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**PUBLIC HEARING**  
before  
**NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HUNGER**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC COMMENT**  
on  
**PROGRAMS TO COMBAT HUNGER**

March 20, 1985  
Afternoon Session  
Camden City Hall  
Camden, New Jersey

Evening Session  
Leaven House  
Camden, New Jersey

**MEMBERS OF PANEL PRESENT:**

Terry Grove, Subcommittee Chairman  
Assemblywoman Dolores Cooper  
Donna Cohen Ross  
Jonathan Barton  
William L. Stubbs  
Joseph S. Ford  
Margaret Hart

**New Jersey State Library**

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**TERRY GROVE (Chairman):** Good afternoon. To start with, I would like to share with you the fact that there is no P.A. system. The microphones in front of us are for taping the proceedings of the entire afternoon. It is our intention that whatever is said at these hearings will be taped and transcribed, so that it will be part of the record for the Hunger Commission. The two women at my right, your left, are from the Office of Legislative Services, the government of New Jersey. They are here to do the taping.

When you come forward to give your testimony, please be seated at the table. Do not stand up. Please make sure that you speak in such a way that the microphone can pick up your voice. Speak loudly enough so that we and the others in the room can hear, since we are not using a P.A. system. Okay?

My name is Terry Grove. I am on the New Jersey Commission on Hunger; I am the Chairman of the public hearings part of the Hunger Commission. This is the third of eight hearings we will be conducting across the State of New Jersey, in order to gather information on poverty in the State so that the Commission can more adequately do its work.

There are three of us here from the Commission today. There may be others who will come in later, as the day progresses. As they do, I will introduce them to you, and they will join us here up front and become part of the proceedings. In fact, as I speak, here comes another member.

The purpose of these hearings is to gather firsthand information for the Hunger Commission, so we are not operating in a vacuum of just some 26 people's minds, without really having the input from the people who are working with or who are affected by the hunger and poverty in the State of New Jersey.

The way we would like to handle the hearing is, if you have called us, we have your name on our witness list. We will grant you 10 minutes to give us your testimony, and we will then take a five-minute period to speak with you. If there are questions from your testimony which we need clarified, we will then ask those questions.

This is not a functioning body in the sense that if you have a problem and you are coming to us for a solution, you're coming to the wrong place. We are here strictly to listen and to take information. If you have a problem you wish to share with us, we will hear it, but please do not expect answers or solutions from us to questions or problems you may have. Ultimately, I hope the Commission will be able to address all of those questions and problems, but we cannot do that today as a hearing body.

As I said, my name is Terry Grove. I work with an organization called Church World Service -- CROP -- and that puts me on the Commission by virtue of my position there. To my right is Jon Barton. Jonathan Barton represents the New Jersey Council of Churches. He is also on the staff of Church World Service. To my left is Mr. William Stubbs, who is the Director of the Division of Community Resources, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. He is here to represent the government's side -- the State's side -- of those people who are on the Hunger Commission. One over is Mr. Joseph Ford. Joe is from the Bread for the World organization, and also serves on the private agency side of this Commission.

We are glad to be here. We are glad for your presence here as well. Having started a little late, let's just move right along. As a matter of course, when you are giving testimony, will you please give us your name, spell your name carefully for the record, and then give the name of the organization you represent and the title you hold in that organization. If you are not with any organization, simply give your name, spell it, and tell us that you are here individually.

The young lady who has just joined us is Donna Ross. Donna is also a member of the Hunger Commission. She works in Newark with the Head Start Program. Donna, we're glad you're here.

MS. RUSS: I'm glad I was able to make it.

MR. GROVE: The first person to give testimony today is Mr. Wolfgang Herz-Lane. Wolfgang, will you please come forward and begin.

**WOLFGANG D. HERZ-LANE:** Good afternoon. My name is wolfgang D. Herz-Lane. I live on 25th Street in Camden, and I am the Executive Director of the Good Samaritan Center at 325 Market Street here in

Camden. The Good Samaritan Center is a private, nonprofit organization that provides emergency food and clothing to many struggling families in Camden County and beyond.

From modest beginnings as a small church-sponsored food pantry 11 years ago, the Good Samaritan Center has grown to become the largest emergency food provider in the City of Camden. In 1984, the Center provided groceries to 10,474 hungry persons in 3,974 family units. This was the equivalent of 126,212 meals. The value of the food we gave out last year was more than \$65,000, at an average cost of \$.52 per meal.

Now, that sounds like a lot of food, but it has to go a long way to help many hungry people survive. Just to give you an idea of how little folks are expected to live on, I have brought with me a bag of groceries such as would go to single persons referred to our agency. The food you see in front of you is calculated to last a single person for four days. Its value is below \$10.00. Our emergency food services at the Good Samaritan Center have increased dramatically over the past few years. The number of persons receiving food from the Good Samaritan Center skyrocketed from 4,300 in 1981 to the more than 10,000 last year, which I already mentioned. Just from 1983 to 1984, the number of meals we provided increased by 25%.

We wish it were otherwise. We wish we could report a decrease in our feeding efforts, because that would be an indication that things are getting better. In spite of the growing need, we have not given up on our dream that someday places like the Good Samaritan Center will not be needed because all people will have decent housing, sufficient employment, and enough to live on. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: "We have the audacity to believe that someday people everywhere can have three meals a day." Clearly, that day has not yet arrived in the City of Camden.

Our increased services reflect the growing needs of a more and more desperate community. Welcome to Camden. Welcome to a City that is suffering. Welcome to a City that is probably affected more than most cities by Mr. Reagan's insistence that society should not care for its weakest members, that military might should come before

human needs. Welcome to Camden, a City that by anyone's standard is a poor City. Approximately 85,000 people live in Camden City, a loss of 17.2% in the last decade -- 1970 through 1980. Last year, Camden surpassed Newark as the poorest city in the State of New Jersey. We now rank below Newark, Atlantic City, Trenton, Paterson, and Jersey City. Fifty-two percent of our residents depend on some kind of a public assistance program, such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children, General Assistance, Food Stamps, and the like. According to the 1980 census, the median income for a family of four was only \$10,000 a year, and the per capita income in 1983 was \$3,900, the lowest in the State of New Jersey. Only 117 of the City's 33,000 households had a combined annual income of \$50,000 or more. Welcome to Camden.

Our City has also been declared a Medically Underserved Area, a so-called Federal MUA, with numerous health problems. Malnutrition, adolescent pregnancy, infant mortality, cancer, and heart disease rates are at higher levels than for the State or the nation.

Unemployment, officially at 21% as of May, 1984, well exceeds 35% when those who have given up looking for work or those who are underemployed are counted in.

The City government, in what appears to be a conservative estimate, lists 20% of all properties as vacant. Many of them are abandoned shells, and hardly a block remains in the City without a boarded up or burnt-out building.

Camden residents, dependent as they are for their livelihoods on public assistance programs, have been especially hard hit by the Federal government's budget-cutting measures. They also suffer disproportionately from high unemployment, unavailability of loans because of high interest rates, red-lining and low credit ratings, and the lingering effects of the 1982 recession. Welcome to Camden.

There is hunger in this City. There is hunger in America. Anyone who tries to tell you otherwise, just hasn't looked. Defining the problem and assessing its extent, however, is not enough. We don't need yet another needs assessment. We don't need yet another study. It is our hope that this Commission will go beyond such an assessment

and such a study. We need some solutions, and we need them quickly. Obviously, emergency feeding programs are one answer to hunger. Places like the Good Samaritan Center need more and better resources, more and better funding to continue their much needed emergency services.

Make no mistake, though: Feeding hungry people is a Band-Aid, at best. No one knows that better than those of us who are involved in feeding the hungry. Feeding hungry people is a temporary solution which addresses the symptoms of a much larger social problem. If we are really serious about eliminating hunger, we need to look at the root causes as well. As we give out the much needed Band-Aids in the form of emergency food, we also need to fight the causes and get away from treating the symptoms.

Let me tell you a story that can make the point much better than I ever could. This story takes place in a little village that is situated on the banks of a river. Life is good in this village. People know each other; people are employed. One night, one of the villagers takes a walk along the river's banks and finds a baby floating down the river. Our villager, who is a caring person, of course, takes off his shoes, jumps into the water, and rescues the baby.

The next day, another villager finds two babies floating down the river. Again, he jumps in and rescues the drowning babies. But the day after that, four babies are found; then eight; then 16; and then more and more. Before they knew it, the villagers were confronted with a situation where an increasing number of babies were floating down the river drowning in the swift waters.

The villagers had a very efficient response. They organized teams of divers, especially trained to jump into the water to rescue those who were drowning. Social workers were flown in from the county seat to provide much needed adoption services. The local women's group in the church had a Wednesday night knitting circle to provide clothing for the rescued babies.

The operation ran very smoothly, and they rescued many babies, until one night, during a town council meeting, one of the witnesses stood up and said, "Mr. Mayor, I have a question. I would

like to suggest that we take a team and go upstream to find out where those babies are coming from, so we can look at the problem at its root source, and stop the problem right there." "Well," said the town council, "that is not a bad idea, but you know, we really can't afford to send anyone upstream. We need everyone here. If you pull anyone away from these rescue operations, we won't be able to save as many babies." "But don't you see," said the villager who had spoken up, "if we were able to go upstream and stop whoever is throwing these babies into the river, we wouldn't have this problem. We wouldn't have to save babies from drowning any more. We would be stopping the problem right at its root cause."

"Well," said the Mayor, "that is just too risky. We can't afford it." So they never went upstream and they never found out who was doing this to the babies. Because they were caring people and because they were organized and efficient, through their efforts they were able to save many, many babies from drowning, but many more also drowned.

MR. GROVE: You have one minute to wrap up.

MR. HERZ-LANE: Yes, members of the Commission and friends in the audience, it does make more sense to fight hunger at the root causes, doesn't it -- to rescue those babies before they end up in the water, to make sure people have jobs and sufficient income so they wouldn't be hungry in the first place?

The answer to America's hunger problem? Certainly not more feeding places like the Good Samaritan Center, even though they are necessary right now to alleviate the symptoms in the short run. The long-term answer to America's hunger problem is a four-letter word: J-O-B-S.

Thank you for your attention.

MR. GROVE: I would like to take a moment to introduce a new panel member who has just arrived, Assemblywoman Dolores Cooper from Atlantic County. Dolores, we're glad to have you here.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: Thank you. I'm sorry I'm late. I was held up at the office.

MR. GROVE: Are there any questions from the panel? Donna?

MS. ROSS: In the portion of your testimony where you talked about Camden being a Medically Underserved Area -- and I am following along with the text you have given us -- I'm wondering if you can-- Perhaps you don't know how some of this was compiled, but you said that malnutrition, the infant mortality rate, cancer, and heart diseases are higher here than for the State as a whole and for the nation. In compiling these statistics, have you any idea what figure was used for malnutrition? Are they talking about underweight children? Are they talking about iron deficiency? What parameters are being used to determine malnutrition?

MR. HERZ-LANE: I cannot answer that question. In this case, my wisdom came out of the newspaper, which didn't answer that question either.

MR. GROVE: Okay. Do you want to pursue that, Donna?

MS. RUSS: No, thank you; however, I think it would be useful for us to know how that was compiled.

MR. HERZ-LANE: Okay. That can be found out.

MR. GROVE: Wolfgang, one of the things we have been struggling with is the difference between chronic and--

FROM AUDIENCE: We can't hear back here. Are the microphones not working?

MR. GROVE: There are no microphones. We are going to have to speak up. If you can't hear, raise a hand.

FROM AUDIENCE: We can hear you.

MR. GROVE: You can hear me?

FROM AUDIENCE: No.

MR. GROVE: You can't? There are more empty seats up here in the front on the right side, if you want to come up here. There you go.

Wolfgang, we have been wondering about the percentage of chronic -- that is, the people who come to your Center regularly -- versus the people who are moving in and out of the hunger cycle. Do you have a way of helping us to gather those kinds of statistics?

MR. HERZ-LANE: Well, I can give you an educated guess, just from being there every day.

MR. GROVE: Can you do that?

MR. HERZ-LANE: We have a very high rate of people who come on a regular kind of basis. In fact, the referral system which is in place in the City of Camden, through a thing called the FEED Consortium -- and you'll hear about that later on -- makes a difference between what we call emergency food and supplemental food. Emergency means, you know, food stamps were stolen, house burned down, and stuff like that; supplemental means insufficient income.

I would guess that at least one-third of the people we serve at the Good Samaritan Center are people who have insufficient income, and who therefore need a supplement every month. If someone runs out of food in January because they didn't have enough to begin with, it is unrealistic to expect that same person to all of a sudden make it in February, when they still have the same level of income and, of course, the food stamp cuts figure in there very heavily.

MR. GROVE: Joe, did you have something?

MR. FORD: No, thank you; I pass.

MR. GROVE: Donna, one more.

MS. ROSS: Could you follow up on that point just one step further? Of the people you are serving because of insufficient income, how many are participating in the Food Stamp Program, where perhaps their allotments are not stretching until the end of the month?

MR. HERZ-LANE: Actually, in theory, everybody should be participating in the Food Stamp Program, because we require that a person who applies to us for emergency food, also apply for the Food Stamp Program, if he or she is not already on it. In our case, and in most of the other food providers' cases in the City, referrals generally come from the Camden County Board of Social Services, which does the initial screening, you know, establishing eligibility, and all that. They are very strict about sending people to the Food Stamp Office if they are not already on the program.

However, it often takes several weeks from the day you apply to the day you actually get your food stamps. We have also had quite a few cases where the Food Stamp Office didn't get the food stamps to people on time. Just last month, a whole area of the City didn't get their food stamps because I understand someone had them in his or her desk in the office.

MR. GROVE: Okay. Thank you very much. If there is anyone in the audience who wishes to give testimony, but who didn't call in advance, the young lady in the front here -- Margaret, would you put your hand up -- or the young lady on the other side, Ellen, will be glad to speak to you to see if we can put you into our discussion this afternoon. If you have not called in and you want to give testimony, please get in touch with either one of them.

May we have Helen Walters, please?

**HELEN WALTERS:** Mr. Moderator and panel: I am Helen Walters. I am the Director of Your Food Shelf in East Camden. I am donating my allotted time to Mrs. Eloise Beatty, who is a client of the Food Shelf, a senior citizen, and Nora Rembert, who is the Secretary of the FEED Consortium. I am turning my time over to these two ladies.

MR. GROVE: Please give us your name and spell it out for us, and then go ahead and speak.

**ELOISE BEATTY:** I have to stand up.

MR. GROVE: Please stay near the microphone, at least, so we can make sure we get what you say. There you go.

MS. BEATTY: Today, I welcome you on behalf of the Westfield Acres Project of 1985 A.D. and the Food Shelf of 36th Street. I stand before you to tell you that the Food Shelf and the church staff have been a true help to me and so many tenants at the Westfield Acres Project, and also to the new tenants who come there hungry, regardless of race, creed, or color.

This Food Shelf, and many other Food Shelves, have been very helpful to my father-in-law, my brother-in-law, and me, plus all of the children of the Westfield Acres Project. They have contributed food, clothes, shoes, and shelter, as well as books and toys for the children on all kinds of special holidays. They have contributed other books, such as the Bible and books of poetry to help the children grow up nice today.

They deliver items to different homes, such as the senior citizen and handicapped home at 808 Market Street, here in Camden, New Jersey, and to many others, such as the Volunteers of America at Cooper and Market Streets.

The Salvation Army is also a tremendous help to us here in the City of Camden. The Fire and Police Departments have also been a help.

The Director of the Food Shelf is very nice. There are so many different things you can pick up and learn there from other organizations, such as poems, children's books, and literature for senior citizens. There are tenants here from all walks of life. The hospital staff and the clinics here in Camden have also been a tremendous help to us.

I would just like to tell you a few more things. Mrs. Orea Tapps and the Mayor of Camden, New Jersey and, also, the Chief of Staff and Lt. Jones, have been a great help to us. They are making the Westfield Acres Project so nice and so beautiful for the young people and for the handicapped.

They are here to offer so many nice things to our school children, the ones who are traveling by bus, truck, speed line, and the Garden State in automobiles. We were supplied food year around, spring, summer, fall, and winter of 1985 A.D. Most of the Food Shelves are contributing so many nice things. The Food Shelf at 245 South Black Horse Pike has been a tremendous help in emergencies.

In order to get sufficient food at the Food Shelf at 36th Street, behind Westfield Avenue, you should dial 365-6475, and you will be helped right away. I also find them to be very understanding. You can also pick up a lot of literature on food stamps and Medicaid there.

We are very glad you are holding this hearing here today. I, Eloise Beatty of Camden, New Jersey am speaking on behalf of the Food Shelf at 36th Street. Thank you for listening to this message.

MR. GROVE: Eloise, will you please give us a copy of your statement?

MS. BEATTY: You want a copy of this?

MR. GROVE: Yes, but would you please wait a minute to see if anyone wants to ask questions?

MS. BEATTY: Would you like to ask any questions about the Food Shelf?

MS. ROSS: Ms. Beatty, can you help us to understand a little bit better? Is the Westfield Acres Project-- Is that the correct name of it?

MS. BEATTY: No. The Food Shelf distributes a lot of food to the tenants and the senior citizens, such as myself, as well as the handicapped. It is located at -- I think I gave you the address.

MS. ROSS: If you gave us the address--

MS. BEATTY: It is located at 3515 Merritt Avenue. It's a Presbyterian Church. As you come down Westfield Avenue, you make a right turn. When you turn right, it is standing right there on the right-hand side. You just push the door. They give you a lot of help. They are very wonderful.

MS. ROSS: Is the project mostly for senior citizens and handicapped people, or do families--

MS. BEATTY: It is for people who have children who don't have any clothes, or shoes, or toys. They distribute toys all during the year for, like, Christmas, New Year's, Easter, and things like that.

MS. ROSS: And people also come during regular times of the year for food?

MS. BEATTY: Yes.

MS. ROSS: I just have one more question, Terry. In addition to the help people get for their children at the Food Shelf, do children in Camden also have meals provided in school, do you know?

MS. BEATTY: Well, some children take a bag lunch. The Food Shelf has a large variety, such as tuna fish, peanut butter and jelly, and different things like that, and they can make a sandwich for the little children. See, we want our children--

I speak mostly for the Food Shelf at 36th Street and Westfield because I live in the Westfield Acres Project, but there are other Food Shelves, such as the one at 245 South Black Horse Pike. They deliver State food. All you have to do is make a phone call. You dial 931-1722, and someone will be there to help you.

MR. GROVE: Thank you very much, Eloise. Will the next lady please come up?

NORA REMBERT: Do you want a copy of my statement?

MR. GROVE: Yes. Please give the reporters a copy.

MS. REMBERT: Good afternoon. My name is Nora Rembert. I am here to speak for FEED; that is, Food for Equitable Emergency Distribution. FEED was formed on January 25, 1982, in order to address the problem of hunger in Camden. Because of Federal cutbacks, high unemployment, and other economic and social factors, the numbers of people coming to the various private and public agencies for emergency food had increased alarmingly beyond the individual agencies' ability to cope. Although no formal needs assessment had been conducted, the following factors support evidence of the continuing problem:

Fifty-five percent of the population receives some form of public support, i.e., welfare or Social Security; the average income, city-wide, is \$9,000 per year; unemployment figures vary from 21% to 45% or more, depending on who collected this information; and, prior to the organization of FEED, 24,245 meals were provided by the individual agencies, and in 1983 and 1984, over 400,000 meals were provided.

The Camden County Welfare Board reports an average of 1,000 families per month still coming in for emergency or supplemental referrals for food. FEED has allowed for more than additional meals. It has also provided:

- 1) Creation of new programs and new networking systems within the County. This has resulted in more of the poor being aware of sources of help, and more dignified and less devastating methods of securing help.

- 2) A forum for generating public awareness of the hunger problem. Response has been to reach out to help through donations and other methods of support.

- 3) Leverage for obtaining matching funds from foundations and corporations aimed at hunger-solving projects, i.e., the Food Bank, and truck and surplus commodities.

- 4) Improved quantity and quality of service by making our previous practices visible to scrutiny, and forcing reevaluation and upgrading.

- 5) Opportunities for creative and dramatic potential solutions to the hunger problem. By drawing attention to the problems,

FEED agencies were able to unleash their creative energy to look for new ways to handle old problems.

6) For the discovery of the massive need which has been ignored or hidden due to the lack of available resources to deal with it. We knew it was there but could not deal with it and, therefore, were reluctant to stir it up.

7) A means of breaking down barriers of isolation, loneliness, and rejection, especially among the street people and the elderly.

8) Opportunities to reach out and give help for other problems besides hunger.

Although the FEED Consortium plan is still being developed, some general goals and projects have been defined and/or initiated. The target population is those individuals and families in need of emergency food on a short-term basis during times of personal emergency or those who cannot afford to purchase food.

Goals for the future:

1) Resources-Development: There is a need to continue to seek funding sources to support the expanded level of services which was a direct result of the FEED organizing efforts and to provide opportunities for creative solutions to the problem.

2) Potential Solutions:

a) South Jersey Food Bank - to provide surplus food to provider agencies, including warehouse, freezer, refrigerator, truck, and staff.

b) County-wide 24-hour coverage network for emergency food baskets.

c) More congregate feeding sites.

d) Free-up USDA surplus food and facilitate distribution.

3) Advocacy and Outreach:

a) On behalf of the target population and in coordination with CPAC -- the Community Planning Advocacy Coalition -- we seek out and use opportunities to inform the general public and funding sources of the plight of the hungry and potential solutions.

b) More publicity to those in need, especially senior citizens, of the resources and services available, and provide links.

c) Supportive and Allied Services:

1. Transportation
2. Food and Nutrition Planning
3. Budgeting
4. Friendly Visitors
5. Health Services
6. Housing -- affordable and emergency
7. Jobs

d) Alternative Supermarket and/or Supermarket Franchise

Funding needs for the FEED Consortium for food purchasing per year is \$150,000; funding available in 1985 was \$64,900. Funds needed to support the South Jersey Food Bank for two years until self-supporting is \$80,000 per year. Other funding needs are in the process of development.

Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Joe?

MR. FORD: Yes, I have a question. Ms. Rembert, from whom do most of your donations come?

MS. REMBERT: The donations come from the churches, and from private and public organizations.

MR. FORD: Are you talking about food now, and money also?

MS. REMBERT: Yes.

MR. FORD: Can you name some of those for us -- some of the companies or businesses, other than churches?

