to demonstrate Jesus' love by assisting people who do not ingest adequate amounts or kinds of food, which would ensure the possibility of normal physical maturity and/or maintenance of good health. The funds are used to purchase food as well as help people achieve the ability to feed themselves (see Ps.107:9).

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## **OBJECTIVES**

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- To purchase and distribute nutritious food in the name of Christ to people deprived of adequate amounts or kinds of food.
  - To provide assistance to chronically hungry people for developing life skills that will increase ability to feed themselves.
  - Develop and practice responsible partnership with churches, associations, state Baptist conventions, Southern Baptist agencies, and other evangelical groups, which share NAMB's commitment to fulfillment of the Great Commission through hunger ministries.
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## **IMPLEMENTATION**

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1. The Community Evangelism Unit administers the Domestic Hunger Funds within normal fiscal provisions.
2. Project proposals and requests for Domestic Hunger Funds will be received from state conventions.
3. Funds will primarily be channeled through appropriate personnel in the state convention.
4. When appropriate, grants will be made on a matching basis with the ratio being determined in each individual situation.
5. All gifts to NAMB's Domestic Hunger Funds are acknowledged as promptly as possible.
6. Strict adherence to any designations for particular projects, need, or geographical location will be observed.
7. General administrative costs of the program will not be taken out of NAMB's Domestic Hunger Funds.

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## TYPES OF MINISTRY

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### FEEDING MINISTRIES

This category of response is designed for acute hunger relief and is available for ministries that are directly related to feeding the hungry.

- Senior citizens' feeding programs
- Soup kitchens, hospitality houses, Baptist rescue missions
- Stocking food pantries
- Food in disaster situations when disaster funds are not available, or not adequate

*Examples cited above are not meant to be exhaustive but are examples of projects that might be funded with NAMB's Domestic Hunger Funds.*

### DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES

This category of response seeks to enable people to participate in alleviating their immediate hunger-related problems and deal with the underlying causes of hunger. An example for a development ministry would be nutrition classes.

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## LIMITATIONS

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1. Domestic Hunger Funds are used to meet hunger needs of people whose primary problem is hunger related.
2. Cooperation of the Baptist constituency in the area of the hunger ministry project is strongly encouraged. Domestic Hunger Funds should complement available resources of the recipient community.
3. Every possible effort will be made to cooperate fully with other welfare and helping agencies (both government and private), always maintaining the identity of the North American Mission Board and/or the local Baptist entity.
4. Funding is provided on a projected budget of three months to six months. At no time will funds be used to reimburse previous expenditures.
5. Receipt of funding is predicated on timely, accurate reporting of funds previously received. Simply stated: no report, no funds.
6. Funding for developmental purposes shall be limited to 10 percent of NAMB's annual Domestic Hunger Funds.

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## **FEEDING MINISTRIES**

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Hunger relief through feeding ministries seeks to provide food for people who do not ingest adequate amounts or kinds of food, which would ensure the possibility of normal physical maturity and/or maintenance of good health.

*Ninety percent of NAMB's Domestic Hunger Funds address this initiative.*

### **PROCEDURES**

#### ***REQUESTS***

- Initiator secures approval from the associational office if required, and/or submits request to state convention hunger relief coordinator.
- State convention hunger relief coordinator processes request according to state guidelines.
- If approved, the state convention hunger relief coordinator submits request to NAMB.
- Requests received in the Ministry Evangelism office by the fifteenth of the month will normally be processed by the tenth of the following month. Disbursement will be included in NAMB funds wired to the state convention as scheduled.

#### ***REPORTS***

- Initiator of request submits regular reports to state convention hunger relief coordinator as required by the state.
- State convention hunger relief coordinator submits quarterly reports on hunger.
- Accurate and timely reporting insures continued funding of new and continuing feeding ministries. Reports will be matched with requests for cost accounting purposes. Reports are to meet state convention requirements.

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## **DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

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Development Projects are those which, when completed, will have decreased the number of hungry people by helping them achieve the skills and ability to feed themselves.

*Ten percent of NAMB's Domestic Hunger Funds address this initiative.*

### ***REQUESTS***

- Initiator completes a Proposal for Development Project Form and any other documentation required by the state convention.
- Initiator secures approval from the associational office if required and/or submits request to state convention hunger relief coordinator.
- State convention hunger relief coordinator processes request according to state convention guidelines.
- If approved the state convention hunger relief coordinator submits request to NAMB.
- Proposals received at NAMB's office will normally be processed within 21 working days.
- Disbursement will be included in NAMB funds wired to the state convention as scheduled.

### ***REPORTS***

- Initiator of proposal submits regular reports to state convention hunger relief coordinator as required by the state.
- State convention hunger relief coordinator submits to NAMB an annual report on project results. This report is due no later than 25 working days from completion of the project.