MS. REMBERT: I don't have the exact information to give you, so I won't give you any at all. I am the secretary, but since I have only been with them for a few months, I don't have the exact statistics or the exact names of the people from whom all of the contributions come. I wouldn't be able to answer that.

MR. FORD: Okay. I just wondered if there were any major contributors among the businesses in the private sector.

MR. GROVE: Helen, can you respond to that?

MS. WALTERS: I can. I am the former secretary of the FEED Consortium. When Nora was talking about the money, we have a pot of money which is Federal Emergency Management Agency money. We have

gotten funds down from the government through the State and the County; they seep back to us. Large corporations might be giving us food. Campbell's Soup comes to mind; they make very generous donations to establishments which are doing congregate feeding.

We have also gathered food from the Red Cross. People -- someone named Webster comes to mind -- have given food. Off the top of my head I can't think, but people have given food, as have churches and private organizations.

MR. GROVE: Helen, it is important to us to have that information. Could you gather it together in some written form and send it along to us for our records? It would be nice to have that.

MS. WALTERS: All right.

MR. GROVE: Could you do that?

MS. WALTERS: I think our Food Bank Coordinator, who is going to be speaking, may have some of that on the tip of her tongue, but we will get it to you.

MR. GROVE: We would appreciate it.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: I am not familiar with the human service structure of Camden County, although I assume there is a interrelationship. You did not mention nutrition sites. Do you have nutrition sites in Camden?

MS. WALTERS: When you say nutrition sites, are you talking about congregate feeding sites, people who go in--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: Yes. We have 10 in Atlantic County.

MS. WALTERS: Yes, we do, in the City of Camden. We have nutrition sites--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: The City of Camden? What about the County of Camden?

MS. WALTERS: In the County-- Are there any County people here? I believe the OEO is doing something down in East Berlin. I know nutrition sites for seniors are being run in the County, in the churches in the suburbs. For homeless people outside the City of Camden, there are no facilities in Camden County, other than for battered women, who go to one certain place. These people would have to come into Camden to go to the shelter run by the Volunteers of America.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: In Camden City, how many sites do you have?

MS. WALTERS: For congregate feeding? Wolfgang, can you help me out with that? (no response) I would say four or five.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: Which serve about how many people?

MS. WALTERS: Wolfgang can tell you that.

MR. GROVE: The question being asked is, how many congregate nutrition sites are there in Camden?

MR. HERZ-LANE: In the City of Camden?

MR. GROVE: Yes, and about how many people are they serving?

MR. HERZ-LANE: Okay. There's Leaven House, Cathedral Kitchen-- (Remainder of Mr. Herz-Lane's response lost to transcriber because he was speaking from the audience, and was nowhere near a microphone.)

MS. WALTERS: I said four or five.

MR. HERZ-LANE: We know that most of the on-site feeding projects have anywhere between 50 and 150 people per day at the beginning of the month. And then at the end of the month, it tends to go higher. Between 300 to 400 people are fed at on-site feedings. Later on today, you-- (Remainder of statement lost to transcriber because Mr. Herz-Lane was not near a microphone.)

MR. GROVE: Mr. Stubbs?

MR. STUBBS: Ms. Rembert, the \$9,000 annual income you mentioned early in your address -- was that per family or per one-parent family? I didn't get that.

MS. REMBERT: That is the average income for a-- We did not differentiate whether it was a single-parent household or whether it was-- It was for each family unit; let's put it that way.

MR. STUBBS: All right; thank you.

MR. GROVE: Donna?

MS. ROSS: I am curious about the ending part of your testimony, where you talked about some of the creative ideas you have for the future. You mentioned alternative supermarkets. Can you explain a little bit about that?

MS. REMBERT: Alternative supermarkets and/or supermarket franchises. I imagine that coming under that-- Well, the Food Bank is one alternative. This comes from my own observations. I just hope it is going to be right, that what I'm thinking is true. The alternative supermarket would have in mind the people it is coming in contact with, and would not be able to shift the prices from one time of the month to the other. These supermarkets would be there, not necessarily to make a great profit, but to serve the community.

MS. ROSS: Thank you.

MS. REMBERT: Are you finished with me?

MR. GROVE: Yes. Thank you very much.

It is our custom at these hearings to try to go for about an hour, and then take about a five-minute break, in order to let us all sort of get hooked together again and get ready. So, Nancy, you will be first on after we take our break.

May we have Gwen Arnold, please? Gwen, you will be the last to give testimony at this point.

**GWEN ARNOLD:** Okay. My testimony will be short anyway.

My name is Gwen Arnold. I am a Registered Dietitian, and I work for CHANS, which is a Visiting Nurses' Association in Camden County. I see approximately 60 patients a month. Half of the 60 patients I see have some sort of malnutrition. The malnutrition can stem from two areas. I have kind of narrowed it down to that. One is some kind of cancer, where the malnutrition either comes from their inability to eat or from their cancer treatments. The other area where I see a large amount of malnutrition is in the elderly. Many of the people I see are living by themselves. They do not have any family members nearby to help them out with their meal shopping or food preparation. Many of them are so sick that they can't prepare their own meals. They are dangerous in the kitchen.

One thing that is nice for the elderly in the community is a project called Meals on Wheels. The problem I have with this program is that when I call, the waiting list is so long. The other problem I am running into is that this program does not go to certain sections of the community. There are certain towns in Camden County where the Meals on Wheels Program is not functioning.

This is one area which I feel could really be expanded. I don't know what anyone else's feelings are on this. I don't see a lot of the malnutrition that people are seeing in Camden City because I do not go into Camden City that frequently. My patients are more in the southern part of the County. They are referrals from hospital situations, where either the physician wants a dietitian to follow up, or some nursing follow-up. They see the malnutrition there, and on their assessment I go in.

Are there any questions?

MR. GROVE: Questions?

MR. FORD: Why doesn't Meals on Wheels go into certain sections?

MS. ARNOLD: I have no idea. Apparently their funding is a problem. There are certain areas, or certain routes, or certain roads in the County where they do not go. It is really a problem for the elderly.

MR. FORD: Do you think there just isn't enough money to go around?

MS. ARNOLD: Probably; I have no idea.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: Where is your food prepared?

MS. ARNOLD: I don't deal with any food at all. I work for the Visiting Nurses' Association.

MR. GROVE: She works for the Visiting Nurses' Association.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: Oh.

MS. ARNOLD: I am a nutritionist for the Visiting Nurses in Camden County.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: You mentioned Meals on Wheels. Where is that food prepared in relation to where the meals go?

MS. ARNOLD: I think it is prepared in certain sections throughout the County. I think there are certain food sites where the food is prepared. I am not an expert on Meals on Wheels. I think if we had someone who could speak on that, it would throw some light.

MR. BARTON: You spoke about malnutrition. What kind of malnutrition? Are you seeing kwashiorkor? Are you seeing marasmus? Are you seeing vitamin deficiency? What kind of malnutrition are you seeing?

MS. ARNOLD: A lot of it is protein/calorie malnutrition, or just protein malnutrition. It is kind of a mixed bag. I mean, you can see any type.

MR. BARTON: In your estimation, is it slight? Is it severe?

MS. ARNOLD: Not severe. You know, I am not seeing the very emaciated people, but it is from not getting enough protein in their diet long-term, or not getting enough calories, one or the other. Or sometimes it is mixed.

MS. ROSS: I'd like to follow up on this. First, can you clarify for me-- Are you working exclusively with elderly patients?

MS. ARNOLD: No, but the majority of the patients we see are elderly.

MS. ROSS: Of the approximately 60 patients you see per month, approximately how many of them are suffering from protein/calorie malnutrition?

MS. ARNOLD: I would say approximately 25.

MS. ROSS: Twenty-five patients per month?

MS. ARNOLD: That would be a combination of both. Many of them are cancer patients, and that is a totally different situation. But, on the other hand, there are a lot of people who are just not able to prepare their own meals, do their own shopping, or get adequate meals because of facility inadequacies. They need the assistance.

MR. GROVE: Are you talking about 25 out of 60 as your own personal caseload?

MS. ARNOLD: Yes.

MR. GROVE: How many visiting nurses are there in the County like you, who would have a similar kind of caseload?

MS. ARNOLD: In our facility, we probably have at least 60 nurses. I do not see all of the patients; I see patients who they refer to me or who are referred by a hospital. There are two different ways I can have a patient referred to me. They may see a patient initially and refer him or her to me, or a person could come right out of a hospital with a referral for a nutritionist. So there are probably many patients who are overlooked whom I am not seeing myself.

MR. GROVE: That is what I was trying to get, some sense of how large the population is.

MS. ARNOLD: Yes. There are several Visiting Nurses' Associations in Camden County. We are not the sole Visiting Nurses' Association.

MR. GROVE: Okay.

MS. ROSS: May I ask just one more question? Other than referral to Meals on Wheels, which you indicated does not fulfill the need, what other kinds of referrals or services, or what other kinds of help can you offer people who you judge to be malnourished?

MS. ARNOLD: A lot of times I turn a person over to a social worker. She is a lot more aware of things that are available in the community. I know she has gotten food from the food banks. A lot of times I contact churches. There might be someone who could help the patient out in that respect. Probably our social worker would be the one who could speak on that. Okay?

MR. GROVE: Thank you very much. We will now take about a five-minute break, and then we will be back.

(RECESS)

#### AFTER RECESS

MR. GROVE: We are ready to reconvene the hearing. Nancy, we are going to experiment a little bit here to see if these microphones will pick you up. The one on your right is the hot microphone for all of us. The one on the left is for the taping. As soon as we have all quieted down, we will be able to find out if this will work for us.

We would like you to give your name, spell your name, tell us what organization you are with, your title with the organization, and then proceed with testimony. You have 10 minutes to say whatever you like, and then we will have a chance to question you.

**NANCY DIETLER:** Good afternoon. I am Nancy Dietler. I am the Supervisor of Emergency Services, a program of the Catholic Welfare Bureau of the Diocese of Trenton.

Emergency Services is a 24-hour crisis program designed to meet the crisis needs of people in their struggle to survive. In 1984,

Emergency Services provided comprehensive assistance to 14,445 individuals in Burlington County. The services included: Emergency food, 16,869 days of food; emergency and alternative housing, 15,226 nights' lodging, at an average cost of \$4.17 a night; clothing; job resources; energy assistance; consumer counseling; advocacy information referrals; and other emergency assistance. Case management, including follow-up, is an integral part of Emergency Services' operations.

Emergency Services provides these unique and comprehensive services to the hungry and homeless with a full-time staff of four. Our 24-hour, 365 days-a-year component was developed in 1980 when we joined forces with CONTACT, another United Way agency. CONTACT is a 24-hour phone help line which provides information and referrals throughout Burlington County. Our partnership has ensured accessibility of these comprehensive services to people whenever their need is acute. A double beeper system, three outreach sites, and the main facility in Riverton ensure program accessibility to respond immediately to the critical needs of the hungry and the homeless.

The hungry and homeless are sheltered not within a shelter, but through an effective and efficient sheltering system. This system, called alternative housing, provides a continuum of housing options from immediate shelter in area motels through prevention of homelessness via eviction and foreclosure components. We can capably and systematically place the homeless in an immediate housing option -- a motel -- while searching for long-term solutions. The options for long-term solutions include: rooming, boarding, shared living, apartment rentals, housing rentals, volunteer homes, and foreclosure and eviction prevention.

During the sheltering, long-term housing options are explored and individual clients and families are hooked into available programs within their eligibility, such as AFDC, General Assistance, and SSI. Networking and advocacy are integral parts of this case management approach. Emergency Services has developed a coordinated network of referral and service relationships, and has been designated as convener of the CEAS Committee in Burlington County. CEAS stands for the Comprehensive Emergency Assistance System, which has been called for by Governor Kean.

Food providers coordinate through our program to meet most hunger needs. This effort has increased accessibility of food resources to our hungry. The resources, however, are quickly drained. Food is provided to additional sites in Burlington County through Emergency Services' supplies. Emergency Services is a member of the Philadelphia Food Bank. We receive donations from churches, businesses, individuals, and community groups, as well as purchasing in the retail stores. Emergency Services receives \$38,525 SSBG funds, earmarked from July 1, 1984 through June 30, 1985, for the hungry and the homeless. We received the funding in December, and are currently operating out of May's moneys. We have less than \$3,000 left.

The numbers of hungry are increasing, and they are more desperate. The grants, unemployment benefits, and fixed incomes are insufficient. Have you watched people shopping in the grocery stores? You can see the invisible poor if you just look. As a rural County, Burlington County's homeless and hungry are less visible than they would be in a city. However, they are there. They are living in parks; they are living in cars; they are living in chicken coops, trying to shelter, clothe, and feed their children in substandard housing without electricity and water. Our children are suffering. Think of the plight of the child never knowing where his next meal is coming from, or if there will even be one. How do these children face their peers in school, if they even go to school? Where will they sleep tonight? Why are their Moms and Dads always sad? Is this what we want for our children?

I remember one little five-year-old girl who came into our agency with her mother for food. We ask the children who visit to take a book or a game home from our waiting room. The little girl smiled and said, "Thank you." When my staff brought out the box of food, her face lit up. She was so excited, and she reached for a box of Pac-man cereal. She hugged it; she literally cradled that box of cereal down the steps. It was a rare treat for a hungry child. Her mother was in tears.

Our new poor-- A recently unemployed man, for example, who was in his early 50s, was embarrassed to have to ask for food. He had

always provided for his family and he had now been laid off. He was in danger of losing his home, and he had to come to us. He put the food boxes in the trunk of his car so his neighbors wouldn't see them. A 67-year-old man living on Social Security told us that prior to our advocacy with the food stamps and our food resource network, he was eating out of restaurant trash cans in Burlington County.

Emergency Services has seen the numbers of hungry increase dramatically. We now provide over 1,000 days worth of food a month. In January, 1984, for example, it was 1,001; May, 1,846 days worth of food; October, 1,374; and, in December, 2,912 days worth of food. On February 26, 1985, The Burlington County Times reported that: "Hunger has reached epidemic proportions nationwide, leaving up to 20 million people vulnerable to fear and illness because of economic and conscious government policy, a group of doctors and public health experts said today." The report "Hunger in America, The Growing Epidemic," by the Physician Task Force on Hunger in America, which was headed by J. Larry Brown of the Harvard School of Public Health, followed a year-long investigation by researchers who traveled back roads, opened refrigerators, and searched out the human face of hunger. They found that despite the economic recovery, hunger is getting worse, not better.

The philosophical support of Governor Kean, and financial support of DYFS, Title XX, United Way, and the Chosen Board of Freeholders of Burlington County, through its Burlington County Human Services Advisory Council recommendations, have enabled Emergency Services to respond to the cry of the homeless and hungry of Burlington County. This is a beginning, but only a beginning. Welfare, General Assistance, and food stamp benefits need to be increased even more. Our unemployed, our marginally employed, and our SSI and SS recipients struggle every day. We would respectfully request that as there are line items in the Governor's proposed budget now being reviewed by the JAC for the homeless, there also be a comparable line item for the hungry. Emergency Services and other feeding programs need increased and continued support. Children do go to bed hungry in the United States of America.

Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Thank you, Nancy. Are there any questions?

MR. FORD: That is a very interesting suggestion, Nancy, that there be a line item for the hungry. In what agency's budget was that?

MS. DIETLER: In the State budget.

MR. FORD: Have you made this suggestion to anyone in a position of authority -- your local Assemblyman or State Senator?

MS. DIETLER: Yes. We have talked to David Schwartz. I also sit on the Governor's Task Force for the Homeless, whose report I trust you are familiar with. It just came out; I just got mine. This has some of the feeding sites in it, too. I sit on that and, yes, we have discussed this problem also. But I thought bringing it before you would be appropriate.

MR. FORD: Thank you, but I am still curious; I am not quite finished. What kind of response did you get from these officials?

MS. DIETLER: I haven't gotten a response yet.

MR. FORD: They were noncommittal?

MS. DIETLER: I wrote my suggestions in a letter, and I haven't received anything yet.

MS. ROSS: I have a couple of short questions. One, approximately how many children, like the little girl you talked about, is your program serving?

MS. DIETLER: How many children? Probably half of the number we service are children.

MS. ROSS: Do you know whether meals are available to these children in schools or child-care centers, or if they are participating in other types of food programs?

MS. DIETLER: There are child-development centers and day-care centers available in Burlington County -- of course, not enough -- but when they go to those places, they do eat. However, a lot of these children are not attending any of those programs. What we attempt to do in Emergency Services is get the people hooked into the programs that are available and that they are entitled to. Some schools do have food services. I can't recall the name of it, but I am aware that there is some type of a discussion going on in the County. Some of the churches are talking about trying to have more food

programs available through the schools, but because of the guidelines, I don't think as many children are eligible as should be.

MS. ROSS: I think what they are referring to is, eligibility criteria has changed. You mentioned that with one of the people you spoke to, your organization did some advocacy on his behalf concerning food stamps. Can you explain what kinds of advocacy activities you participate in?

MS. DIETLER: Certainly. We advocate with basically every agency and program in the County. As I mentioned, we coordinate and are working with the CEAS Committee, and have daily contact with just about all of the agencies. We have found in Burlington County that the informal system has been in existence for quite some time -- working through us -- and we continued it. Food stamps, for example. When persons call in to the County to be given a date for a food stamp application, unless they state rather specifically that this is an emergency, and that they have no food, they could possibly be given a date three weeks to a month or so in the future.

What we ask is that the client call the Welfare Board back and say, "I am really hungry. I have no food at all," and see what they can do about their date. If it isn't moved up sufficiently, which to us in an emergency would be that day, then we will call and advocate for a move-up date, provide them with some food, and continue calling the Welfare Board.

Now, part of this Human Services' money which came through -- \$4,000 of the \$42,000 that Burlington County received -- went to the Burlington County Welfare Board, so they could give a food stamp applicant, upon his or her day of application, a food voucher, to kind of support our services and tide them over. So, Burlington County received \$42,000 -- \$42,525 of the Fiscal Year 1985 money. We received \$38,525 and the Burlington County Welfare Board received \$4,000, so they could do this for food stamp applicants. This really has helped.

We also do job referrals -- the job training partnership. You know, we'll do advocacy wherever we can, in an attempt to have our service be the last. We are an emergency program, not a maintenance program. We are the last on the ladder of all the other services which

are out there, which is why we need to know what they are. So it is a continuing process to keep up with all of the programs out there.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: I am not hearing everything you're saying--

MS. DIETLER: I'm sorry.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: --but at any time in your presentation, did you mention what Burlington County is doing as far as school lunch programs are concerned?

MS. DIETLER: I am really not familiar with that.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: Well, you mentioned hungry children, and I wonder if there is any program in your schools.

MS. DIETLER: I really don't know. I would hesitate to speak on it because I don't really have the information.

MR. GROVE: Nancy, in some of the testimony we've heard, we are beginning to get a picture of the hungry people as young, single-parent, usually female with children homes -- five family units which are coming for help. Are you running into that at all? Where is the age group you're serving at this point?

MS. DIETLER: Our age group goes from infancy through the elderly. We provide services to the whole spectrum.

MR. GROVE: What is the majority, though, that you are facing?

MS. DIETLER: The majority would be the female, single-parent households.

MR. GROVE: Really?

MS. DIETLER: With regard to the elderly, we have found in Burlington County that the Office on Aging has a real good system of nutrition sites. A lot of it is available; a lot of it is being aware of what is available out there. I would say that half of our people are the female, single, head-of-households. However, another increasing number, which a lot of people tend to disregard, is the male, single, head-of-household. We have had an increasing number of fathers taking care of their children, where the women have left.

MR. STUBBS: Ms. Dietler, in your opinion, if you were asked to give the one most important reason, or cause, for the extended hunger you see daily, what would you say?

MS. DIETLER: Insufficient economic resources.

MR. STUBBS: I beg your pardon?

MS. DIETLER: Insufficient economic resources. People do not have the money to get food.

MR. STUBBS: That's rather broad, but I will accept it. Thank you.

MS. DIETLER: Well, I would say if people are on welfare and the money isn't enough-- They get a grant of \$442.00, plus their food stamps -- whatever that is -- and they are expected to maintain themselves in a house, with rent and utility bills. If they are on welfare, they are eligible for Home Energy Assistance in the winter, and right now they can get two emergency grants of \$200.00 each if they get the request in within a 30-day period. So there are programs out there to help them to subsist, along with what they get. But each month they are expected to live on \$442.00 plus whatever their food stamps are, and the Welfare Board will tell you that their food stamps are not expected to be the only money they spend on food. They are supposed to use part of their grant for food as well.

Look at the person on General Assistance, the single person -- \$192.00 -- that's a month.

MR. GROVE: Thank you very much, Nancy.

MS. DIETLER: You're welcome.

MR. GROVE: May we have Mildred Marcon, please?

**MILDRED W. MARCON:** Mr. Grove and members of the Commission: I am Mildred Marcon. I am from the People That Love Center of the Calvary Chapel in Williamstown, New Jersey. That is in Gloucester County, although I reside in Camden County.

I am the Director of the Center. We started in September, 1984. Our objective was to help the needy, to feed them, and to furnish them with used clothing, as the Lord provides. Thank God, we have never been without clothing to give out, and as we grew, the Lord also provided the food.

We started very small -- we did not advertise -- but we have grown. Each month we grow larger and larger. Our small church has been our source. Once in a while we receive a gift from someone from

outside, but mainly we receive things from our own people. In our labors, people have become acquainted with the ministry, and we have many others from different churches who are helping us to operate physically. In fact, we have several different churches represented in our work force. It is all volunteer.

We perceive the hunger situation and the lack of adequate housing and other needs to be a deplorable and traumatic problem for hundreds of families in our area. Our People That Love Center has been providing food, clothing, and counsel -- and I might say hope -- to a quantity of up to 150 families in one week for the past year and a half. A total of 635 families, many being weekly repeats -- they come back, but not in that number; the number is how many are actually represented -- were served from May, 1984 to March, 1985. This past Tuesday we had 130 families, and the previous Sunday we had about eight additional families. So we served about 138 families this week. We are open from ten to two every Tuesday, and also on Sundays, following the service. We have a telephone number where we can be reached at any time for emergency situations. We estimate that about 20% of these families are senior citizens.

The expenses of our Center are financed by free-will donations from people in our small church. The work is done as a labor of love by people from several churches in the area. We obtain food from different sources, and are currently paying toward most of the food. Our finances are constantly strained. We need financial assistance and food donations from other sources in order to continue our labor of love. We are thankful that Governor Kean is sympathetic with the problem and has expressed a firm commitment to establish a comprehensive, humane policy to eliminate the injustice of hunger and need in our State.

The following list describes briefly the various types of needs encountered in our Center; also, the reasons why people come to us:

- 1) There is a great lack of knowledge of available programs for various categories of assistance;
- 2) A shortage of, or unavailability of food stamps;

3) Unemployment situations, sometimes for prolonged periods of time;

4) Part-time jobs that are woefully inadequate for family support;

5) People that earn just too much to qualify for welfare and must cope with household and children's expenses, and thus have very little left for food and other necessities. I might say here that doctors' bills and medication are very important;

6) People who are buying their homes and fear having to repay welfare or relief, or being penalized in some other way. These families go hungry and become desperate;

7) Illiteracy is a major problem among some groups, deterring finding or applying for jobs;

8) Not enough income is coming in to provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter;

9) Small Social Security income -- inadequate for food and all other expenses;

10) Small Disability Social Security income, along with inability to find or do work. I find that many of these people are quite handicapped by their physical conditions;

11) Waiting for Unemployment Compensation. In the interim, money runs out, creating hunger;

12) Waiting to become eligible for welfare. Sometimes also waiting just between jobs;

13) One family, losing their home, was taken off and refused welfare because they had a little equity in an old truck, which they used to sell vegetables from, for a little income. I know them personally;

14) Broken families who are left destitute because they are not receiving support from the husband. This is a big one;

15) Newly separated families, where the husband pulls out and takes his check with him, leaving the family with no food or money. In one case, the children had not eaten in two days;

16) Elderly shut-ins who need to be located and food deliveries made to them. This is a problem I haven't been able to cope

with because I don't know where to find out just who these people are who are really needy; and,

17) Needy families who have no means of transportation to a food pantry or center.

I was blessed in the last two weeks to have a lady come to me from the Office on Aging. She came yesterday with her forms. She sat down, and as the folks came in, she talked to the senior citizens to see where she could find help for them, in addition to what they were receiving. I regard this as a real asset to our Center.

We find a tremendous need for housing. By the time people pay rent, there isn't much left for food. There was one particular case which came into our Center in the last two weeks -- I referred to the lady from the Office on Aging, but this lady is not elderly -- a woman with an 11-year-old daughter, a 15-year-old son, and a 17-year-old son, and she has nowhere to live. She has to live in one home and her children somewhere else. She is cooking for them and taking the food to them, which necessitates driving several miles back and forth. The gas used is eating up the money which should be for rent and food. She has to borrow the car of the woman who took her in, but this is only temporary. She can't live there long because the other lady has a family and it is only an apartment.

Housing is a tremendous problem, and it affects the food because the more a person has to pay out for housing, the less he or she has for food.

The above is a partial list of the sad plight of hundreds of families who have come to our attention. I trust your Commission will be able to help to alleviate the suffering and injustice imposed upon these people. A suggested solution to part of the problem would be to subsidize the nonprofit organizations to expand their services, as it is volunteer labor with little overhead, thus saving the State many thousands of dollars.

MR. GROVE: Thank you.

MS. MARCON: You're welcome.

MR. GROVE: Are there any questions from the panel? Donna?

MS. ROSS: I think your list of causes of hunger is very important information. I have a question about one thing you mentioned. Regarding the number of people who are saying they have incomes just over the eligibility level for various assistance programs, have you any idea how many of those used to be eligible for these programs and are now ineligible because of changes in the income guidelines? Do you have any idea of how many people have been taken off these programs?

MS. MARCON: A couple have mentioned it to me. Actually, I don't take the registry. When they come in we have them register, but another lady takes that. I work in a different area. I bring them hope. I give them a Scripture of the day. But there have been some who happened to speak to me personally as I mingled with them. They told me that they had been on, but they were taken off. One rather young lady, who has four children, told me that her husband's back was injured. They gave him a certain length of time, and then said, "That's long enough." But he was still unable to get work. So they are struggling along on the little bit she makes working in a Laundromat.

MR. GROVE: Questions? (no response) Thank you very much. If your testimony has been written, we would be pleased to have that handed to the ladies. It will help them in their transcription.

May we have Madelyn Mears, please?

**MADLYN MEARS:** My name is Madelyn Mears. I am the Director at the Christian Caring Center in Pemberton, Burlington County. Our Center was set up to provide emergency food and clothing. It has been open for two years, and has now become a supplemental type of thing. We have gone way over.

When we first opened up, we were supposed to just be an emergency type of thing. Now, we serve about 200 families -- about 800 people -- a month. Out of that I would say that approximately 25% are emergencies, and 75% are people on assistance who continually need supplemental help. They just don't have enough money to stretch their food budgets whatsoever.

At the Center, in 1983, we gave out \$21,700 worth of food stuffs. We served 6,720 people. In 1984, it went to \$35,600 worth of food stuffs, and we served 9,600 people. That is an increase of 61% over one year. I agree that these types of programs are just a Band-Aid, but they are a much needed Band-Aid. I really feel that you have to look at their whole situation in order to-- Each person is an individual, but they mainly fall into certain groups.

Our major group is the broken family where the women are between 20 and 30 years of age, with children. The people are on assistance programs, but they just can't make ends meet. They receive \$400.00 or \$450.00 a month, and the average rent is between \$400.00 and \$500.00 a month for a house or an apartment. If they are lucky enough to get something cheaper, the electric bills just sock it to them. Most of them are in all-electric houses in our area. They do get emergency Energy Assistance from welfare, but come summertime-- When you look at situations like this, they get cut off over the winter because the electric bills have gone sky-high. By the time spring comes, or summer, they just don't have any more electricity; they don't have any more water. They just have to eat out of tuna fish cans, Gino's, and everything else, which is so much higher than the regular shopping things.

I really feel that if you could just educate these people on how to plan out their meals and how to plan their budgets, and increase their amounts of money, that would solve the problem -- as long as you educate them along the way and show them how they can be educated so they can get a job. Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Are there any questions from the panel?

MR. FORD: Yes, Terry, I have one.

MR. GROVE: Joe?

MR. FORD: Are you saying you think education is the main solution, or the most important answer to the problem?

MS. MEARS: Yes, I am. I think half of our continuous type people are second and third generation welfare clients. They really just don't understand that if they could go out and get a job, it would be much more beneficial to them. They just don't understand that. They don't realize what can happen with that.

MR. FORD: Would this take care of the lack of cash? One of your colleagues, a little earlier, said she thought that was the main problem -- just not enough funds to go around.

MS. MEARS: Well, eight years ago, I was the product of a broken family, and I had one small child. I had to go through the system. I was lucky enough to have my mother; I could go to live with her. I could not have made it on the outside with the money I had. I was also lucky enough to have a high school diploma. So I applied for financial aid to a college and I was accepted. Most of these people don't even know what exists out there. First, they need to get their high school diplomas. Many of them don't even have that. They don't know there is money out there for child care, plus money for college tuition.

MR. FORD: But between now and the time they could get their high school diploma, hopefully, and apply for college, they still have to eat. In other words, the education is not an immediate solution to the problem. There is a lot of development and education and what have you that has to take place before they can apply for admission to a college. In the meantime, they continue to have this problem of not enough funds. Is that a fairly accurate summary?

MS. MEARS: Yes.

MR. GROVE: Madelyn, if the State government were to do one thing that you think would be the most important thing they could do with funds they have available to help you or to help the people you're helping, what would it be?

MS. MEARS: I would like to see them split it. I would like to see them increase the amount of money the people are now getting, and use the remainder to show them how they can educate themselves to alleviate the problem, which would be a long-term thing.

MR. GROVE: So, you're asking for money for emergency assistance, and money also for the long-term educational process to help people to move on further?

MS. MEARS: To be a permanent solution.

MR. GROVE: Any other questions?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: Let me ask her one question.

MR. GROVE: Sure.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: Do you represent Burlington County?

MS. MEARS: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: In your Department of Agriculture, do you have a homemaker person who goes out to teach nutrition and how to budget money? We have one in our County, do you have one in Burlington?

MS. MEARS: I really don't know. Of the clients I serve, none of them have ever told me that they have been visited.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: It is my understanding that Cook College, in conjunction with County Ag agents, has a homemaker service which sends someone out to these families, where told or asked, to teach them how to buy -- how to spend wisely -- and how to get the most for their food dollar.

MS. MEARS: There is a family learning center in Browns Mills which I understand will do that, but their clients number maybe 20, and we have over 420 in our files. So it is just not -- they don't know about it.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COOPER: We should make a note about the use of a home economist in each county.

MR. GROVE: Thank you very much, Madelyn. I understand Mr. Forrest is here to share his thoughts with us. He came with Ms. Walters earlier. Mr. Forrest, would you please come forward?

We will take a break at the end of Mr. Forrest's testimony. Ellen, you will be first on the docket afterward.

**STANLEY E. FORREST:** My name is Stanley Forrest. I am from the Abundant Living Fellowship Church and Mission. I am Chairman of the Board of Deacons and Treasurer.

Many of the people we serve at Abundant Living Fellowship Church and Mission are not chronic hardship cases. Most of the people we get are people in temporary need, people who fall through the cracks in the system. A large percentage of these people have never been on welfare or public assistance of any kind. They are people who are temporarily unemployed or temporarily in desperate straits who need help. The number is increasing.

Our purpose, in part, is to provide emergency services. We refer the chronic and ongoing needy to the proper agencies. Our long-range goal is a large one. We hope, in concert with other churches and organizations, to make many of the agencies such as ours unnecessary.

We feel the churches can and should be an integral social force in helping to improve the quality of life. We all know Camden's present condition and needs. We feel that a large part of the burden rests with the people. We feel that the people are not only the problem, but a part of the solution.

Our church is presently working with cocerned groups toward teaching self-sufficiency. Our feeding program is intended, in part, to be a door opener. We feel that as we gain the confidence of those we serve, we may be able to influence them. Presently, Camden has a disproportionate share of needy people. The need is critical. We recognize the magnitude of Camden's need, and we intend to make a beginning.

MR. GROVE: Is that it?

MR. FORREST: That's it.

MR. GROVE: Are there any questions?

MS. ROSS: I have a question for clarification. A number of people before you, and now you, have talked about situations of temporarily unemployed people. I wonder if this area has been experiencing problems with specific plant closings or other kinds of places of employment closing down. Is this something the folks you are serving have been experiencing, or is it just a general unemployment?

MR. FORREST: It is general unemployment. As we can easily see, there have been plant closings in the area. There have been layoffs, and the seasonal shutdown of the construction industry, as well as other seasonal employment.

MR. GROVE: Thank you very much. If your testimony is written, will you please share it with the ladies. They would be glad to have it as part of today's record. Thank you for being with us.

We will now take a five-minute break. We will return at four o'clock, or a little after.

(RECESS)

**AFTER RECESS**

MR. GROVE: We are ready to proceed with the last hour of the afternoon, at the urging of the clock and several in the room. May we have Ellen Ward, please?

ELLEN WARD: Are you ready?

MR. GROVE: Yes, we're ready.

MS. WARD: I'm Ellen Ward, the Coordinator of the South Jersey Food Bank. I was hired by the FEED Consortium, which is the Food for Equitable Emergency Distribution Consortium. Since its formation, the Consortium has made a significant contribution toward alleviating hunger problems by bringing together 25 agencies directly involved in congregate feeding, distribution of food packages, and referral services.

As the Consortium grew, they felt the need for a Food Bank in the area, thus I was hired, just five months ago, as a coordinator, soon to be the Executive Director of the South Jersey Food Bank, Inc. I am only on a part-time basis as I am funded by grant money, which is in limited supply. Throughout these past few months, I have been increasingly aware of the need for a Food Bank in the area. Two separate editorials in the local papers -- copies of which I have left on your desk -- have recently heightened my awareness of the seriousness of hunger. They both referred to the Physician Task Force on Hunger in America. I left a top heading of that report for you. I implore you to read that report. It is outstanding.

Mr. Claude Lewis, who is the editor of The Philadelphia Inquirer said: "Hunger has reached epidemic proportions. We should declare war on hunger. Up until now, it has been fought with only a popgun."

As coordinator of this Food Bank, I have been acquiring a list of agencies which feed the poor. I have acquired about 65 different agencies which are doing congregate feeding and emergency

food bank feeding. Some are receiving food from me now, and some are waiting until our warehouse doors open. On the limited statistical information available, I was able to calculate that 22 of these agencies in Camden City served, last month only, approximately 126,750 meals -- just for last month -- to the needy. That is a lot of meals. At \$.52 a meal, that is a lot of money.

The community Food Bank which I am to start will work with businesses in the community to eliminate waste by channeling this food to agencies which feed the needy. The Food Bank will provide for the centralized solicitation, storage, and distribution of food donations, if food is available through agencies and organizations with established programs for feeding the poor. Every component of the food industry is a target for solicitation -- the farmer, the grower, the packer, the processor, the manufacturer, the distributor, and the retailer. Our Food Bank will be an affiliate of Second Harvest, which is a national network of food solicitation.

In the food bank system, many people benefit. The donor benefits, as he or she has only one number to call for allocation of surplus merchandise, one source from which to compile tax records. The local feeding programs benefit. They are assured of a greater variety of food items and a more dependable handling and distribution of donated food. It provides protection against abuse. All donated food is inventoried and monitored to assure legitimate use for feeding the needy, and it saves them money.

In the few months that I have been employed, I have distributed over 95,000 pounds of food through the South Jersey Food Bank. Just think if we had a warehouse what kind of numbers I could distribute. The Department of Agriculture claims that one-fifth of all food produced for human consumption is lost annually in the United States. This represents 137 million tons of food worth \$31 billion. The report noted that 49 million people could have been fed each year with this so-called "waste food," if appropriate programs were developed to salvage and distribute. The United States government estimates that \$6.2 billion worth of food produced in this country each year is lost at the wholesale/retail level, while \$16 billion -- 32 million tons -- is wasted annually by consumers. As you can see, we

have enough food to end hunger in this country, and in this State, and in this County, and we have enough wealth to end it. All we need is for the powers-that-be to coordinate, cooperate, communicate, and legislate to stop this injustice.

In my limited time in the area of food banking, I have seen areas where the powers-that-be could possibly legislate to help. Again, in my limited five months of time, I have drawn some conclusions -- and at some point in time I may be corrected on these -- and one is, help to make United States commodities more available to food banks and agencies involved with distribution. I have been told through the Philadelphia Food Bank that there has been a problem in getting the commodities out to the people.

Two, legislate so that farmers will get a tax benefit for donating produce. This will indeed help the South Jersey farmers, particularly those who wish to donate to us and all of the agencies throughout the State. They will donate if they get this benefit.

Three, funding is poor for food banks and agencies involved in feeding the needy. As an example, last night there was a protest in Harrisburg regarding the \$8 to \$12 million that the Legislature had set aside for the state Emergency Food Grant Fund for food banks and distribution sites. If we in New Jersey could implement something similar, it would be ideal.

The food bank is one of the answers for helping to eliminate the injustice of hunger, but we need help.

MR. GROVE: Ellen, are you the Food Bank which was the recipient of the \$25,000 grant from the casinos?

MS. WARD: No, that's Atlantic City.

MR. GROVE: That's in Atlantic City. Is there another food bank being established down there?

MS. WARD: Right.

MR. GROVE: That will be different than yours?

MS. WARD: Right.

MR. GROVE: Okay.

MS. WARD: I understand there will be an affiliate of Second Harvest coming out of New York, but not the Philadelphia one. They will be servicing--

MR. GROVE: So you're connected directly to Philadelphia, not to Newark?

MS. WARD: Right.

MR. GROVE: Okay.

MS. WARD: We serve a different territory.

MR. GROVE: What will be your territory?

MS. WARD: Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Salem Counties.

MR. GROVE: And are you close to having a site, a warehouse, and everything?

MS. WARD: We're close to having a site, but the money for the renovation of the site is a problem.

MR. GROVE: Are there any other questions?

MR. STUBBS: Ms. Ward, to your knowledge, has there been any attempt, or any effort made, to lease the services and facilities presently operating in the communities where you are functioning? I know up North there are other people working in the same areas you're working in. I would like to know if there has been any attempt to link the services and facilities together, as the different groups are doing?

MS. WARD: Oh, absolutely. The Food Bank is the distribution site for the surplus food we gain. We work with all of the agencies, as far as holding the surplus, and as far as coordinating. Also, we're working with Atlantic County; we're working with Newark as far as any surplus we get. We share with all of the other agencies.

MR. GROVE: Ellen, I want to express a personal note of thanks to you for helping to coordinate today, making it possible for us to have the hearing here, taking care of the scheduling, and so on. That was particularly helpful to us. Thank you very much.

MS. WARD: You're welcome.

MR. GROVE: May we have Mr. James Johnson, please?

**JAMES R. JOHNSON:** Good afternoon. My name is James Johnson. I am the Program Monitor for the Camden County Office on Aging right here in the County.

While I cannot say there is no hunger in Camden County, I can say that there is no need for anyone in Camden County to be hungry. Many tons of food are distributed and millions of dollars of food stamps are allocated to the needy of the County. Though there is nothing we can do to increase the amount of food stamp dollars available in Camden County, we can increase the amount of free food available to people.

Last year, the Gleaners Program made over 80,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables available in Camden County. This was done with only a minimum amount of help on the part of Camden County's social service agencies. If more people had gotten involved and been more flexible in their outlook, these figures could have been doubled or even tripled. The attached article -- which you all have -- from the August 12 edition of The Philadelphia Inquirer gives a more detailed explanation of the program and how it worked.

In conclusion I can only say that it is time we put the needs of others ahead of our own and to work to help them and not ourselves. Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Give us a moment to digest; that came rather quickly.

MR. JOHNSON: Sorry.

MR. GROVE: That's okay. Are there any questions?

MR. STUBBS: I have one.

MR. GROVE: Go ahead.

MR. STUBBS: Mr. Johnson, you say others should have made themselves available to the resources.

MR. JOHNSON: No, sir, help us to get the resources.

MR. STUBBS: Oh, help you to get the resources.

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. I saw a five-acre field of cabbage rot because we couldn't get people down there to pick it and bring it back to the people in Camden City and Camden County. It didn't make any difference to that farmer. He just wanted to get it out.

MR. STUBBS: You couldn't get people to deliver the goods?

MR. JOHNSON: I couldn't get people to pick it or to deliver it, either one.

MR. STUBBS: All right. Now, is it too late?

MR. JOHNSON: No, sir, the season is starting again.

MR. STUBBS: Pardon?

MR. JOHNSON: The season is starting again. We can get started now.

MR. STUBBS: So what you're saying is, what should have been done, though it was not, can still be done effectively?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

MR. STUBBS: Can you tell us how?

MR. JOHNSON: Possibly. As I said, the problem we have is that the farmers call us up the day before and say, "Look, we're finished picking. I have 'X' number of acres available of such and such a crop," whether it's corn, cabbage, tomatoes, or whatever. And we have to be down there the next morning around seven o'clock to get started. Anyone who has ever done any work on a farm knows that you don't pick crops in the heat of the day. You have to get there early in the morning and get finished. I would leave my home somewhere around seven o'clock in the morning; I would be down there a little after eight, at the latest; and I would be back dropping off the food to the various organizations and agencies by 11:30 or 12 o'clock.

MR. STUBBS: If people were to do that, could they be compensated for their services?

MR. JOHNSON: It would depend on who they were working for. I worked for the County and I did get my pay. I was being paid regardless of what I was doing, plus my mileage expenses. Other people -- yes. It is up to the agency they are working for. A lot of the agencies said, "Well, we can't spare anyone. We can't do this." I had a couple of agencies which, toward the end, really helped out a lot. I don't want to run them down.

The thing is, people weren't saying, "Look, we'll stop doing the paperwork today, and we'll go down and get the food." They were too busy doing paperwork.

MR. STUBBS: Thank you.

MR. GROVE: So you're suggesting that the community agencies, the government agencies, and so on, that you are a part of -- if they would just close shop for a couple of days when the calls came in, you

could put enough food on the streets of Camden County for a period of time, at least through the emergency food programs and others, to make quite a difference.

MR. JOHNSON: That is correct. I had 10 acres of corn rot, as well as the cabbage, last year. It could not be picked.

MR. GROVE: You are asking the Commission to at least make a recommendation that agencies be freed up to close, take their staffs, and go into the fields, as it were?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. I had a member of the Board of Social Services who was able to come out for one day. His boss allowed him to come to help us. All summer long he was only able to get away for a half a day one day.

MR. STUBBS: Could someone call you, Mr. Johnson, for further information?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

MR. STUBBS: What is your number?

MR. JOHNSON: My number is Area Code 609, 933-1170. That is the number for the County Office on Aging.

MR. STUBBS: Okay.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

MR. GROVE: Let me ask you another question. What would happen if that was coordinated through some of the emergency food programs in Camden and Burlington Counties, if there was a network of volunteers who would be willing to go into the fields to do that kind of thing? Would that be appropriate, or should this all be agency done?

MR. JOHNSON: That would be beautiful if we could do it, sir. If we could get enough volunteers working through the agencies to set up some sort of a network system, it would be the best thing we could have. It would be an ideal solution to the problem.

MR. GROVE: Are there any other questions? (no response) Thank you very much. Oh, you have to wait, Jim; there is another question.

MS. ROSS: I was a little slow, but I do have one question. Your affiliation is the Office on Aging?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, it is.

MS. ROSS: Can you respond to some of the questions we had earlier concerning Meals on Wheels?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I can.

MS. ROSS: One speaker before you spoke about the need for expansion of the Meals on Wheels Program because there are many unserved home-bound elderly people in need of this kind of service. Can you respond to that in any way?

MR. JOHNSON: Our Meals on Wheels Program in Camden County is based on a volunteer system of delivery. We only have one paid driver out of the fund. We have money in the budget for enough meals to cover everyone, if we can get the volunteers to deliver the meals. Currently, we are delivering 250 meals a day; we have the capability of delivering 500 meals a day. We only have waiting lists in those towns where the people do not want to help their own neighbors by volunteering to deliver a meal.

MR. GROVE: Are you connected in any way with the voluntary agencies? I mean, do you know Wolfgang, do you know Ellen, do you know the people who have been--

MR. JOHNSON: I have worked very closely with Ellen Ward, Helen Walters of the Food Shelf, and some people who are not here today.

MR. GROVE: So you are connected with those folks?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I am.

MR. GROVE: Okay. Thank you very much. May we have Mr. John Scanlon, please? Is Mr. Scanlon here? (no response) Sister Marge Sullivan?

SISTER MARGE SULLIVAN: I am Sister Marge Sullivan. I am a social worker in the Sacred Heart Parish in South Camden.

MR. GROVE: Will you please spell your name?