# HOW TO ORGANIZE A SUCCESSFUL FOOD DRIVE

## **What is a Food Drive?**

A food drive is a concentrated effort to collect non-perishable food within a specific time period. The mission of a food drive is to alleviate hunger. Hunger permeates cultural, ethnic, and educational backgrounds. Very often, people who come for food are under-employed. Their wages are so minimal that groceries occupy last priority in their budget. Of those suffering from hunger, 26 percent are single-parent households. The hungry are 39.1 percent male and 60.9 percent female. Twelve million American children experience hunger each year. Children who are malnourished are at greater risk of failing in school. Their cognitive and physical development can remain impaired for life. The largest increase in poverty has been in the suburbs. Hunger in the U.S. has grown an estimated 50 percent since 1985.

## **Why have a Food Drive?**

Even if your food drive collects enough food for only a few families, that's a few more people who will not go to bed hungry this month.

Money helps, too! Domestic Hunger Funds assist hunger ministries all over the U.S. In 2003, an average meal cost less than 40 cents with the utilization of Domestic Hunger Funds. To find out more about contributing to Domestic Hunger Funds, contact Sandy Wood at [swood@namb.net](mailto:swood@namb.net).

## **Organizing your Food Drive**

Running a food drive requires both good organization and promotion. Establish the theme and date of your drive. Food drives can be as short as one day, or as long as two weeks. The most important component of a food drive is the food drive coordinator, the one who organizes the food drive. Because of this, select the coordinator(s) carefully. The coordinator will have all the information about your food drive. He or she will make sure that any materials, posters, collection bins, sign in forms, hunger information, and money handling procedures are in place and shared with participating individuals.

## **Be Imaginative**

You can be as creative and innovative as you wish to be. Think about having a theme.

Suggestions include:

- Breakfast Food Drive
- Lunch and Dinner Food Drive
- Coffee Break Food Drive
- Personal Care Item Food Drive

Broaden your scope by enlisting local businesses. Many will be glad to assist with your food drive. Encourage them to donate food or money. Here are some ideas:

- “Dress Down” Day—Each employee pays \$5 to dress down on a “casual Friday” and the proceeds go toward the food drive.
- “Brown Bag It” Day—Bring your lunch every day for a week. Donate the money you saved toward the food drive.

# FOOD DRIVE CHECKLIST

<b>SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>
Recruit coordinators		
Design promotional materials		
Send letters or e-mail to employees		
Distribute bags and list		
Design and place collection bins		
Distribution or delivery		

# **MOST NEEDED FOOD DRIVE ITEMS**

## **Cereals: Hot or Cold**

**Corn Flakes, Frosted Flakes, Froot Loops, Instant Oatmeal, Grits**  
*Any brand will do!*

## **Fruits and Vegetables**

**Canned Fruits**  
**Canned Vegetables**  
**Instant Mashed Potatoes**  
**Dried Fruits: Raisins, Apricots, Prunes**

## **Meats—High Protein Groups**

**Canned Meats—Luncheon Meat, Beef Stew, Chicken, Corned Beef**  
**Canned Fish—Tuna, Salmon, Sardines**

## **Canned Soups**

**Vegetable, Chicken, Ham or Beef**  
**Chili**

## **Pasta and Grains**

**Rice: Rice Mixes and Plain Rice**  
**Pasta: Pasta Mixes and Plain Pasta**

## **Miscellaneous**

**Peanut Butter, Jelly**  
**Macaroni and Cheese**  
**Dry or Canned Beans**  
**Pasta and Spaghetti Sauce**  
**Complete Meal Mixes**

# **HOW TO MAKE YOUR NEXT FOOD DRIVE INTERESTING**

**Here are some ideas for your next food drive:**

## **1. Breakfast Food Drive**

**We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, so why not collect food items to jump-start the morning:**

- Cereal**
- Pancake mix and syrup**
- Muffin mix**
- Fruit juices**
- Canned fruit**
- Oatmeal**
- Grits**
- Corned beef hash**
- Powdered eggs**

## **2. Lunch and Dinner Food Drive:**

- Tuna, sardines, canned salmon**
- Canned chicken**
- Peanut butter and jelly**
- Canned/box soups**
- Pasta and spaghetti sauce**
- Chili**
- Dry beans, rice**
- Beef stew**
- Instant mashed potatoes**
- Canned pasta**
- Box meals (tuna, chicken, or hamburger)**

## **3. Coffee Break Food Drive:**

- Coffee—decaf, regular, or flavored**
- Tea**
- Hot chocolate**
- Powdered creamer**

**Sugar, sugar substitute**  
**Crackers, cookies**

**4. Personal Care Items Drive**

**Soap—bar or liquid**

**Deodorant**

**Shampoo**

**Conditioner**

**Toothpaste (sealed box)**

**Toothbrush (sealed box)**

**Hand/body lotion**

**Disposable razors (sealed packages only)**