SISTER MARGE SULLIVAN: Sure, it's S-U-L-L-I-V-A-N. The parish I am affiliated with distributes emergency food from the twentieth to the thirtieth of each month. Approximately 50 bags of food are prepared daily, generally enough for a three-to-four-day supply. In the foods we distribute, we do not distribute meats, poultry, dairy products -- any sort of perishable foods.

When I first arrived at Sacred Heart in the Fall of 1979, I found that at Sacred Heart, food was distributed throughout the month to anyone to come to the door who was needy. As the years progressed, the demand far exceeded the supply. Our food is provided through parishioners who bring it to Mass on Sundays.

I did not anticipate testifying today, but when I looked around I saw that quite a few people were not here -- the people who are really hungry. I am not hungry. When I woke up this morning I could have coffee, and when I go home tonight I can have a meal. So I am not hungry. I was disturbed with the people who are very hungry, those who stand in line down at Sacred Heart, because they were not here. Then I began to think. Coming before you to testify can be somewhat intimidating, but at the same time, I think it kind of nurtures a sense of powerlessness that the poor feel. If I were a poor person and I was without food, and I had a choice between testifying in the City Council Chambers or standing in line at Sacred Heart for a day of food, the answer is obvious. I would not be at the City Council Chambers.

This is not tangible evidence in terms of survival. To stand here -- I can't put this on my table and go home to feed my kids tonight. This is probably why the poor are not here, and there are various and sundry other reasons.

What I suggest is that the poor will not come to you. You need to go to the poor; you need to go to the hungry. I believe speakers before me said there are congregate feeding sites in this City, and in many of the places you will go in the State of New Jersey. Don't wait for the poor to come to you. Don't wait for the hungry to come to testify. You will have a long, long wait. Go out and make yourselves available at the feeding sites, and find out what people have to say about why they need to wait in line for a bag of food.

I suggest that no one finds it a joyous, happy occasion to stand in line and ask for a bag of food. I arrive at work in the morning at approximately eight o'clock. We don't start distributing any sort of emergency food until ten o'clock. On the coldest of the

coldest days, 20 to 25 people are already in line at eight o'clock in the morning, because they know that at a certain point we run out of food and have to turn people away. Unless he is really hungry, no one wants to subject himself to that kind of a situation.

I would also like to suggest that the people I know in South Camden are doing a superb job of budgeting, but you can only budget what you have.

The reason I was late today was because a woman came to my office. She told me that on Saturday night, she became ill and had to go to the hospital. On both sides of her there are abandoned houses, and her house was empty. While she was gone, someone entered the abandoned house next-door to her, came in through the dropped ceiling in her house, and robbed her. They cleaned out her freezer. They stole her meat and they cleaned out her refrigerator. She budgets. She takes her food stamps at the beginning of each month and puts them all out for food. So she does budget her money.

Education is important. I am an educator and I know the value of it. But I would suggest that the people in the city who ask for bags of food are not there because they haven't budgeted. They are there because they have budgeted and, in fact, can only stretch their money so far. I would like to clear up that misconception. I think that is a middle-class and upper middle-class misconception we have. "If you really budget your money, you can make it last to the end of the month."

The other point I would like to suggest is, employment is fine, if you can find a job. Oftentimes you find a job -- and this very woman is a perfect example. She found a job, a day here and a day there. So what she did -- as every person is supposed to do -- was report it to welfare. When she reported it to welfare, somehow the computer didn't catch up with her. So when it came to the beginning of the month, her food stamps didn't arrive. If you call, what they tell you is, "I'm very sorry, but the computer didn't catch up." So she needed to wait and she had to make some decisions. Does she pay her rent or does she feed her family? That is why a lot of the poor and the hungry are not here today, because they are tired of making those

kinds of decisions. They just don't have the psychological or physical energy.

So I would suggest as a bottom line, don't wait for the poor to come to you. Go out to them wherever you can. Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Sister, I think it would be appropriate for me to respond to what you're saying. First of all, I appreciate your testimony. Secondly, we have attempted to make the hearings do precisely that. The afternoon parts of our hearings are in public places like city halls, hospitals, and so on. The evening parts of our hearings have been set up to go to the places where the people are. We will be at Leaven House this evening for two hours. To our knowledge, there still isn't anyone planning to be there to give testimony. No one has contacted us one way or the other. We will still be there.

I really encourage you, and anyone else who is in this room today, to go home and find some folks who are in your lines, or who have been in your lines, and make sure they are there this evening to talk to us. We can't do any more than keep trying to go where the people are, as well as where the agencies are. That has been our objective in holding daytime and evening hearings, instead of starting at ten o'clock in the morning and going until four o'clock in the afternoon, and holding them all in public buildings where people simply will not come.

We have been sensitive to that. It hasn't paid off for us at the two hearings we have held so far, but I want you to be aware that we are sensitive to that and are trying in some way to remedy it. If you can help us to do it differently or better, I am willing to listen to you; I am willing to work at it.

SISTER MARGE SULLIVAN: Fine; thank you.

MR. GROVE: Are there any questions?

MR. FORD: You've got a hand in the back.

FROM AUDIENCE: May I say a word?

MR. GROVE: Sure. Will you please come up to the witness table and state your name?

PRISCILLA KIRK: My name is Priscilla Kirk. I work at Leaven House. At the beginning of the month, we serve food to between 50 and 100

people. By the end of the month, we serve between 300 and 400 people. These people are hungry, and a lot of times we have to turn them out because we just don't have enough food to feed them.

I'm sure there will be a whole lot of hungry people at your hearing tonight to meet you, because these people are really hungry. We need food there. Sometimes we miscount. There could be about 500 or 600 people there, but we don't know because we're so busy. And we run out of food; we don't have enough food for these people. So I'm sure you are going to see quite a few hungry people tonight because it was announced today.

MR. GROVE: Thank you, Priscilla.

MS. KIRK: You're welcome.

MR. GROVE: Sister (speaking to previous witness), I didn't mean to respond to you in such a way that you would think we didn't hear what you said. I just wanted you to understand what we have gone through in attempting to meet what you are requesting. There is some question about whether or not we have done it well, but at least we are working at it.

May we have Jacqueline Collins-Parker next, please? John Scanlon, you will be next on the docket.

JACQUELINE COLLINS-PARKER: Hi.

MR. GROVE: Hi.

MS. COLLINS-PARKER: My name is Jacqueline Collins-Parker. I am a staff person for the Camden Shelter Coalition. I am also a full-time student at Rutgers University in Camden.

I take exception to the fact that the poor are said to be unable to budget, specifically because I just came off welfare last spring. I had two children at home, and I was still going to nursing school at that time.

I received a check for \$360.00 a month to pay all of my bills, and \$155.00 in food stamps. My mortgage was \$247.00. My electric had been off for two years because I couldn't pay Public Service. Gas and water came to about \$50.00 a month. Kerosene to heat the house was about \$25.00 a month. That left me about \$60.00 to buy clothing, shoes, and nonnecessities, like toothpaste and toilet paper.

You know, you can't buy those things with food stamps. I figure the food stamps come to \$38.75 a week, to feed a family of three. That's two growing children. I learned from my mother how to make soups and stews out of pig tails, pig ears, and things like that -- things that are real cheap. You put beans with them, but the problem is, you get no calcium from those things. You don't get Vitamin B or Vitamin A from non-green things.

I come from a nursing school; I know what has been missing. I have a 13-year-old who is said to be anemic now because of that kind of diet; but they had to eat. We were full; it kept us going, but it didn't keep us healthy. I don't know what is going to happen with them as they get older. You know, what is going to happen with their bones?

What I did a lot was go to Good Samaritan. That is part of the reason I have the job that I have. People know me from going back and forth to centers. You have to have something to supplement your food stamps. That is the only way you can make it. You can't turn your nose up at canned goods. You eat what you have. Sometimes what is donated, especially toward the end of the month, might be white potatoes. We're still talking about starch. There still isn't anything that the kids need.

I have a part-time job now, and I am a full-time student. I make \$220.00 every two weeks. I still have to pay the same bills on that \$220.00 every two weeks. It isn't too much better. My kids are older, they're grown, but I still have to make it too.

One of my other concerns is, you're saying that maybe homeless people won't appear at hearings. I think it is very intimidating to speak at a hearing. I think you can tell I have the shakes standing in front of you, and compared to other people, I'm in pretty good shape as far as economics are concerned. But I'm nervous. I don't think you are going to get people out by saying "hearings;" I think you are going to have to go out as individuals, maybe, and say, "Look, I'm here. I want to know what you have to say. I want to know how you're making it. How do you feel about things? How do you think we can make it better?" You have to try to get across to them that you mean it this time, that you are not handing them a crock of crap again. They're not going to listen; they're not going to come out.

If you go to the shelters and go in, not as a Hunger Commission, but as individuals -- as just people-- Go someplace and have a meal. Dress down for a change and go into a shelter overnight to see what it is really like. You can't find out from standing outside. You'll never be as poor, maybe, as we were. You'll never be that down, maybe, if everything goes all right for you. You don't know what is going to happen; you may never be that way. But you can't tell what is really going on by standing on the outside looking in.

Most of us who have come here today are making it. We can only tell you what we feel, what we have been through before. Put on your jeans and a raggedy T-shirt or raggedy sweat shirt and go into the shelters. Go in and have lunch at one of the soup kitchens. Sit down. Don't even say who you are for awhile. Find out what it is really like.

Thank you. Are there any questions? (negative response)

MR. GROVE: Thank you. John Scanlon? John, we're asking people to give their names, spell their names, give the organization they are part of, and what their position in the organization is. You have ten minutes to share your thoughts with us and then we would like to have an opportunity to ask questions.

JOHN SCANLON: Sure thing. My name is John Scanlon. I am with the Cathedral Kitchen, which is a feeding program in Camden. I have a sheet here. May I share that also?

MR. GROVE: Sure.

MR. SCANLON: Our organization has been in existence since 1976. I am kind of proud of the people in southern New Jersey and the amount of generosity they have shown to our program, and I would like to share that with you.

We are located at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, which is right down the street here. We are sponsored by the St. Vincent dePaul Society, which is a Roman Catholic organization. What we have going for us is that we have 23 church groups. These are mostly Catholic parishes, but there are some Protestant groups, some Baptist groups, and some other groups.

What the folks in these 23 groups do is, on a monthly basis, they prepare casseroles, which we then use in our soup kitchen. On the average, or close to the average, we get 500 casseroles per month. This is true generosity on the part of the people because beef casseroles have to cost between \$5.00 and \$10.00 to make, and it takes time. People are willing to do it.

We have 40 volunteer servers, or numbers to that effect, and we have to have one person who shows up every day, who is the paid chef. We get the casseroles donated. We get soup donated from the Campbell Soup Company. We get bread donated from two local organizations. One is called the Breadbasket, which is in Cherry Hill. The other one is a bakery in Pitman. I'm not too sure whether those two organizations wanted their names mentioned, but they are very generous to us also. Tea and sugar are donated.

We serve evening meals. We serve in the neighborhood of 2,200 to 2,300 people each month. As I said, we are located at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, in the school cafeteria. We serve weekday evenings; we do not serve on Saturdays and Sundays. We serve from 6:00 to 6:45. Why do we do this? Well, first of all, let's face it, one of the reasons we are out here is because we really never know when we might need this ourselves. Some of us here do not necessarily need it today, but you just never know.

So, we provide meals to those who need them. We ask no questions. When I was growing up, I must admit that the one organization I truly admired was the Salvation Army, because I felt they asked no questions; they just helped people. This is related to our church; it is the same sort of thing. We just want to help people.

The second reason we do it, of course, is to act as a vehicle for Christian witness. We have 500 families in southern New Jersey who, because I believe they read the Bible, say they should help people out. They do this on a monthly basis. We have 40 individuals on a daily basis -- a once-a-week basis -- who come in to help serve for a couple of hours, and we have all sorts of other people helping.

I guess one thing I am proud of is, our organization, as I say, has been in existence since 1976. We have moved the organization

around a little bit. We have had help from a number of organizations in Camden, including the Volunteers of America. There was a time when we had no place to go, and the Volunteers took us in. We are very happy to be back in the church environment now, but I just have to tip my hat to Reverend Dudley and the people in the Volunteers of America for all the help they have given us.

Another thing I am particularly proud of is that this is a volunteer organization. It is somewhat of a people-to-people organization, in that we have people from southern New Jersey coming into Camden, talking to people, and hopefully making a cheery setting for them as they have their supper. Because it is a volunteer organization -- you know, we don't pay for this cafeteria; they just let us stay there to do our thing. Our total expenses for paper supplies, salaries, and dumpster fees -- and the expenses are pretty much in that order -- are in the neighborhood of \$1,000 a month. So far we have had no trouble raising \$1,000 a month. It just kind of comes in. Again, because of the nature of our organization, the approximate meal cost is \$.50 a meal.

I think one of the most important things -- and the previous speaker alluded to this -- is, we have to get people interacting with each other, not just the people in Camden, but we have to come together at least in southern New Jersey -- the people in Camden County.

That is my statement.

MR. GROVE: Are you feeding families, John, or are you feeding largely single people?

MR. SCANLON: Largely single people. I would say that at least 80% are single people.

MR. GROVE: So you're not seeing families or children?

MR. SCANLON: Well, first of all we can only serve families. Every once in awhile we have trouble with children coming in, but there is just no way we can serve unattended children. It just isn't the thing to do. But it isn't so much families that we serve; it's mostly single people.

MR. GROVE: Would you guess that the people you're serving are largely homeless people, or people who are coming to you because

they have used their monthly supplement or money to stay in a home and they have no money for food?

MR. SCANLON: Well, let me put it this way, on average we serve 109 people. Toward the end of the month, it is 130, so obviously at the beginning of the month it's less. I don't know; that probably answers your question.

MR. GROVE: Well, what we keep running across is the fact that the money runs out by about the fifteenth to the twentieth of the month, and then everyone starts showing up at the feeding places toward the end of the month.

MR. SCANLON: That's typical.

MR. GROVE: What we have heard across the board is that there just seems to be enough for about 15 to 20 days of the month, and then the last 10 to 15 days of the month people begin to ask for help. Then they start over again the first of the month with their checks, and then start to come in for help again.

MR. SCANLON: Yes, there are certainly many more toward the end of the month than at the beginning of the month.

MR. GROVE: Please don't hear me saying that people don't know how to budget their money. Hear me saying that the money is running out.

MS. COLLINS-PARKER: It runs out about the tenth.

MR. GROVE: Yes, that is what I'm hearing. Yes?

MS. BEATTY (speaking from audience; difficult for transcriber to hear): I just want to say that I agree with him to a large extent. I have a 27-year-old child who lives in New York. I have been a widow for 12 years. When I first came to New Jersey, I went to the Volunteers of America for help, but I had to go to Mr. Wolfgang to get clothes and things for myself and my son. He is 27 years old, but I still support him off of my Social Security check. My sister-in-law gives me my clothes because she has a job. I don't work. (Remainder of statement lost completely because Ms. Beatty was far out in audience, away from microphone.)

MR. GROVE: Thank you. Joe, any questions?

MR. FORD: No, thank you.

MR. GROVE: John (speaking to Mr. Scanlon), thank you very much. Is there anyone else who would like to share with us? (negative response)

The hearing for this afternoon is now closed. We will be back in session again at Leaven House this evening, between 6:30 and 8:30. Thank you very much for being with us.

(END OF AFTERNOON SESSION)

#### EVENING SESSION

**DONNA COHEN ROSS (Acting Chairperson):** We are going to start the evening session of the hearing now. We will be as informal as we can, but there are certain formalities we must cover first.

This is a hearing before the New Jersey Commission on Hunger. The Commission was appointed by Governor Kean and the Legislature to examine the extent of hunger throughout New Jersey, and to try to determine the causes of hunger; also, to formulate some concrete recommendations which we can bring to the Governor and the Legislature for action. We have eight hearings scheduled around the State. Today in Camden is our third hearing. We were at Camden City Hall this afternoon, and we're here at Leaven House this evening.

My name is Donna Ross. I am a member of the Commission. I am representing the Newark Preschool Council, which is a head start organization in Newark, New Jersey. To my right is Margaret Hart, the designee for Assemblyman David Schwartz of Middlesex County, who is also a member of the Commission. To Margaret's right is Joe Ford, representing Bread for the World.

We would like to take testimony this evening from anyone who would like to speak about hunger. Again, one of the formalities we must go through is to tell you that the microphones here are set up for people who would like to speak. Everything is being recorded, to be transcribed and then used in the permanent records of the Commission. If you would like to stand up to give testimony, you may; otherwise, I think we figured that these front seats are certainly close enough to the microphones to pick up testimony. So, people can do what they feel most comfortable with.

Before you speak, please tell us your name, spell your name for the benefit of the record, and give us the name of the organization you represent, or, if you are just representing yourself, please state that also. We do not have a list of people, so we will just take people as they wish to speak. Would anyone like to start off?

**CATHY SUGDEN:** I have a couple of things here. My name is Cathy Sugden. I am a co-coordinator of Leaven House, where you are right now. We serve approximately 125 people a day at the beginning of the month, and we serve about 350 to 375 a day at the end of the month. This clearly shows how food stamps and people's money do not hold out for a month.

We see about 125 to 150 people who are the core group of Leaven House. If we don't see them for a couple of days, we miss them. The other people who come throughout the end of the month are people who are really trying to make it by making their food stamps stretch. I think we provide a service for those people.

We see a lot of men -- black, white, and Hispanic. We see women and children toward the end of the month, and we see many children when there is no school -- Saturdays, Sundays, and other days. We do all of this with volunteers from the neighborhood; we do this without paying any salaries. We do it with donations of food from churches, schools, and individuals. Many of the people you see sitting here are volunteers at Leaven House. We also receive subsidies from the government. Every other month we go to Vineland to pick up cheeses, macaroni, spaghetti, and other things.

Clearly the lack of food, I believe, is not the cause of hunger because there are billions of tons of food sitting in caves in Kansas City. We can put out a call for food at any time and we can get it from all of our supporters. Basically, and as it is stated in "Hunger in America"-- I am going to quote this so that I don't say it incorrectly: "The recent and swift return of hunger to America can be traced, in substantial measure, to the clear and conscious policies of the Federal government." We see it right here in Camden, where people have been cut off from their food stamps. The WIC Program has been cut; school lunches have been cut. So it clearly has a direct relationship.

When talking to some of the people yesterday about this program tonight, basically people would not be here if they had jobs. People don't like walking into a place like Leaven House. We try to do it with as much dignity as we possibly can to hold the place together in some kind of order. There are not that many rules, and people help each other. But people don't like walking into these places. So, I can't believe there is an extreme amount of misuse, or that people just come in for a free meal.

We talked yesterday, too, with a group of people who received food here, who said that if they had jobs, they wouldn't be here. Many people who work in the kitchen are migrant workers, people who did not make enough money during the last picking season to get unemployment this season, through the winter. They are looking forward to the beginning of April, when they will return to the fields to make more money. There are hard-working people here. They want to work. Dignity is part of the rights we owe them.

First of all, I would like to see a temporary measure that would restore the money, or put it back into the programs that are already maintaining people, to help them to get on their feet. We don't help people to get on their feet with these programs the government is giving out.

The other thing is, people need jobs. We have people in high places, people in authority here in Camden, who have not done their jobs to negotiate for jobs for the people in Camden. We have seen 500 jobs go to workers for the prison, and maybe 25 of the workers came from Camden. We have seen jobs go to the people who are working in the transportation terminal downtown in Camden, but the jobs did not go to residents of Camden. We have construction going on in center City; we have construction going on in other parts of the City, but the jobs do not go to City residents. We have people in the Fire Department and the Police Department, and workers in City government, but the jobs in those places are not given to City residents.

I just think we ought to be doing something about jobs.

MS. RUSS: The way we would like to use this time is to give the witnesses a chance to speak, and then, if it is okay, we would like

to have an opportunity to ask questions to follow up on some of the things which are said. Joe?

MR. FORD: I'm thinking.

MS. ROSS: I have several questions; some of them are just to clarify some of the things you said. I am particularly concerned about children. You mentioned in your statement just now that children come in more on weekends or during times when they are out of school, which indicates to me that when they are in school, quite possibly they are eating in school, but when there is no school, they don't eat.

Do you know of children who, because of changes in eligibility for school meals, used to get free meals and are now required to pay? Is that a problem you have experienced?

MS. SUGDEN: I can't document that. We have seen an increase in the number of people who come here to Leaven House. We keep a count of the approximate number of people who come every day on a calendar in the kitchen, and we keep track of that through the year just for our own personal records. Last year we served approximately 48,000 meals. That was 1983. In 1984, we served 65,000 meals. So there was almost a 20,000-meal increase. Many of the people served were children. Who they were, I don't know, but that increase was there.

I work in a day-care center in South Camden on a part-time basis. In keeping track of all the State records you need to keep track of for food eligibility, and whether they are paid in part, in full, or are free, these meals have increased because of the changes in the legislation. That's Camden. I mean, I know that.

MS. ROSS: Which part of it has increased, the number of children who are no longer considered eligible for free lunches?

MS. SUGDEN: For free, yes.

MS. ROSS: Do you know whether or not breakfast is available to Camden City school children?

MS. SUGDEN: Yes, it is, but who gets it and who pays for it are different. It is available. There is cereal--

MS. ROSS: Okay.

MR. FORD: In New Brunswick last week, someone testified that social workers are now allowed to take up to 31 days -- I think that was the figure--

MS. ROSS: Thirty days.

MR. FORD: Thirty days to do the paperwork for people in need of emergency food.

MS. ROSS: Emergency food stamps.

MR. FORD: Emergency food stamps; I'm sorry. Have you had that experience locally, where social workers, those in responsibility, are just sitting on the paperwork? If so, what has been your approach? How have you tried to deal with it?

MS. SUGDEN: With the time lapse between getting--

MR. FORD: Yes. If someone is hungry today and is told to get emergency food stamps, they have to wait up to 30 days.

MS. SUGDEN: That has been great. We experience that all the time. People come in and say, "I didn't get my food stamps this month." There was terrific confusion over the March food stamps. A lot of people did not get them. We saw hardly any kind of a drop in the number of people who came at the end of February and the beginning of March.

Basically, they go up to 808 Market Street. We just make sure that people know where all of the resources are and where they can get bags of food. We just make sure that people know they can get help at a time like that. That has been a big thing. They said it was a computer mistake.

MS. ROSS: I think someone alluded to that at our hearing this afternoon.

MS. SUGDEN: Basically we just make sure that people know. We have a list of where all the feeding agencies are, where they can get meals.

MR. FORD: Are you associated -- formally or informally connected with other organizations similar to Leaven House?

MS. SUGDEN: Yes. Leaven House is connected with the Religious Food Coalition, which grew out of coordinating the feeding operations in the City. There are 11 places, and three on-site feeding

places. (Much of what Ms. Sugden was saying was lost to the transcriber. Apparently she was standing away from the microphone; she could have been picked up much more clearly if she had been sitting directly in front of a microphone.)

The Religious Food Coalition met frequently the first couple of years it was together, but now it meets occasionally, every third month or something like that. It is not as heavy because we actually understand how people are working. We are affiliated with them, but no church organization specifically.

MS. ROSS: I have one more question. You mentioned that some of the people who volunteer here or who come here -- when they are working, they are working as migrant farm laborers.

MS. SUGDEN: Many.

MS. ROSS: Okay. Do you know whether or not they have any particular problems with food stamps or WIC because of their status as migrant workers? Are they experiencing any particular problems because of the nature of their work?

MS. SUGDEN: There are about four or five guys who have been here pretty steadily for the past three months. They help us in the kitchen. They are on municipal welfare; they have been able to hook up with that.

MS. ROSS: Okay. Thank you.

Would anyone else like to speak?

FATHER JESUS CALVO: My name is Jesus Calvo. I am from Spain. I was born there and lived there for 22 years. Afterward, I was in India for 30 years. I came here to the States in 1981. I spent one year in Philadelphia, and then I came here to Holy Name Parish in North Camden, where I have lived for two years.

I work in Catholic missions. I work mostly with the Hispanics of the locality.

MR. FORD: Pardon me, Father, would you please spell your last name?

FATHER CALVO: C-A-L-V-O. By the way, you don't know the meaning. It means bullheaded. (laughter) It fits very well too.

I have been working especially during the last two years with Hispanics. Some people have been here for many years. It is not a late wave of people who have just come here. However, some people are coming regularly from Puerto Rico and from other places. Most of the people would like to work. They come here to find work. Oftentimes, they do not find work -- maybe because they are latecomers, maybe because they do not know English well, maybe because there is some kind of discrimination. They speak Spanish; therefore, get out. It happens this way in some places.

They would like to get jobs because charity, to ask for food, is something shameful. I think with the Hispanic community, there is a little pride, too. Sometimes you imagine that Hispanics are people without pride. They ask for anything. But we do have pride, and we don't like to beg at all. There are people who would like to be doing much better, doing good work, doing a job, so they would be able to feed themselves.

Now, is there a toilet in the place? No one likes that, to begin with. The poverty of India is quite different from the poverty we have here. There is definitely much need. People who work day by day would like to help. They would like to help us to live a decent life like a decent human being.

Some people find problems with clothing; some people find problems with food and eating; many find problems in getting a decent house. I have visited about 550 homes here in the last two years. I spent approximately a half an hour to an hour with each family. You can see that they are in much need of many things. There is never much furniture in the homes.

So, there is a need for food; there is a need for housing; sometimes there is a need for clothing. Many people would like to help. I don't think that is simply to show that they think they are different. There is a large amount of agencies which provide these needs. There are food stamps; there is unemployment. A lot of people do get money at the beginning of the month if they had been employed. Then there is welfare for the ladies with many children. So there is much help.

But it is not enough. Many times it happens that by the middle of the month and the end of the month, they do not have enough food. Some places serve lunch and dinner, and people go there. There are also some private institutions -- churches and so on -- that give some kinds of baskets of food to people in need. But I think there is still much need for food, housing, and clothing.

MS. ROSS: Thank you. Does anyone have any questions?

MS. HART: I have a question. You say that no one dies of hunger, but do you see many newborn babies who maybe are sickly because they are born not weighing enough, or, you know, they are not getting the right nutrition while the mother is pregnant? Do you see that personally?

FATHER CALVO: I am already biased because I have seen much worse things than I see here. I have never seen a child who is not eating.

MS. HART: Yes. You're comparing the United States to India, but--

FATHER CALVO: As I said, I am a little bit biased because I have seen much worse. I know many families, some young mothers, who would like to feed their children a little bit better than they do, definitely. There are a couple of them who come to our place to get some kind of food. They come mostly to get something for their babies.

So, there are definitely some families -- a few ladies -- who would like to feed their children much better.

MS. HART: But, do you see sick children, or children who, maybe after they are born, may have to stay in the hospital longer than usual because they were born so small?

FATHER CALVO: Usually, I do not see that, and I also visit hospitals. Some children are born physically handicapped, but you cannot help it, no? On account of a lack of nutrition, no, that I do not see.

MS. ROSS: Joe?

MR. FURD: No, thank you.

MS. ROSS: Okay. Thank you. Would anyone else like to speak?

**MARGARET HERZ-LANE:** My name is Margaret Herz-Lane. I am Associate Pastor at the Camden Lutheran Parish.

There are a couple of areas which come to my mind when I think about hunger. The people who spoke before mentioned that one is what happens in the middle of the month when people start to run out of food. We in the church office see a lot of people coming to the door asking for food. In some cases maybe it is the same two or three people, who we know by the seventeenth or the twentieth of the month will be around asking for food. We sort of have a regular pattern of giving. In our case we can give them a letter and send them to the Good Samaritan.

Then there are the families who show up on the weekends, some of whom we have never seen. They come to the door of the pastor's house because they know the pastor lives in the neighborhood. That happens. Usually it is always at the end of the month. It is very seldom that we see anyone asking for food before the fifteenth of the month.

Another thing I have experienced, which you mentioned, is the problem of getting food stamps when there is a problem at the Welfare Department. One of the families in our parish recently went through that. They went to the welfare office repeatedly, where they were told, "Yes, the paperwork is being done, but you will just have to wait." They went for about a month and a half, and at that point they were out of food. There were several children in the family. Their bills were backing up because the money which they would have normally spent to pay the rent, the heat, and the electric, was now being spent on food. By the end of the period -- I think it was almost two months -- they were in very bad shape financially. It was all because of some bureaucratic problem with the food stamps.

People live on a shoestring in this community. They don't have the reserves, as in some communities, to sustain themselves. In some cases, even a week is a problem.

The third area I get really frustrated with is the fact that in the whole City of Camden there is only one supermarket. We only have a Pathmark, which is on the edge of the City. It is not very

accessible to people in any other section of the City. The majority of the people in Camden do not have cars. Bus transportation is mediocre, I would say, and cabs are expensive. So people car pool and everything else toward the beginning of the month so maybe they can all get there to buy food. But toward the middle and the end, when they don't have the extra money to pool their resources, they are stuck with going to the corner store, and that is where the prices are the highest.

I remember last year, one of the Senators or representatives in Washington took food stamps and went shopping. It made me so angry. I would like to see him take the same amount of money and try to shop in any of the local stores, and see how much food he would really have at the end of the month, not to mention the quality of the food -- the cuts of meat, the quality of the vegetables, and the quality of the fresh fruit you buy.

When I go to a grocery store in Cherry Hill, when I just walk into the grocery store and see the difference in what the food looks like, and then the lower prices, it makes me angry. That may not have anything to do with people starving, but it certainly has to do with the morality, that people like that Senator--

MS. HART: I think that was the Secretary of Agriculture, or someone like that, because he was trying to prove that people could live on a certain amount of money.

MS. HERZ-LANE: I have some real questions about the quality of the food. The quality of the food you eat has as much to say about your health as anything does. It's a challenge. I would challenge him, if it were possible, to come here to shop. I would like to see how well he could do.

MS. SUGDEN (from audience): And do it for more than a week.

MS. HART: Do you find that the prices are higher at the one food store in town at the beginning of the month than they are at the end of the month?

MS. HERZ-LANE: My confirmation class, 13, 14, and 15-year-olds know that that is true.

MS. HART: I had another question, but I don't remember what it was.

MS. RUSS: Okay.

MS. HART: Do you feel that the City is responding -- the local government -- in any way? Have they even noticed?

MS. HERZ-LANE: Well, I understand there is going to be a new grocery store in town. Someone told me that last week. But I don't know that they made any big effort to keep the Acme in the City. It closed last year -- I think a year and a half ago. I did not see any evidence on the part of City government that they were really pushing hard to get another grocery store in the City. They are gentrifying the City. The gentry is going to have nice croissant shops and tea shops, and the rest of us won't have groceries. I have not seen them making any effort in that way.

MS. ROSS: So, up until last year there were two grocery stores in the City?

MS. HERZ-LANE: Could someone tell me when the Acme closed?

MS. SUGDEN: April, 1983.

MS. ROSS: I guess what I am trying to determine is, were there many grocery stores and now there is just one?

MS. HERZ-LANE: When I came to Camden -- July, 1981 -- there were three grocery stores. Since then there have only been one or two.

MS. ROSS: Thank you. This is a problem we have run across in other places as well. If people are using bus transportation or a taxi -- if they are the only available means of transportation -- how much would you say they're paying to get to the store and to get back home?

MS. HERZ-LANE: Well, from North Camden, I think it would be at least \$5.00 to get to the store.

FROM AUDIENCE: Ten bucks.

MS. ROSS: One way?

FROM AUDIENCE: From a person's home to the store, the taxi waiting for you, and then coming back -- \$10.00. Now, that is the lowest amount.

MS. ROSS: Okay.

MS. HERZ-LANE: So, by the middle of the month it would be especially difficult to do that. What people do is run up a tab at a store which will give them credit. Then at the beginning of the month

they pay that off, and they are behind the eightball again before they get started.

MS. RUSS: Joe?

MR. FORD: Do you know of any efforts the Lutheran Church is making -- since you are an Associate Pastor of a Lutheran Church -- in terms of connections or associations with suburban Lutheran parishes to deal with this problem?

MS. HERZ-LANE: Of hunger specifically in Camden?

MR. FORD: Yes. It seems to me that all of the churches put together in Center City Camden cannot solve the problem; I mean, as churches per se. But churches have business people in their congregations; they have legislators; they have lawyers and doctors. It seems to me that-- It's an open question in terms of what kind of networking you're doing to bring about some pressures to alleviate, or to address some of the problems you've raised.

MS. HERZ-LANE: Well, I think in terms of out and out charity, the Lutheran congregations, and many of the different denominations, have been very good about bringing food and donating money.

MR. FORD: I wasn't talking about that.

MS. HERZ-LANE: Charity is something people think they should do.

MR. FORD: Yes.

MS. HERZ-LANE: Advocacy, on the other hand, is something people are just beginning to understand. The Lutheran Church in America, the last three to five years, has been much better about trying to help its members understand what it means to be an advocate, rather than a person giving charity. But it's a struggle because people do not always understand that that is the proper role of the Church. They feel very comfortable with giving a can of beans and some money, or taking care of someone who is down and out. But they are not very good at understanding how systems keep people abreast. They are not really sure whether or not their church should do that. As I said, it is a slow process. The pastors I work with understand that, and they are struggling with their congregations. Pastors are often a little bit ahead of the people in the--

MR. FORD: Would you take the same position that Cathy did in terms of saying that jobs are needed?

MS. HERZ-LANE: Oh, yes. Sometimes I hate walking around the neighborhood because people ask me if I know where they can find a job. I don't have any more access to employment than anyone else does. But, that is what people want. If you look at this community, there are all kinds of jobs that could be created just to rebuild the community, but someone has to invest some money here so we can do that. What jobs have come into the community have not gone to the people who live here.

Job training could have been given to people working on the prison, so that when the transportation center was built, there could have been people who already knew how to lay bricks or do concrete work, or something. But there was an effort by the powers that be -- those in City Hall and others -- to see that that didn't happen. You know, labor unions were involved. It's a vicious cycle. We cannot force the unions; union members have to work. It goes round and round.

MR. FORD: Okay, thank you.

MS. ROSS: Thank you. May we have Mance Moore, please?

**MANCE MOORE:** My name is Mance Moore. All of the things that have been said before are quite true. The situation is just about as they claimed. Mostly, people dwell on families and kids, which is very important. But there is a part of Camden's population which people do not realize is hungry. That population is single persons. The single person really catches it here because you are looking at an allotment of \$127.00 in money, and \$79.00 in food stamps.

I'm 28. Take the average male of 25, right? He is paying at least \$100.00 in rent. That leaves him \$27.00. As has been said, you never quite catch up with your bills from last month. So let's say you owe-- Maybe you borrowed \$10.00 or \$12.00, so now that leaves you \$13.00. Then you have your food stamps. What you are going to do is, you are going to try to go to the store, and it is interesting that you asked about that. It seems that at the first of the month, the same can of Franco-American spaghetti sauce -- which is usually \$.69 -- is suddenly \$.98 in your neighborhood store. As was said, you have probably run up a tab, so that is half of your food stamps right there.

What happens is, a person is going to try to spend where they can get change from the food stamps to take care of whatever their needs are; for instance, cigarettes, if they smoke, or whatever -- what we call the basic necessities of life.

So now you are up to the sixteenth or the seventeenth of the month. What happens then-- I should have said this in the beginning. If it weren't for organizations like Leaven House, Good Samaritan, and other places which have food lines, or soup lines, or whatever they are called, this City would really be in trouble. If the funds or the appropriations for these particular places were to be cut or slashed, you would really have a problem.

As I was saying, you are now up to the sixteenth or the seventeenth of the month. There are a lot of single people who are eating at these organizations. The lines are starting to get longer and the demands for food are increasing, and some of these places run out of food. It is the single person who is really catching more of the brunt of this situation. As was said before, it would break the cycle if, in some way, the money that is being spent to feed the hungry could be diverted to programs to aid unemployment. If people were employed, you wouldn't have the problem of hunger in Camden. I am just going to deal with Camden.

The brunt of the problem is, if a person has a job, he won't be hungry. If he has the money, he will eat. The core of the whole problem in Camden is the fact that you have a structure that almost overnight could be turned into a flourishing City, if funds were allowed for it. But for some reason or another, it seems that funds are eked out. They have a \$125 million project. They have three projects, but their most recent project is \$125 million; that is the transportation center. Most of the people working on the transportation center are from Vineland, Princeton-- I know a guy -- and this I know personally -- who said he has to drive 45 minutes to get to work. He lives in New Jersey, so you know he must live on the other side of the State. He lives in North Jersey and he comes to South Jersey to work. We're talking about \$125 million.

There is an affirmative action clause which says that 40% of the workers are supposed to be Camden residents, and 20% are supposed to be minorities. I don't see where any of these people, especially Camden residents, are getting what they are supposed to be getting.

MS. RUSS: Was there any effort made to employ Camden people, or are you saying there was no effort made at all?

MR. MOORE: Actually, at this stage of the project-- What they are saying now is, "We are just getting started. As things go on, we are going to start employing more people." This is true. In any construction project, you have a point where there are not as many people being used; that is, at the beginning. But as the foundations are dug -- and they are being dug now -- and they arrive at a point where they are going to start pouring concrete and building up, they say they have a list. But, are the people on the list actually going to be used, or is it going to be just like the prison, where they brought in people from Bridgeton? There are quite a few Camden residents, and the ones they do use, they shuffle around. One time at the prison they were using Local 222. They they decided they didn't want to use Local 222, and they went to nonunion labor. All the nonunion labor was out of Camden.

Out and out, they just don't want to hire anyone from Camden. I have my own views on why, but it just surprises me that any City with the vacant housing we have-- I'm talking about the abandoned buildings that are City property. I can't understand why they don't have a program of rehabilitation that would simply break the back of this cycle we have of being poor. The feeling is, "If you will give me a job, I'll work." But there are no jobs. We are really very limited in what we can do.

MS. RUSS: Are there any questions?

MR. FURD: I would just like to say thank you for presenting a whole picture of what is happening here. What you're saying, Mance, is the same thing we heard in New Brunswick. I was not at the hearing in Atlantic City, but I would venture to say that there was similar testimony there. As Donna said, although this Commission is only empowered to receive testimony, nevertheless, we are going to present

our findings, with some recommendations, to the Governor and the Legislature in January, 1986. So all of this is important, and we thank you for your contribution.

MS. RUSS: I would like you to clarify one thing so that I can get a better picture. You said the word is that later on in these projects, people will be taken from a list. They're saying people will be taken from a list for jobs. How was this list compiled? Did people apply for jobs? Is that how this list came about?

MR. MOORE: Well, the list is being compiled by a gentleman named Field. Mr. Field has taken people with construction skills. Now this is the quote, unquote statement he is putting out. He has compiled a list of people with construction skills. He tests them and places their names on the list, so when these people are needed, they will be called upon.

If you will allow me to give you my own opinion, I think that is a bunch of crap. What is going to happen is, the project is going to come about, and there are going to be just enough people hired to keep the affirmative action people off their backs. It is going to keep on rolling with people from Bridgeton, Vineland, etc.

FROM AUDIENCE: Anyone out of the City.

MR. MOORE: Yes. We have a (Name of program inaudible; witness not sitting in front of microphone.) program right here. I have a young nephew who is a carpenter who works on this program. It took my nephew a year before he was even placed on the list. I believe, because we weren't too political then, but going to meetings, his name started to crop up more and more. Then suddenly, one day a letter came and he got a job. We had taken a group of him and his friends down a year and a half ago, and he is the only one who has been hired. He was hired -- I believe he is still working, although I haven't seen him for about a month -- to do the ventilation work right over here on State Street. He was the carpenter on that.

The point is, we could take some of the money they're using -- because I'm sure it is a Federal subsidy coming down -- and put it into a job program. Again, then you wouldn't have to worry about hunger. If a person works, it's on him whether or not he wants to

eat. I'm quite sure no one is going to starve to death with money in his pocket. If he does, it's on him.

MS. HERZ-LANE: Since this is informal, may I add something?

MS. RUSS: Yes, feel free.

MS. HERZ-LANE: I just want to pick up on what this man said because it is really important. This is an example of how even pouring money into the problem doesn't always work. When the State of New Jersey decided to put the prison in this very neighborhood -- the medium security prison now under construction -- people from this neighborhood advocated very strongly, and the State of New Jersey allocated one-half of 1% for a training program, which I think they are supposed to do under the law, for this \$30 million project. About a year to a year and a half ago, that program was started. There was a person hired to take people's names and to compile the list that that man is talking about.

People, by the hundreds I would think, went to this person, signed up, and got on that list. I know there were dozens of people over there. Eventually, that project just plain old fell apart and, long after the fact, we found out that not a single name put on that list ever ended up with the people who were building the prison. So the money was just utterly wasted. It is an interesting aside that the person who was then in charge of that project has now been hired to do the same thing for the transportation terminal, also under construction in Camden now. That tells you something about the kind of thing that is going on.

MS. SUGDEN: He is making \$65,000.

MS. HERZ-LANE: That's right; thank you.

MR. MOORE: It's not the money. If you spend \$3 million for a program, \$2-1/2 million of it goes toward administrative costs, and there is only \$500,000 to put people to work. Then you say, "Well, this program didn't work." I guess it didn't work, because you have administrators. You're not supposed to be training administrators; you are supposed to be training bricklayers.

What they have to do is lay down a system which says we are going to train "X" number of carpenters, "X" number of bricklayers, "X"

number of laborers, "X" number of this, and "X" number of that. Watch and see. If they come down with some real money and a real program -- like the sign says on Broadway -- "Camden Is Coming Back to Life." Camden will be alive.

I hear people say, "This City used to be bustling." This is what I hear all the time.

MS. ROSS: Okay; thank you.

MR. FURD: Very quickly, I would like to follow up on what Wolfgang said, with a brief question. What did you try to do about that, Wolfgang, if anything? When you found out that not one single person whose name appeared on the list was hired, did you take any steps to address the problem?

MR. HERZ-LANE: Obviously, at that point, for that particular project, it was too late. There was something going on in terms of not having that same person rehired for the transportation terminal. Cathy, can you tell us something about that?

MS. SUGDEN: Yes.

MR. HERZ-LANE: You know more about that than I do.

MS. SUGDEN: But, to top that, we took 25 men ready for work, and 60 other people to support them, down to the prison site to shut down the whole works. No one showed up from any press. The word never got out that we stopped the construction of the prison for a day. That was one thing that happened.

Then, on top of that, a new group of people sits on the Affirmative Action Committee of the City -- Bill Tucker, Sam Apple -- and they lobbied hard that Ken Peele would not get this job on the transportation terminal. But because Pat Darden, who was then Director of Community Development in the City -- this is a game which goes on -- was the one who brought Ken Peele into the prison job, she was the one who had the say in making sure he got the transportation job. He had a \$17,000 salary because it was only considered part-time at the prison. It was only a limited amount of time -- I think it was three months or six months of work. This is a full-time job, a year thing, and he gets \$67,000. He is from Trenton. Other people applied for the job, but he is the one who got it.

MS. ROSS: Thank you.

FATHER CALVO: It is the fault of the contractors; it is the fault, also, of the City authorities. The contractors, if they are being told, "I want a job"-- Obviously, a contractor is accustomed to his own men, so he uses people from his own place. He does not bother in the least about the people of the locality. He is not interested. He knows the men under him. It is the fault of the contractors, definitely, but it is largely the fault of the City authorities. They should dictate some kind of a percentage. Okay, you are a contractor; you are given the job, but 20%, 30%, or 40% of the people must be from the locality. I don't think there is anyone enforcing that particular idea.

MR. MOORE: Excuse me. There is a clause already. There is a clause in the contract which says that 40% of the workers on the transportation center have to be Camden residents. Twenty percent are minorities. I might have it switched around, but I know it is 40 and 20.

Right now all they have is power equipment in there to work on the foundation. But in four or five months, when the money starts to come down, they are going to need plumbers, the people who put in the heating ducts, the people who pour the concrete, people to mix concrete, people to load and unload, people who weld, and people like bricklayers and bricklayers' assistants.

I guarantee you, if you push this, you are going to find people from Princeton working. You are going to find college students working. I don't have anything against anyone working, but I don't quite see how a college student can go to school for nine months, come to live in Vineland, go to Glassboro State, and come all the way to Camden and get a job for three months, when you have someone who is willing to work for 12 months out of the year. You can work in construction -- with the modern technology of the Space Program -- for 12 months out of the year. You have people who are willing to work 12 months out of the year.

I heard that this program is called the "24-7," three shifts seven days a week. I believe they want it finished by 1966. You have people out there who would love to work. Camden does not have to have

anyone unemployed just with this one project. There are only 88,000 people in the City of Camden, and I am quite sure about 25,000 or 30,000 of them are unemployed. Just this one project could bring Camden back if they decided to use people from the City of Camden.

It is my belief that the people will be people from Bridgeton and Vineland. I am not downing anyone, but why import people to work, when you have unemployed people right here?

MS. RUSS: Thank you. We have someone waiting here. Before you begin, a lot of people have come in since we began, and I would like to reintroduce the members of the panel to those people.

This is a hearing before the New Jersey Commission on Hunger. We have been appointed by Governor Kean and the Legislature. My name is Donna Ross; I am a member of the Commission. I work with a head start program in Newark. To my right is Margaret Hart, who is representing Assemblyman David Schwartz. To her right is Joe Ford, who is representing Bread for the World. Mr. Ford is also a member of the Commission on Hunger.

We are asking people to give their names, spell their names for the benefit of the ladies recording the hearing, and then begin.

**RONALD TALBERT:** My name is Ronald Talbert. I am an ex-Vista volunteer. I came here in 1965. I am a fiberglassman. I worked helping a lot of people to get started in the positions they are in now. Then they all forgot about the community completely.

I left here, and came back in 1976. I, myself, haven't had a job since I came back. No one knows me anymore. But just looking around at the different projects and everything in this City, there are over 1,000 jobs where they could hire people in the City, but they don't. As long as they can keep a problem, they can write up a program. The situation does not have to change. They've suckered so many of the people in working with the voters. It happens every year. They promise them a job, and as soon as they get through the election, they don't have anything else to do with them.

They hire us to clean up the neighborhood every time, but that is not our job. We get nothing. Even the schools now are not State-approved. The kids who are graduating from high school now, this

year -- no college has to accept them because the schools have not been approved. The Mayor allows anyone to come in and say, "Camden is a City of welfare bums." I forget what else was said. But they refuse to hire people in this City. For what reason, I don't know. We have generations in the City. Camden is unique among a lot of cities because it is not like the kids here drop out of school and don't get a high school education. There are college people in this City on welfare, not because they're nasty, not because they won't work, but just because--

I don't know why they do it. When the Mayor got in, he said that all of the jobs were going to be for the people in the City. Check City Hall or any of these places; most of the people who work downtown here in the City do not live in Camden. Even the President of the City Council lives down by Atlantic City. He closes meetings in order to get out of here on time.

If they took the projects here-- At one time you might have said that people were just nasty and would tear up. Ukey? You can make a visit to any one of these projects-- If you go into some of these houses, the mommas keep them straightened up to snuff.

FROM AUDIENCE: Thank you.

MR. TALBERT: I mean, they have them decked out to a "T." But they don't get any services whatsoever. We don't have a full janitorial crew on any of these projects. If the City just made whoever is running the Housing Authority hire a complete staff, do you realize they could take 90 to 100 people or so off the street? They don't get the grass cut; the bushes don't get trimmed; the garbage doesn't get straightened up enough, or anything. All of these things could mean jobs, but they refuse to hire people on.

We don't have gangs in this City. I mean, you have a little robbing, as you know, in any city. I am not saying Camden is pure or anything, but they are forcing a type of situation in this City by refusing to hire people in the City. They don't even want to take care of your house.

I own my house here now. Do you know it's a law that we can't even get a second mortgage on our house? No bank will give you a

mortgage on any of your property in this City. It's a black market, even from Philly. In Philly, you used to be able to get a second mortgage, but the word is out that you do not give mortgages in Camden. So, we can't win in any way, shape, or fashion. And they will take our property and put us out if we get a little behind in our taxes. The businesses downtown don't pay taxes worth a damn.

There is a man who owns a big record shop in a little shopping area. Check it out. He isn't paying any taxes on it. They're buying it all. They just put some dust boards up and put in a little crappy business, but they don't last long.

FROM AUDIENCE: And he's not even a City resident.

MR. TALBERT: You know, I think I have come up with a solution on how to deal with it. I know how to deal with it now because I have worked here and I have seen where we have made our mistakes. The thing for us to do now is to begin to pool our forces and hurt them where it will hurt them the most. Right now they are taking our money illegally. We're paying taxes illegally as far as them taking our school taxes. All we are doing is paying someone's salary. You have more teachers in that school than-- I went on a bus trip with them, and I was never so embarrassed in my life. I hang with some dirty guys, but none of these guys have ever talked or acted the way those teachers acted. These are the people who are teaching our children.

FROM AUDIENCE: They're not educated themselves.

MR. TALBERT: They're all Caucasians. If they aren't taking dope, they have little girls on there who they are getting pregnant. The reason there is no responsibility there is because the teacher, if he can't do it to one little girl-- He can't call the momma up because he is afraid that child might tell a little bit more than what he wants her to tell. It's a game because the population now is almost all young adults, who are not politically oriented in any manner. They breed off of that.

The people who have worked in this City and have tried to get things going are getting frustrated because they are being tricked, tricked, tricked every time. The only way we can begin to hurt them is to live with the law within ourselves.

MS. ROSS: Your message is coming in loud and clear. I think what you and the people who spoke before you have said is that while the problems of food and hunger are problems in Camden, the real source of the problem is the lack of jobs.

MR. TALBERT: In order for people to get blankets in the wintertime-- Do you know the requirements to get blankets? They have to be without heat and have unpaid bills. Now, what is that to tell a young girl who goes there? They're saying, "If you don't pay your bills, I'll give you a blanket." They weren't giving them blankets for all of the kids. It was one blanket to a family. So you're breeding the type of thing you want. Until the leadership has been attacked and we get new people in here who have not made fools of all of the people, we won't go anywhere. Unless we pull back our forces-- When I say, "Pull back our forces," I mean everyone should take their kids out of these schools. If you close these schools down for two weeks, they won't get their Federal money.

FROM AUDIENCE: That's right.

MS. ROSS: Are you organizing this kind of stuff now?

MR. TALBERT: Yes, that is my next step right now. I am going to have a meeting on April 15 for all of the community organizations in the City. We are going to try to form a strong party among all of us to get off of their problems and start to organize our beat.

FROM AUDIENCE: The warm weather is coming now. We can stay--

MR. TALBERT: We are going to close down everything in this City, starting this spring. We are going to hit them where it hurts. We are going to tell the Housing Authority-- We are going to start with the houses in the community. They're empty and they can be lived in. Some have absentee landlords who live outside of the City; we can't get to them. The houses which are liveable-- I have already contacted two -- what do you call the guys who do the rehabilitation work on houses? -- contractors. They said they would be willing to help us to bring the houses up to standard so people can live in them. So we are going to start doing it on our own because we are not getting

anywhere. We figure if we take the houses over and drop the rent on them to where the people-- Right now, rent is higher than any salary you can get in the City. So if we drop the rent down to the people's level, we can make it. So we are going to take the houses, and instead of going under a Federal program, we are going to fix them up and move families in. They might pay maybe \$165.00 for a three-bedroom house. Instead of that rent going to someone's bank, it will go into another house. And we will keep on until we build up our own community.

The Housing Authority will not get any money until they hire a certain amount of people out of the projects to work. These are the tactics that have to be taken. It doesn't make sense to go up to City Hall because they won't come. Or if they do come, they bring the police. They cannot stop people from doing anything. All we have to do is nothing, and that is what we are going to do. We are going to pull all of our people out of everything and tell them to do nothing, because we aren't getting anything.

MS. RUSS: Thank you.

MR. MOORE: To clarify the situation, I was up at City Hall three days ago checking on 1455 South Broadway. This was a property sold by the City of Camden in 1983. If you go up and look at 1455 South Broadway -- for people who know Camden, it's right across from the chicken factory -- it is abandoned. It has been abandoned since the City of Camden sold it at auction. There is usually a stipulation -- I don't know how it was in 1983 -- that the property sold at auction has to be renovated in a year's time. Now we're in 1985, and I believe it was sold two years ago either this month or next month. I am wondering how we can have builders like this. This house belongs to a corporation, so you know what they are doing with it. They are writing it off on their taxes, saying, "This property has not shown a profit." This is how that goes.

I'm wondering why these people are allowed to let buildings sit like this. It's a small place. Probably someone could get it for \$500.00. I think it went for \$500.00 at auction the first time. With a few more dollars, they could make a little store or something out of it, and it could turn a profit because there is a factory, right across the street which runs with three shifts.

Now, these are the little things that are happening around the City that I can't understand myself. If you are trying to bring the City back, and you are trying to improve your tax base, why are you allowing these things to happen?

MR. TALBERT: Just one thing. I can't understand this because I heard something at a meeting the other night. There's Whitman Park, where the kids can play. Some guy leased it from the City in 1960-something. He doesn't even live here, but he rents it from the City for one dollar, and the kids are not allowed to play in the park. He still leases the park, but he doesn't live here anymore. He lives down by the ocean. However, he has the say about what goes on in that park and what does not go on in that park. There are people over there who have formed community groups, and the kids want to start a baseball league. But they are not allowed to use the park because he has sent the word that they cannot use the park. You tell me how a man can do that.

You tell me how a City can have parking meters, and someone who doesn't even live here, someone who lives in Philadelphia, can come over here and collect the money. The money doesn't come to the City. The only money the City gets is when someone writes a ticket. All of the money from the parking meters goes to someone who lives elsewhere. I just don't understand that, and then you tell me that I'm dumb, stupid, and ignorant. You tell me that none of my kids want to do anything. You won't give them a place to live.

I don't know how the Federal government-- I think one of our biggest problems is that we haven't been able to bring someone here to really help us out. We too often go straight to City Hall, and City Hall is as nothing as far as the people go. Look at a City this small, look at what it has in it, and look how it looks. You have some educated folks here. You don't have a lot of dropouts; they go to school just to get the money. You have mamma in school; you have grandmamma in school; daddy and everybody in school. You can't say that the kids haven't been to school. They are in school. We do have high school and college graduates. Check it out and you'll find that the people in Camden are not dummies.

Why won't the City-- The Mayor was going to bring the City up, but he takes everything he wants to have in this City out to Cherry Hill. How are you going to bring Camden back if you are the Mayor-- Do you mean to tell me that out of all the people we have in this City that he can't have any kind of a social in this City--

FROM AUDIENCE: Nothing.

MR. TALBERT: --no kind of fund-raising in this City? Now if you are afraid to bring people into this City, what the heck is everyone else going to do?

FROM AUDIENCE: We can't get a sports complex. We have to go all the way to the Meadowlands for a basketball game. It's the truth.

MS. ROSS: Thank you. Let me just make one statement, and then we will hear from our next speaker.

I think everything that has been said tonight has been very important. The thing I am struggling with now is, we have a mission, so to speak, a mandate for this Commission. Part of that mandate is to bring recommendations for dealing with the problems of food and hunger back to the Legislature. I think what you have been talking about is very much related to those problems, but because there has been so much participation tonight, I, for one, and I think the other Commission members will agree with me, would like to come out of this hearing with some ideas and thoughts on recommendations that could be made--

MR. TALBERT: To help hunger.

MS. ROSS: I would like to hear what this group would recommend to deal with the problems of food and hunger. I know they are related. That message is coming through loud and clear. I see the relationships between everything you have been talking about, but please understand the dilemma we have, in that our remarks must be focused on this particular issue.

MR. TALBERT: Okay, but if you are talking about doing something about giving food away in this City or helping the people in this City, don't go to City Hall. Okay? Go to the community and the neighborhoods which set up the little--

MS. ROSS: Thank you.

MR. FORD: There is a gentleman down there waiting to testify.

MS. ROSS: I'm sorry. Let's hear from the people who haven't spoken yet. Then, as time allows, we will--

Will you please come up? (addressing next witness) I know you have been waiting for a long time. I'm sorry I don't know people's names. We will come back to the rest of you; just hold your thoughts.

**RICHARD PATTERSON:** My name is Richard Patterson. I am an intern for the Camden Lutheran Parish. My observations and what I would like to share with you are based on my having been here since September, 1984. Part of this is observation and reflection, having come from a middle-class background and realizing a lot of the prejudices my parents had of the inner city and the poor, and what has been my experience here, what I have seen here, and comparing those two.

One of the things I keep thinking about is trying to name what is going on. You know, is there a pattern to a lot of the problems we have? One of the things I think on that is-- I can't find a name for it yet, but it is like a partite. There is an in group and an out group. The out group is everyone in the City of Camden; the in group is anyone from the suburbs who the City wants to attract for some reason. It is not only the City government, it's the people who hire and who create the jobs. Even private businesses -- all of their policies are directed toward going out of the City. In a sense, they are emptying the City of any money the City might make on its own. They empty the City of any job possibilities; everything goes to the suburbs.

It was very interesting for me coming here. Camden is the County seat; at least that is what I was told. But it is very interesting that Motor Vehicle and other departments which you would expect to be right downtown -- that is what you would expect in a normal city -- are more and more going out to the suburbs. Even the people in the City, in the County seat, have to go to the suburbs to get a driver's license. That is not in one localized area. There are, I don't know, how many places you have to go. You have to go to this building for this and that building for that. It's fine for people who have cars and who live in the suburbs, it's closer to them, but what about the people here? I was told that is because people from the

outside are afraid to come into Camden. Does that make sense? Instead of improving the City, they're just dumping it.

I thought, in terms of the tax structure, where is the accountability? They want all the services of the City, but they don't pay for them. In fact, people try to move outside of the City to avoid that. Isn't that a lot of the problem?

People talk about the fact that the biggest problem is jobs. From my perspective, having seen a big dichotomy between a suburban person's attitudes and an inner City person's attitudes, that still comes across in a condescending way to people here because it says that they are totally dependent, and that is part of the problem. They are made to feel that way. With people who come here, even social help, there is the whole thing of how do you help without making people feel dependent, working for them, instead of working with them. Is that part of the problem?

That condescension transfers even-- I have seen it in the Police Department, in other agencies, and in business, where people are no longer treated as human beings. They are not seen for the values and the talents they have. Anyone not living here can easily say, "Well, those people do not have incentive. They do not work. They are just lazy." But that is because they just pass by in their cars. They are not in the City long enough to see what is going on because they are afraid. Just being here for the short time I have been here, if you put something out-- We put out an old washing machine which we thought was no good. At the church, we have put out broken couches, or this or that, which we felt were no longer useful. Within five minutes -- it's amazing -- someone will come around and say, "May I have this?" They take it and somehow they try to make a buck on it. If that isn't being entrepreneurial, having incentive, and working, I don't know what is. I don't know anyone in business who can work that fast -- you know, in five minutes. That is literally what happened with the washing machine and a couple of other things.

Businesses must be awful stupid not to realize all of the natural talents. They should send a scout in and just watch the talents these people have, which they have either developed on their

own or had help with, maybe with some educational background. You know, it's amazing; it's just waiting here. People are waiting for opportunities.

But to get back to the dichotomy. It's like a partite. I don't know what to call it. It's a different type of oppressive system. Yes, the problem is with jobs, but the other side of that, in terms of justice, is that there are a lot of people who are not doing their jobs, from City government to business in this area, and right on down the line. Where is the accountability? Just being here for a short time, I have seen that there are many different neighborhood organizations which again and again do different types of advocacy and creative complaining, going to meetings again and again, in order to ensure accountability. But still, that is not quite enough.

There are a lot of things that can go on and do go on here from the office of the Mayor on down to business, and there is no way to stop this. There is no way to put an end to this; there is no way to call a person into account to provide the opportunities. That is the justice side.

A suggestion, in terms of structure, is, is there some way the State can work a little more with assuring the accountability of the Federal government? There is funding. What about the mis-allocation of funds, and pointing out that when this money is given-- You know, we have seen money given to housing projects here, but a lot of it is just poor management. It is not that the people who are living in the housing units don't care; the managers are not doing their jobs.

MS. RUSS: Thank you. I want to give the other people who wish to speak a chance, so I would like to move on. Are there any quick questions?

MR. FURD: No, but thank you very much, Mr. Patterson.

MS. RUSS: Thank you.

MS. HART: The picture is getting clearer and clearer.

MS. RUSS: May we have Father William Foley, please?

**FATHER WILLIAM FOLEY:** My name is Father William Foley. I am a Jesuit priest living at Holy Name. My comments are not going to be too

lengthy because I am newly here since October. I came here more to learn by listening this evening because I don't know all about what is going on here.

I am also a pediatrician. I opened an office on State Street in mid-November. From experience, I think I can give some reference to the question that was asked earlier, "Is there hunger and malnutrition?" as I see it as a pediatrician. I have been around Third World countries, mostly in the Caribbean and Central America. It is different here. Here you don't see kwashiorkor and you don't see marasmus, but as a pediatrician I am still seeing babies born SGA -- small for gestational age. I am still seeing babies born prematurely. As you know, these are two conditions that are related to many factors prenatally and educationally, but also, as you know, there is a nutritional component involved in these two entities you see with newborn babies. So, yes, there is evidence here of nutritional problems.

You asked for recommendations. I would make a few strong recommendations and base them on the evidence we see. The evidence we see is SGA -- small for gestational age babies -- and premature babies. We see a need, every day, every month, for the programs which exist, like this very house we are meeting in. This house is needed; this program is needed. We see a need for the WIC Program, and we see a need for the continuation of generous donations; for example, from Mead Johnson, which supplies my office with formula and vitamins, which people can come in for. These items are not being stored there unused. They are needed. That means there is a great need for the programs, based on the evidence I see just in my office.

Now, one strong recommendation I would make is that government agencies certainly avoid what we hear about as imminent; that is, any cutback in program funding or the making available of resources. You are a Commission on Hunger. Several years ago, a statement was made that, "There is no hunger in America." You have to listen, and not respond to that question the way it was responded to in the past. So the first recommendation is that the government avoid any temptation to retract services or funding, because what is here is needed. There is evidence of its need because it is being used.

We see donations of food to the parish house. That food doesn't stay around the house; it's gone. People are coming for it; they need it.

Another recommendation I would make, from my point of view, specifically toward the WIC Program, is that the red tape and the time-lag be reduced as much as possible. Why is it when a young mother gives birth, they give her an appointment for two or three months after the delivery date for the first WIC evaluation? I don't think that is the way the Program should be run. I think the lag time can be reduced quite a bit. That's a bureaucratic question. Again, that is the way some people do their jobs.

I would hate to think about what would happen here in North Camden and other areas of Camden from which people come to my office if there was any lessening of what is available here at the present time. Then I think we would start to see malnutrition in the form of kwashiorkor and in the form of marasmus. I don't think we are far from that. Just because we don't see it -- don't take that as evidence that everything is okay. We see SGA and we see prematurity on a nutritional basis. We see a need for what is here because it is being used.

MR. FORD: Father, pardon me. What is marasmus? I am uninformed.

FATHER FOLEY: It is a form of malnutrition -- severe malnutrition -- of all components, carbohydrate calories, as well as protein, as well as needed fats.

Now, is there hunger here in North Camden? You've heard it from many, many people. There is hunger for jobs. I think that is the entry point into the vicious cycle that has been occurring here.

MS. HART: Do you have any idea of the infant mortality rate in this City, or this area?

FATHER FOLEY: The infant mortality rate is comparable to other areas in the country. As that is measured in Camden, Philadelphia, or New York, centers are reporting that they see a large number of indigent, poverty-based populations. It is around the 9% to 11% quoted nationally.

FROM AUDIENCE: Too many.

FATHER FOLEY: Compare that though to someplace like Cherry Hill, or in my own home state, Massachusetts, Framingham, with a 2% or 3% mortality.

MS. ROSS: Can you tell us anything about the problems related to malnutrition you see in older children? Do you see iron deficiency? Do you see lead poisoning, or that kind of thing?

FATHER FOLEY: Yes. There is a high degree of lead poisoning. You are referring to the relationship between hunger and pica -- looking for other nutritional sources and ingesting lead from different non-food sources because of hunger. There is a good deal of that.

MR. TALBERT: There is a great deal of old folks' disease, and a lot of disease of the young kids, too. When I say "old folks' disease," I'm talking about arthritis and stuff like that. These are because of the cold types of food they eat.

FROM AUDIENCE: Cold types of housing.

MR. TALBERT: Food like they give them in school -- cold, dry sandwiches. You wouldn't eat them yourselves. You should see some of the diets. I don't know what they write up that they get the money with, but it is never what is practiced in the schools in the neighborhood. You should see some of the garbage they want to give these kids, and they bring truckloads of it in.

FATHER FOLEY: One other recommendation I would like to make is, later in time, secondarily, or so forth, what I see or experience or hear about around here is also eating on the basis of what is available, as opposed to what is known from nutritional science to be needed for proper development and growth. In other words, many come by and pick up a bag of groceries. The groceries are assembled in the healthiest manner possible with the idea of a balanced diet. But you know it is not a balanced diet. You see popcorn next to Cracker Jack next to Rice Krispies in the bag. That is what is available and able to be given to people.

So, a recommendation is that the approach be based more on nutritional science, as opposed to what is just available.

MS. ROSS: Okay, thank you. You've been waiting a long time. (addressing next witness)

**VIRGINIA HUNTER:** My name is Virginia Hunter and I am a City resident. I have been a resident of the City of Camden since 1952. I've raised six children, three of whom have completed college, but are not working in the City. They all have degrees. One of them had to go all the way to Atlantic City to find work, which costs more than \$2,300 a year in carfare alone. I have one who had to go back to school to go into nursing in order to get a job.

City Hall is run over with news about people who are leaving the City. I have a girl with a degree, and she said, "Mommy, why do you want us to go to school? You're talking about going to school, but we can't even get a job." The Mayor created jobs last year for the juniors and seniors at Camden High School. The program was called, "The Park Rangers." They had to be trained on the job; they went through a graduation ceremony; they had uniforms; they had the works. There were TV cameras there, but the job didn't last 10 months.

These kids were willing to work. They monitored the parks so that the younger kids and older kids who lived out of the City, and even the children within the City limits couldn't destroy the parks. They were not supposed to apprehend anyone, but if they saw anything out of hand or anyone destroying anything, they had walkie-talkies and could call the City police to tell them to come in.

These were kids who were willing to work for a minimum wage. And the jobs were done away with. One of my daughters worked in the program. She was not a dummy. Out of 1,500 black kids in the State of New Jersey, she was number 12 in the PSAT scores. It's frustrating to me that she can't even get a job in the City. She is attending Rutgers University and she can't even find a part-time job. We have department stores in Cherry Hill; we have little stores in the City. Even a job in City Hall-- There are enough CETA jobs, but some of those people have been on the CETA Program for seven or eight years. It shouldn't last that long. Let's move some of them out of there and give these young kids a chance.

I'm cleaning toilets trying to make ends meet to raise my children. You know, I'm tired and my feet are swollen. I'm out here practically begging. My kids went to the City public schools, but I

had to take them out. There's Cathy, there's her husband. They can verify it. Four years ago I had to snatch them out; they knew absolutely nothing compared to my children who are 29 and 27. The education was decent then. What we have now -- and I am comparing children -- they didn't know A from Z. I had to put them in a parochial school in Pennsauken. So you know what this is running me a year. I really can't afford it so I'm pinching pennies, and I am putting out pots of food which we are not accustomed to eating. It's not easy. I'm robbing Peter to pay Paul; I'm robbing Paul to pay them all.

That is just being plain frank about it. It's not easy. Some nights I cry when I go to bed because it is a crying situation. Yes, I would love to leave the City, but when I sit in my window and I watch me trying to go to Cherry Hill to go to work, with gas that I can't afford for my little raggedy bomb, and I watch all of the Lincolns coming into the City where I live to go to work, it is very frustrating. That is the argument. Without all the tax I guess they can afford \$150,000 homes. They aren't paying taxes in the City. They're taking what we're paying taxes for. Then I see people on Ferry Avenue or at 808 Market Street standing in line for two or three hours to wait for a bag of groceries, for powdered milk, for four or five cans of canned goods, and they talk to you as if you are animals. This is food that some rich person has donated, writing it off their taxes, and it is a giveaway anyhow.

So, they are not psyching my mind. Maybe they are psyching someone else's mind, but they're not psyching me. I watch girls who have to supplement their incomes, even though they are receiving welfare. All of these girls don't want to be on welfare. I watch them. They go to Shapiro's. They want better things for their kids -- \$25.00 or \$30.00 shoes. Welfare doesn't buy them any more. These are people who really care about their kids' feet -- the condition of their feet. I have one with scoliosis; I can't get no damned help. What I pay, I have to pay out of my pocket. Nobody tell me about tough. I knew what it was then and I know what it is now.

I know we fought for 11 months to get a traffic light next to the Northeast School at Seventh and Elm through our same Acting Mayor, Mayor Primas. He told me he wasn't aware that there wasn't a light there. I called him a flat out-and-out liar, because I lived one block from there in 1961. We asked for two traffic lights, but we only got one. Now we have a senior citizens' building there, two schools, and a townhouse building. We have five times as many people and one traffic light. What do you do in such a situation? You lose confidence after a while. You feel like giving up. Everyone is not a fighter like me; I am going to be here until the end because I am a fighter. But some of the young ones are really disgusted. They can't go to the suburbs where the rent is \$300.00 or \$400.00. Where are they going to go? The landlords have the heat off, so they can't get heat. Public Service cuts it off after April 15, and they won't have any heat. It's either eat or freeze. You stay warm or you eat; it's one of the two, it's not both. You either pay Public Service and go hungry, or you eat and freeze. It's either/or; you just can't have both. It's so unfair. Some of these kids wouldn't get a hot breakfast if the school didn't give a free breakfast. That is the God in heaven truth.

MS. ROSS: Are the children in the Camden schools receiving breakfasts?

MS. HUNTER: I believe they are, aren't they?

MR. TALBERT: Yes, but what they give them isn't worth a whole lot.

MS. HUNTER: They told me -- I'm not saying anyone's name, but I know employees who work there -- that the stuff comes in precooked. It goes into a microwave oven. Nothing is tested when it comes out. It has been known to have ice in-between it when they take it out. They don't care because they are there for the dollar. Then I can't understand-- Will you please find out for me -- what is your name, please?

MS. RUSS: My name is Donna Ross.

MS. HUNTER: I have a granddaughter who goes to a City public school. Why isn't a child allowed to bring her own lunch from home? They refuse to allow her to bring her lunch from home. I mean, we're

not in Russia. This is supposed to be the United States, and they refuse to allow my daughter to pack a lunch so my granddaughter can bring it from home. Suppose a child has an allergy and she can't eat a certain thing, or suppose a child is of a certain religion and can't eat something? To me, that is taking a person's freedom away from him or her. They flatly refused, and said they would expel her if she brought her lunch from home. I didn't want to take a day off, but if I had, I would have brought her lunch, my lunch, and everybody else's lunch. But I didn't take a day off. Yes, I can do that every once in a while.

It really is frustrating. I have a daughter. She is out of school in the afternoon because she has all morning classes at Rutgers. She is majoring in political science. But this kid is done at 12:30. She cannot find a job. Jobs are either in a suburb where buses do not run, or if you can catch a bus, after six they don't run back. So you know, her hands are tied. But everything is so convenient for the suburbanites. They come in and make our dollars; they are the ones you see shopping. There is construction in the City, but our people are not getting the jobs.

MR. TALBERT: This is hunger; this is definitely hunger.

MS. HUNTER: It sure is hunger.

MR. TALBERT: I just want to say one thing.

MS. ROSS: Okay. We only have a limited amount of time, and there is one more person who wishes to speak.

MR. TALBERT: What I want to say is short.

MS. ROSS: Go for it.

MR. TALBERT: All I want to ask you is, when you all get through, will you recommend preventive programs?

MS. HUNTER: They can't do that, they are going to make recommendations to someone else.

MR. TALBERT: I know, but when you take this information back, will you take back ideas that can be set up as preventive things for us?

MS. ROSS: That is our goal.

MR. TALBERT: Okay. May I suggest one thing since the City government pushed little girls out of their mommas' houses and whatnot, without the foundation they need to raise children and to run a house? Can they use some money to set up-- Nothing will happen until 1986 or 80--something, right?

MS. ROSS: Our final report is due in January, 1986, but we passed a resolution to have an interim report next month. We are going to be presenting preliminary recommendations to the Legislature next month.

MR. TALBERT: Okay. I would like to see some money set up within the community -- what they call the poor sections, or around the projects, or whatever -- for a center where young mothers can come in and learn prenatal care and learn how to shop. A lot of these young women when they do go grocery shopping, buy a bag of junk.

MS. HUNTER: They don't know how to shop.

MR. TALBERT: They don't know how, and no one is willing to take the time to teach them. It is not that they don't want to learn. I believe that if there were a place where they could learn housekeeping -- and I'm not talking about cleaning someone else's house -- learn just the basic model route, I believe they would come, because a lot of them do want to know. I believe that would also help to keep a lot of the young guys from running away from the young girls. Sure, they like them. They get in their pants; they get them pregnant. The girl has the baby; the momma doesn't want her in the house no more; and, she gets her own apartment. She never learned how to clean a house, how to grocery shop, or how to wash and take care of the kid. It's evident that if I go to your house I might like you. But if you never wash the kids or clean the house or know how to shop, I am going to run to the next one who looks a little bit cleaner. Okay? Then I'll go to the next one who looks a little bit cleaner.

We have to start somewhere to educate our young people about the importance of the family.

MS. HUNTER: I am not going to try to tell you off, but I raised six daughters. I had all girls, but there are some who are not too eager to be mothers. Okay? They don't want to be mothers.

MR. TALBERT: I can deal with that.

MS. ROSS: Excuse me, there is a person here who has been waiting for a long time.

MS. HUNTER: You can train them until they are 50, but some of them just don't want to be mothers because they became mothers before they wanted to become mothers. So it all begins in the home with the parental guidance.

MR. TALBERT: The ones I am talking about are the 14-year-olds.

MS. HUNTER: Oh, babies.

MS. ROSS: I have to cut this conversation short. We only have five minutes left.

MS. HERZ-LANE: Margaret Herz-Lane again from the Camden Lutheran Parish. I just want to comment on the problem of premature babies and underweight children. This is personal testimony because I know the child. There was an 11-year-old little boy who, by all appearances, was between seven and eight. He was out of his home for about -- I think it was a period of nine months. While he was away from his family, he was fed on a regular basis, not great food, but just a regular diet that the State would approve of. The kind of growth I saw in him was phenomenal. I think he grew more in that nine-month period than he had previously. His weight picked up. His coloring improved. One of the things I notice is the paleness of children. Their color is pasty-white, that is, the white kids. With black kids, it is not always as easy to tell that the quality of their skin is not as good as it could be.

A friend of mine worked for Cam-Care and ran a program here two years ago which was set up specifically in North Camden because of the high infant mortality rate and the problems of young mothers. They were funded because of the high number of pregnancies that terminated early or women who didn't seem to have enough skill to get a job and run a family, and everything. That program was relatively successful, as far as I know, but it was not continued. It was a one-shot deal. Basically, they worked on job training and teaching how to run a house, how to dress for a job interview, and that kind of thing. It was targeted in this neighborhood because of the problem with the infant mortality rate. It was for single-parent families.

MS. ROSS: Who funded that program?

MS. HERZ-LANE: It must have been a Federal program, but it was done by Cam-Care, which is a community health organization. You could probably pull some records on that.

MS. ROSS: Thank you.

MR. HERZ-LANE: May I say something?

MS. ROSS: Yes, but please make it short.

(Mr. Herz-Lane's comment lost to transcriber because he was speaking from out in the audience.)

MR. PATTERSON: Richard Patterson from the Camden Lutheran Parish again. What was said earlier about housing-- That is also one of the biggest issues here. If you just walk down the street, you can see all of the boarded-up houses and all the burnt-down houses. I wonder, and I think a lot of us wonder-- It is just a downhill treadmill. People have problems with their heat. When you walk into houses you see kerosene heaters. One of the questions I have is, how many of the fires have helped to make the problem worse? People have to buy kerosene heaters because they can't afford the other heat, or they make a trade-off between heat and food, because they are the two biggest items over which they have no control. They try to use kerosene heaters, but how much does that raise the rent, because there are fewer houses because more burn down? And so on and so forth.

FATHER CALVO: I don't think housing has been emphasized enough here. We have been talking about several things, but there are many houses which are of no use at all. There are many houses which have been destroyed day by day. I think there should be an effort to rebuild these houses. There are many families who have to pay high rent. If some of these houses could be rebuilt, the people could rent them for a smaller amount of money. Many people would like to have their own homes. That would be the best way of keeping the houses. I would not like to see North Camden just remain the same. If a house is vacant-- (Remainder of Father Calvo's statement lost to transcriber because he is not speaking into a microphone.)

MR. HERZ-LANE: This is terrific; I have control of the mike.

MS. ROSS: You do have control of the mike, but please--

**DAAIYAH WAHEED:** My name is Daaiyah Waheed. I work, but I am also on welfare. I am the mother of five children; one of my daughters is married and has two children. As I said, I work and I am on welfare. When you make the report that you are working, they cut your food stamps and things like that. My children are very active children. They are aged six, seven, eight, and fifteen, a growing girl. She is at Camden High School. She plays basketball and she is a good student. I have no trouble with her.

But my children like to eat. With \$178.00 worth of food stamps-- I used to get \$501.00, and even now that I am working I still get \$501.00 because I have to pay a baby-sitter, I have to think about transportation and all that, but they cut my food stamps to \$178.00.

I was out of work because I was sick. I had to have an operation on my eye. I told the Welfare Department and they said I would have to have a letter saying that I was sick. They said the doctor's note wasn't good enough because I could have been working and getting over on them too. They wanted a letter from the job. I told them at the job that they had to send a letter to the welfare. They said, "Wasn't the doctor's note good enough?" I told them the Welfare Department wanted verification from the job that I was out of work.

The Welfare Department said they had not received the letter and that I was not going to get any food.

MS. HUNTER: That's right.

MS. WAHEED: They said I had to have the letter. You know how some secretaries are, they lose things or something, so I just now received the letter. I had to take this letter down to the welfare and I had to miss work that day. I called the boss and told him that I couldn't make it in. The job was in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

MS. HUNTER: West Chester.

MS. WAHEED: Yes. I had to call him and tell him that I couldn't come to work because I was still at the welfare office. They depend on me because they know I show up every day and that I am a good worker. He said, "Why are you just now calling me to tell me this. You are supposed to be at work in five minutes." I said, "I couldn't help it. I'm still here, and you know how these people are. The

office never sent my letter yet." I used the reason why. I said, "I told you a month in advance; I told you what was going on."

Then the Welfare Department said, "You are going to have to get this letter. If you don't get this letter, you will not receive a check or your food stamps." So, by the will of God, the letter came on a Saturday. I hurried down there on Monday morning and gave them the letter, so I guess I'll get a check. I just gave them the letter, so I guess my check and my food stamps will be late. In the meantime, the kids still have to eat. If I go out and borrow some money to feed them, I am going to have to owe people money, and I am still going to be in the hole. How do you feed children? I have to pay someone to take me food shopping. If I shop at the Check-In store, the check and the food are eaten up. The Check-In is real high. Did you ever go in there and observe the prices? So I have to pay someone to take me two places to shop. To get my canned goods, I go to Jewel-T. Then I pay someone to take me to Philadelphia to the Italian market to get my meats. I buy chicken and stuff like that. I separate all of my food like that, and it still doesn't last with only \$178.00. With the cash I have, I have to buy toilet paper, Chlorox, soap, and all that kind of stuff. Then I have to try to buy shoes and stuff for my children. Their feet grow every three months, and they're outgrowing their clothes. So there I'm lost. If I go to the secondhand store, half of the clothes are as high as they are in a regular store.

This is the way we have to live. My kids don't get milk all the time. The only time they get milk is when they go to school because I can't afford to buy milk. A gallon of milk costs about two something down here at Check-In. Bread -- my kids might get bread-- I get 10 loaves of bread a month, and that's it. When that bread is gone, they don't get any more bread. They have to do without. They just eat rice. That is the way we have to live here.

MR. FORD: I have a question which comes out of what you have said. It is addressed to the people who operate Leaven House. Is Priscilla here? (affirmative response) Would you say that you do not have enough food to meet the needs of the people who come here on a regular basis? As I heard the last witness, she said that she has very

serious, sometimes desperate food needs. Now, we can't solve the problem of there not being sufficient funds to buy the food she needs, but if you had enough food -- now I am not talking about for all of the people in Camden who need food, but for the people who come to you on a regular or semi-regular basis -- you could administer to people like the lady who just spoke in a more complete way. You could fulfill her food needs more completely.

Don't you get enough food to deal with some of these concerns from your contributors, from your donators?

MS. KIRK: Well, as I said, I have been working here at Leaven House ever since it opened. Sometimes the place is really outrageous. Sometimes there really isn't enough food circulating -- I'll just put it like that. Just as Ms. Waheed was saying, I am on SSI. I get \$356.00, and only \$25.00 worth of food stamps. Okay? That is supposed to last me a whole month. But it doesn't, because I have two growing sons. I have to feed them because they do not get food stamps. As I say, there is just not enough food as far as I am concerned.

MR. FORD: Okay. Pardon me, let me piggyback on what I said for just a minute. What do you do? Let's forget for the time being about the City, the County, and the State.

MR. TALBERT (from audience): I can answer that.

MR. FORD: Do you send out a message to your contributors or to other churches and organizations which send food to food pantries?

MS. KIRK: I have just volunteered to work here at Leaven House.

MR. FORD: I'm sorry. Cathy, you should also be heard on this.

MS. SUGDEN: Regarding the food operation of Leaven House, we serve a noontime hot meal six days a week. We are closed Fridays. We feed anyone who comes here. It has been a very rare thing over the past three and a half years for us to close the door 10 minutes short of the full serving time.

We serve a hot meal. People come here, they sit down, and they are served. The needs of people like Daaiyan and other people --

those needs are supposedly being taken care of, or can be taken care of by going to food agencies like El Centro or the Good Samaritan Center. But she has a problem. She is working during the day when all of the agencies are open. Saturdays and Sundays they are not available. It's very hard. In order to go to some of these places you have to get your food from -- if you want a bag of groceries or something -- you have to go to 808 Market Street first to get your referral to go to these places.

MS. HUNTER: Then go back the next day.

MS. KIRK: But you can't go except about every three months.

MS. SUGDEN: I think that is a little bit changed now.

MR. TALBERT: You have to go through so much red tape. Don't forget, if you have a welfare card or some other kind of card, they don't want to talk to you. You have to go back and get all of the different papers you need. I think it is so foolish when you are talking about giving people something free, or when people get in an emergency situation, such as being burned out-- All right, someone in the community might help by taking a couple of people in, but you would think the City would say, "Since you are taking them in, we'll give you something to help you feed them." But no. If I take a day off to go up there with the driver to get-- As she said, you have to go to 808 Market Street. Then at 808, some smart ass up there wants to play games with you for sitting all day. By that time, the center is closed.

MS. HUNTER: It takes all day, too.

MR. TALBERT: It is an all-day process.

MS. SUGDEN: There are vouchers available through some CEMA money that is operating in the City, but you still have to go to 808 during the day to get the voucher which would be issued to you to go to certain stores.

MS. KIRK: No, not now. You have to go to a social worker to get a voucher; then go to 808 to get a voucher to get the food that day. If you don't go to a social worker to get a voucher from the social worker, then you have to wait until the next day to get your bag of food.

MS. HUNTER: I told you you have to go back the next day. They don't even take our carfare into consideration.

MS. SUGDEN: In this book, "The Physician Task Force," there is a study-- Is any of your stuff hooked up with that?

MS. ROSS: We have access to it.

MS. SUGDEN: Okay. The last two chapters of that book deal with the mean-spiritedness of the government agencies which treat people in this way and make them jump through hoops. The last chapter, practically word for word -- you must have been part of that study -- is what Father Foley just said. All the recommendations were practically word for word. I would like to see those recommendations and the whole consideration of government agencies taken into account in the reporting you are doing.

MS. ROSS: Those are the kind of recommendations that -- once we compile the testimony from Camden and other cities -- we will be looking at in trying to formulate our recommendations.

MR. HERZ-LANE: My turn again?

MS. ROSS: Yes, it's your turn. I am going to say that this is the last speaker. Now, please go ahead.

MR. HERZ-LANE: That's fine with me. Wolfgang Herz-Lane again. I want to register a complaint and then make a comment. This afternoon, during your testimony at City Hall, there was some concern about how do we get to the poor -- whoever they are -- and the hungry, and how come we don't have recipients of these food services here? There was a fear that at tonight's hearing no one would show up because no speakers had registered. This afternoon, Priscilla promised you a full house, and I think Leaven House has delivered on that. You got a good earful.

What I am disappointed about, is that at least four of your panel members who I met this afternoon are not here. They lose a little bit of credibility if they complain that they can't get to the poor, and then when the poor come here, they are not here. I am disappointed with that.

What I really want to say though is, maybe that can also serve as kind of a summation of tonight. I think something really

important has happened for you today. This afternoon at City Hall you heard from a lot of social workers, professionals, and people who run agencies, as I do. I can dump on them because I am a social worker too. But you heard a lot of stuff about educational programs and teaching people how to cook and how to make things stretch. You heard about resources, money allocations to agencies, more emergency food, and all that kind of stuff. All of those things are important; I have nothing against the Band-Aid. But tonight was quite a different story.

Tonight you heard loud and clear what you didn't hear that clearly this afternoon. Tonight it came directly from the people. We don't need emergency food, we need jobs. If we had jobs, there wouldn't be any hunger. If there is any recommendation you wish to take back to the State, tell them that we need jobs.

MS. HUNTER: They feel like we don't have pride, and we do have pride.

MR. HERZ-LANE: I thought I was the last one, Virginia. (At this point in hearing, there were three or four people speaking at once. Transcriber is unable to distinguish who was doing the speaking.)

MS. ROSS: I would like to make one statement for the record. We will take your registered complaint back to the Commission. Your point is a very important point.

Secondly, for those of you who were not here this afternoon, I think you just heard a little bit about the kinds of things we heard then. I would like everyone here to know that we planned each and every hearing to try, to the best of our ability, to get a balanced picture. We planned to spend the daytime part of our hearings in places -- the so-called official places -- where people who are largely providers could come to give us that kind of information. We planned to spend the evening portions of our hearings visiting programs like Leaven House.

I appreciate the attendance and participation of everyone here.

MR. TALBERT: I am only disappointed that we didn't even know you people were in town. We hadn't heard about it.

MS. HUNTER: I didn't know until this afternoon.

MR. TALBERT: I live out in Centerfield. This is North Camden. Half of the meetings I hear about which go on-- We don't have anyone out there who deals with the question. We will have a whole lot of people out in our neighborhood next month because I think there is an election coming up.

MS. HUNTER: Yes, there is.

MR. TALBERT: There is an election coming up in May. Last year I worked on the election. When the summer came in, I know one man who came over from Philly with a list of jobbers. He stopped me when I was coming out of the Center. I said, "Do you have any jobs?" He said, "Yes." Then he told me, "I went to Camden High; I went to H. B. Wilson." He said he was supposed to get kids who were in school jobs for the summer. He said, "I never got a chance to talk to any of the kids. All the teachers did was bring one of their children to sign up for a job."

MS. HUNTER: That's right.

MR. TALBERT: They wanted their children to get the jobs. I worked all summer-- I just want to show you something. Do you know what kind of a job he was going to give me? I have a wife and five kids. Okay? I work every day out there for nothing. Do you know what he wanted to give me? A minimum wage job. Here's college kids coming in, and they are going to give them at least a \$5.00-and-something job. I'm a grown man; I am going to be here for the rest of my life. He wants to give me a \$3.00-and-something job, and give some kid who belongs to someone else a \$5.00 job.

I tell everyone in my neighborhood, "Don't vote for shit." That hurts me.

FATHER CALVO: I think it would be very good for you people to go around the town a little bit.

MR. TALBERT: Yes.

FATHER CALVO: You could spend a half an hour and just move around a couple of blocks here. I think you would understand the situation much better than you do just sitting here. A 20-minute or a half-hour walk around here in North Camden, and you would see what the situation is.

MR. FORD: Thank you, Father.

MS. ROSS: Thank you. I think we have to end the hearing now. Thank you, everyone.

MS. HUNTER: Thank you.

**(END OF EVENING SESSION)**



APPENDIX



IN THIS ISSUE

# ANNUAL AND STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 1984



NEWS FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER

## A WORD OF THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

1984 was another busy year for the Good Samaritan Center! We served more people in more ways in 1984 than ever before. We wish it were otherwise. We wish we could report a decrease in services, because that would be an indication that things are getting better.

We haven't given up on our dream that someday, a place like the Good Samaritan Center won't be needed because all people will have decent housing, sufficient employment, enough to live on. We, as Martin Luther King Jr. once said, have "the audacity to believe that someday, people everywhere can have three meals a day." We are working toward that day, and we stand ready to help those in need until that day arrives.

Of course, none of what we do would be possible if it were not for the generous help, support, and encouragement of virtually thousands of caring and sharing people. Because our many friends have come through for us with flying colors, we owe them a detailed accounting of what we did with the gifts of food, clothing, and money. That's what this rather lengthy annual report is all about.

We also owe them a big Thank You! We try to respond to all donations individually, but serving struggling people is our first priority. We may have missed some of you, and so we ask that you will accept this pre-printed, rather impersonal letter as a sign of our deep appreciation.

To everyone who helped in 1984 in whatever way, to donors and volunteers, to our staff and our Board members: Thanks!

Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane, M.S.W.  
Executive Director

VOL. III \* 2

CAMDEN, NJ FEBRUARY, 1985

**WOLFGANG D. HERZ-LANE**  
Director

**CLAUDIA YOUNG**  
Assistant Director

**Opening Hours:**

Monday	9:30 - 12:00
Tuesday - Friday	9:30 - 12:00
	1:00 - 3:00

CITY NEWS is the Good Samaritan Center's bi-monthly newsletter. To get on the mailing list, call or write:

Good Samaritan Center  
P.O. Box 452  
Camden, New Jersey 08101  
609-963-0857

# 1984: MORE FOOD FOR MORE PEOPLE NUMBER OF MEALS INCREASES BY 25%

In 1984, the Good Samaritan Center's food services grew once again: 126,212 meals were given to 10,474 hungry persons in 3,974 families. The total value of the food was \$65,630.24. (Table 1 shows our emergency food services month by month.)

Compared to the previous year, the center increased the number of meals by more than 25%. As Table 2 shows, the number of persons referred to us for emergency food grew by some 250% since 1981. The Good Samaritan Center continues to be the largest emergency food provider in Camden.

Except for special cases, a referral is required before a person may receive food. Most referrals come from the Camden County Board of Social Services, which acts as a central referral agency and "clearing house" for most emergency food providers in the city. We also accept referrals from other agencies, churches, and pastors.

Each individual receives a four-day supply of food, or 12 meals at an average cost of 52¢ per meal.

More food to many more people --- where does it all come from? Our largest single source of food are in-kind donations, i.e. canned and dried goods collected by

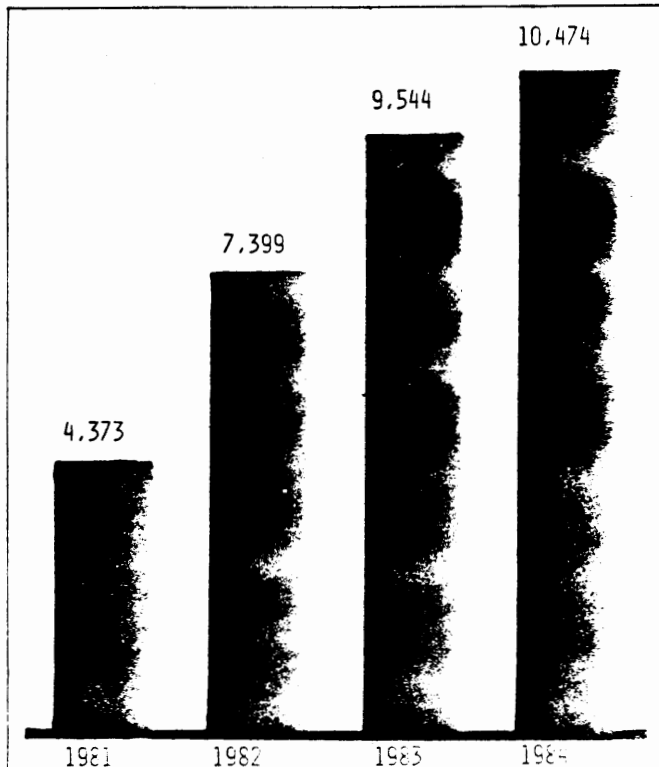


TABLE 2: NUMBER OF PERSONS RECEIVING FOOD, 1981 - 1984

MONTH	FAMILIES SERVED	INDIVIDUALS SERVED	NUMBER OF MEALS	\$ VALUE OF FOOD
JAN	237	639	7,678	3,992.56
FEB	239	603	7,186	3,736.72
MAR	244	548	6,576	3,419.52
APR	332	759	9,108	4,736.16
MAY	303	836	10,089	5,246.28
JUN	276	791	9,492	4,935.84
JUL	176	507	6,584	3,423.68
AUG	377	971	11,652	6,059.04
SEP	354	881	10,572	5,497.44
OCT	383	1,083	12,996	6,757.92
NOV	597	1,810	21,720	11,294.40
DEC	456	1,046	12,559	6,530.68
TOTAL	3,974	10,474	126,212	65,630.24

TABLE 1: FOOD SERVICES BY MONTH, 1984

churches and groups or donated by individuals. This category also includes food from the Greater Philadelphia Food Bank and surplus commodities from the Department of Agriculture. In just one year, the value of in-kind donations doubled from \$20,000 in 1983 to \$39,719.19.

In addition, \$25,911.05 worth of food was bought by us using funds granted by foundations, companies, groups, individuals and the Federal government through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Many of these funds (including FEMA) came through the Camden FEED Consortium (Food for Equitable Emergency Distribution), of which the Good Samaritan Center is a member agency. We also belong to the Camden-based Religious Coalition for Food which also contributed funds.

(Table 3 identifies the sources of food we counted on in 1984.)

(Continued on page 3)

## WHERE DOES GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER'S FOOD COME FROM?

1. Gannett Foundation, Rochester, NY	\$ 3,980.00
2. General Electric Co., Philadelphia	1,100.00
3. Wm. Penn Foundation, Phila. (thru FEED)	2,359.00
4. Glenmede Trust, Phila. (thru FEED Consortium)	2,366.00
5. Religious Coalition for Food, Camden	1,000.00
6. Lutheran Brotherhood/Luth. Social Services	598.88
7. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	11,000.00
8. Individual donations/general budget funds	3,578.19
Total funds spent to buy food	25,911.05
Value of food in-kind donations	39,719.19
TOTAL VALUE OF FOOD PROVIDED IN 1984	65,630.24

TABLE 3: SOURCES OF FOOD, 1984



## TOY & GIFT SHOP BRINGS CHRISTMAS CHEER TO MANY

For the third time, the Good Samaritan Center organized a Christmas Toy & Gift Shop on December 18 and 19 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Market Street in Camden. Parents were invited to come and pick out presents for their children free of charge.

Coordinated by Katrina Pearthree, social work student placed at the center for her internship, the toy store provided 1,641 items to 547 children in 176 families. (We counted 810 items the year before) Most of the toys had been donated by two dozen churches and groups. We also received \$400 to buy toys from the "Toys for Tots" program.

In addition to donating toys and gifts, our friends and supporters also helped to set up and run the shop. Not counting the center's regular staff, 24 volunteers spent 110 hours making sure that Christmas was just a bit brighter for many struggling families.

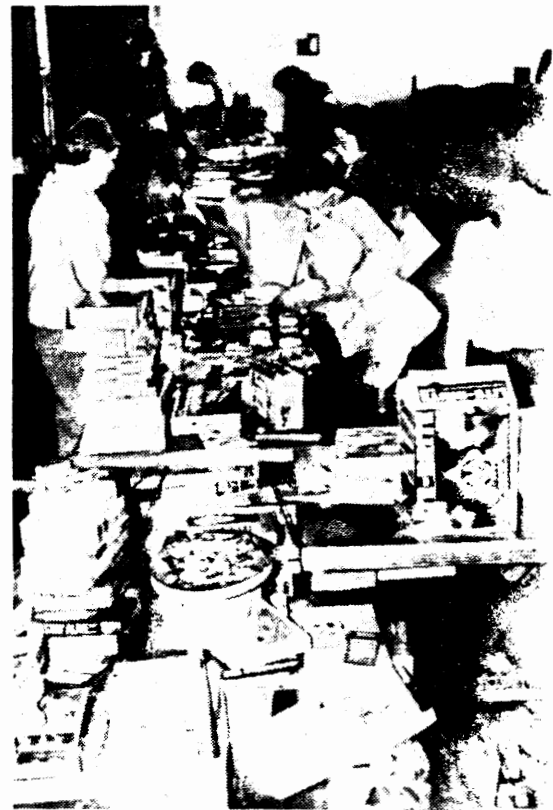
## MORE FOOD ...

(Continued from page 2)

"Good Sam" also participated in the distribution of government surplus commodities. In coalition with the Camden County Board of Social Services, Hispanic Health and Mental Health, the YMCA, and Family Counseling Services, we distributed free cheese on March 15, dried milk on August 2, and butter on November 29. Thousands of families were served at a central downtown site (the YMCA), which the Good Samaritan Center had helped to develop.

Special food baskets, including 793 turkeys and chickens, were given out for Thanksgiving and Christmas, 1984. (In 1983, we provided 550 pieces of poultry.) These special donations came from many individual friends, from the FEED Consortium, from First Presbyterian Church and Our Savior Lutheran Church, both in Haddonfield, from Mr. Al Matthews of Magnolia and from the Camden Lutheran Parish. Fifteen food baskets were donated by George Favorite and his friends at Trinity Episcopal Church in Moorestown.

A special pilot project, designed to provide food over longer periods of time, was coordinated by the American Red Cross and funded by the William Penn Foundation via the FEED Consortium in the summer of 1984. The Good Samaritan Center, one of several participating agencies, provided \$1,118 in food vouchers to 59 persons in 12 families. The vouchers were good for food purchases at a store of the family's choice.



# 8,307 CUSTOMERS CAME TO US FOR CLOTHING ... AND NONE LEFT EMPTY-HANDED

8,307 persons (exactly 100 more than the year before) came to the Good Samaritan Center in 1984 to receive free clothing items. Each customer usually receives items for other family members; since the median family size in Camden is 2.98 according to the 1980 Census, we estimate that 24,753 persons benefitted from our clothing program. Table 4 shows our clothing services in 1984 month by month.

Over the past years, the number of customers for clothing has remained more or less constant, as shown in Table 5.

All clothing we give out is donated to us in-kind, either through collections by churches and groups or by individuals. The value of the items goes into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

1984 saw a dramatic increase in the need for baby clothing. Ellen Keck and her friends at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Haddonfield, made up 39 layettes (twice as many as the year before), a project that also involved the women of Christus Lutheran Church in Camden. Because of the grow-

MONTH	# OF CUSTOMERS FOR CLOTHING	ESTIMATED # OF PERSONS CLOTHED
JAN	461	1,374
FEB	591	1,761
MAR	746	2,223
APR	665	1,982
MAY	748	2,229
JUN	658	1,961
JUL	529	1,576
AUG	761	2,267
SEP	688	2,050
OCT	1,125	3,352
NOV	649	1,934
DEC	686	2,044
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,307</b>	<b>24,753</b>

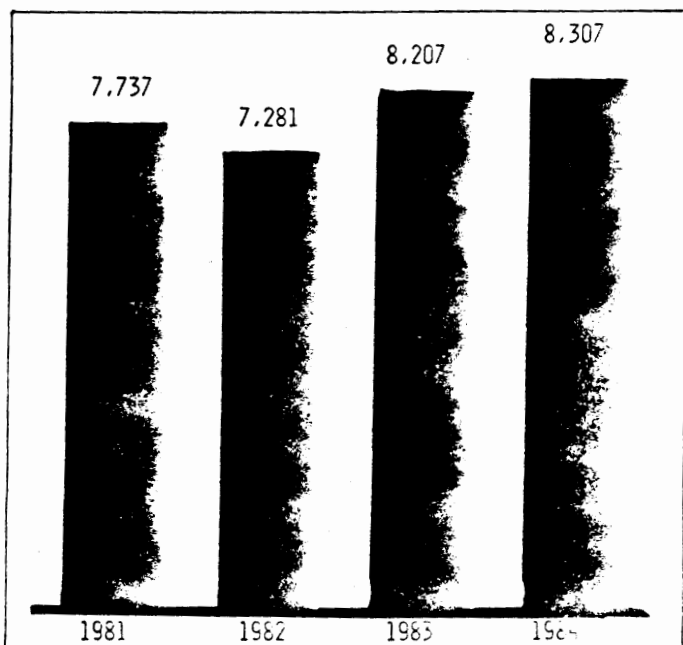
**TABLE 4: CLOTHING SERVICES BY MONTH, 1984**

ing needs, the Good Samaritan Center is expanding its services for new mothers by adding a project called "A Baby's Closet," which will provide clothing, pampers, receiving blankets, formula, and the like.

Our Christmas Shoe Fund provided 35 shoe certificates in 1984, redeemable at a Camden shoe store. Board member Naomi Cressman of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Haddon Heights, collected \$285 for the fund from her church and fellow teachers at Forrest Hill Elementary School, Camden.

Bert Hovey of Temple Lutheran Church in Pennsauken, a longtime supporter and Board member, retired from his volunteer job as the center's "quicker-picker-upper." Our heartfelt thanks go to Mr. Hovey for the many hours spent picking up donations. The center's "two Gusses," (Gus Winder and Gus Frankena, both of First Presbyterian Church in Haddonfield), also deserve a big "Thank you" for their help with pick-ups.

Thanks to a grant from the Lutheran Social Services of New Jersey (LSSNJ), we were able to rent a van owned by the Camden Lutheran Parish and to hire a part-time driver, Anthony Davis. Tony has been on staff since September, and he has driven 1,528 miles and accomplished 145 pick-ups during the first four months of operation.



**TABLE 5: NUMBER OF FAMILIES RECEIVING CLOTHING, 1981 - 1984**

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked,  
open your homes to the homeless poor.  
Remove the chains of oppression  
and the yoke of injustice,  
and let the oppressed go free.

(Isaiah 58:6)

## " ... TO DO WHAT IS JUST"

The Lord has told us what is good.  
What he requires of us is this: to  
do what is just, to show constant  
love, and to live in humble fellow-  
ship with our God.

(Micah 6:8)

The mandate by the prophets is important to us at the Good Samaritan Center. While feeding hungry people is crucial, we are painfully aware every day that our services are but a band-aid, a temporary relief from the symptoms of a larger problem. At the same time, caring and sharing people must begin to address root causes, so people wouldn't be hungry in the first place. The prophets in scripture talk about mercy and justice; in modern-day social work jargon, we refer to it as "direct services" (feeding and clothing the poor) and "advocacy," that is, being advocates with and on behalf of poor and working people in the struggle for social change.

Advocacy, of course, begins in one's own back yard. The Good Samaritan Center does not see itself as part of a bureaucratic and impersonal "social welfare system." We were founded on Christian principles, and we strive to preserve and affirm the dignity of the people coming to us for help.

In the fall of 1983, the Board of Trustees affirmed the center's commitment to advocacy, saying that our Board, our staff and the volunteers should reflect the make-up of the city. We've come a long way since then: With the Board members nominated for election in 1985, eight of the 16 trustees will be city residents, reaching the goal of a balance between city residents and residents of suburban communities set in 1983. The number of city residents on the Board has increased by almost 300%, from three in 1981 to eight in 1985. Seven of our 16 Board members will be people of color or a primary language other than English, as compared to two in 1981.

Advocacy also strives for the empowerment of the powerless and the disenfranchised. In 1984, a non-partisan voter registration drive signed up hundreds of new voters, a project sponsored by the Camden County Voter Registration Network. The net-

work, among other agencies, included the League of Women Voters, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, Planned Parenthood, and the Good Samaritan Center.

Our advocacy activities in 1984 focused on issues of homelessness. As part of the Camden Shelter Coalition, the Good Samaritan Center helped to get additional emergency shelters for Camden's growing homeless population.

On July 27, 1984, the city of Camden reopened a community center at 6th and Erie Streets in North Camden, providing shelter for up to 100 persons. The city has promised to provide shelter throughout the winter of 1984/85.

The Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders voted on Dec. 27 to open the former Jefferson House at the county Lakeland complex as an additional shelter, and to allocate \$ 65,000 to the Volunteers of America (VoA) to run that facility. 30 men and 30 women can find a roof over their heads at Lakeland.

Both the city's involvement and the commitment by the county are direct results of the Shelter Coalition's work.

On the national level, the Good Samaritan Center sponsored a trip to Washington,

PLEASE SEE PAGE 7



TWO HOMELESS PERSONS FROM CAMDEN TESTIFIED JAN. 25 BEFORE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE BANKING COMMITTEE OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THE GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER SPONSORED THE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

1984 saw many changes on the staff of the Good Samaritan Center. In October, we honored Edith Andrews of Lawnside who, after 4 years of faithful service, retired from her part-time receptionist position. A grant from the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders, using money allocated by the state for services to the homeless, made it possible for us to expand Edith's job into a 25-hours-per-week position and to hire José Sanchez of Camden as a bilingual intake worker/receptionist.

Another valuable addition to our staff had happened in August: Katrina Pearthree, an undergraduate social work student at Rutgers University in Camden, was placed at "Good Sam" for a two-semester internship that is part of her education.

During the summer of 1984, four Camden high school students worked at the center during a Summer Youth Employment Program. They were: Jean Davis, Dennis Day, Marc Gordon, and Julio Quinones. This special 1984 project was made possible by grants from Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, Pa.; the Urban Concerns Committee of the New Jersey Synod / Lutheran Church in America (LCA); the LCA's Division of Professional Leadership in Philadelphia; and the Haddonfield Council of Churches.

## Volunteers Are The Backbone

### THE STAFF OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER

WOLFGANG D. HERZ-LANE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CLAUDIA A. YOUNG  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
KATRINA PEARTHREE  
SOCIAL WORK INTERN  
JOSE SANCHEZ  
RECEPTIONIST  
ANTHONY DAVIS  
DRIVER

CITY VOLUNTEERS: LUIS ARES, EMILY BERRY, CHARLES COLVIN, ANDREATTA HERNANDEZ, RUBY MILLER, PRESTON POSLEY, THOMAS SCOTT, JANE SWINDELL, ALICE TATUM, JERRY TYSON.  
VOLUNTEERS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HADDONFIELD: CATHERINE THOM, COORDINATOR; MAE AIRLIE, BETTY GAUNT, CLAIRE MARTIN, CAROL REISNER, VIRGINIA RITCHIE, MARY SCUDDER, SUE SMITH AND CLAIRE WIMER.  
FROM CHERRY HILL UNITARIAN CHURCH: RUTH HERRMANN.

Two students hired for a summer program by Respond Inc., Camden (Wendell Morgan and Simone Smitherman) were placed at the Good Samaritan Center

Volunteers continue to be the backbone of the center's work. At any given time, the center can count on 10 to 15 volunteers from the city. In addition, members of the women's group at First Presbyterian Church in Haddonfield help out on a regular basis, and Ruth Herrmann of the Cherry Hill Unitarian Church volunteers

## KEEPING IN TOUCH: VISITS, TOURS AND OUTREACH

- Feb. 7: Director of Good Samaritan Center speaks at women's group luncheon, First Presbyterian Church, Haddonfield
- Feb.10: Visit to "Good Sam" and Camden by representatives of Lutheran Council in the USA (LCUSA), New York; Lutheran Resources Commission, Washington, D.C.; and Wheat Ridge Foundation, Chicago
- Feb.11: Girl Scouts of St. Joan of Arc Roman Catholic Church, Marlton, visit the center
- Feb.15: Director speaks before social work class at Rutgers University Camden, on homelessness
- Feb.16: News Bureau of LCUSA-New York visits Good Samaritan Center
- Feb.17: Director speaks at meeting of Haddon Fortnightly, Haddonfield
- Feb.26: Tenth Annual Meeting of Good Samaritan Center at Epiphany Lutheran Church, Camden
- Mar. 2: Members of the South Jersey Campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze visit the center
- Mar.16: Director speaks at dinner of Collingswood Presbyterian Church
- Mar.25: Director visits with Sunday School class at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Moorestown
- Apr. 7: Michael Davis and Brenda Cherry are married in a ceremony held at the Good Samaritan Center; open house follows
- Apr.13: Social work students from Vermont visit "Good Sam;" members of Philadelphia and Haddonfield Friends Meetings tour the center
- May 1: Director is guest speaker at Women's Missionary Society of Fairview Baptist Church, Camden
- May 17: Good Samaritan Center display at annual convention of New Jersey Synod-Lutheran Church in America, in Ocean City
- May 18: Display on the center at statewide convention of Lutheran Women Missionary League of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- Jun. 2: "Human Chain" across Ben Franklin Bridge sponsored by 50 churches, agencies and community groups; food items donated at the event are given to Good Samaritan Center
- Jun. 9: Tenth Anniversary Dinner at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Moorestown
- Jul.10: Youth Group of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Vineland, tours the center
- Aug. 8: Director is guest speaker at weekly staff worship of Volunteers of America (VoA), Camden
- Sep. 9: Anniversary service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden
- Sep.12: Director speaks at women's meeting of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Maple Shade
- Sep.16: Director delivers sermon on "Good Sam" and hunger at State Street Methodist Church, Camden
- Sep.27: "Good Sam" display at state-wide convention of American Baptist Churches (ABC)
- Sep.30: Director is guest speaker at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Cinnaminson
- Oct. 9: Director visits with women's group at Collingswood Presbyterian Church
- Oct.16: World Food Day. Director speaks at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Woodbury.
- Oct.17: Director participates as workshop leader in a state-wide workshop for Lutheran pastors at Princeton Theological Seminary
- Oct.18: Representatives of Community Planning and Advocacy Council/Human Services Coalition (CPAC/HSC) visit the center
- Oct.19: Director attends dinner for North Camden-area ministers at Holy Name Roman Catholic Church, Camden
- Oct.19: Director joins a panel on Camden for representatives of Action Reconciliation, West Berlin (Germany)
- Oct.24: Director is guest speaker at Cherry Hill Lions Club, meeting at the Woodbine Inn, Pennsauken
- Oct.25: Director speaks at cluster meeting of American Baptist churches at First Baptist Church, Collingswood
- Oct.25: Social work students from Vermont tour the Good Samaritan Center
- Oct.28: Director delivers sermon on world and domestic hunger at Grace Lutheran Church, Camden
- Nov. 3: Director leads workshop at state-wide Global Mission Event of New Jersey Synod-Lutheran Church in America in Hightstown
- Nov. 7: Good Samaritan Center Luncheon at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Haddonfield
- Nov.18: Youth Group of Unitarian Church, Cherry Hill, tours the center

# To Do What Is Just

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

D.C. on January 25, 1984, by two homeless persons from Camden. They testified before a subcommittee of the House Banking Committee. The hearing was held at the nation's largest emergency shelter, a 1,000-bed facility run by the Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV).

Emergency shelter for the homeless, much like food assistance to the hungry, is a "band-aid approach," necessary as a short-term solution. It is not the final answer to homelessness - - - safe and decent permanent housing is.

Therefore, the Shelter Coalition has advocated renovation and re-occupation of some 500 vacant units in the city's nine public housing projects that the Camden Housing Authority is responsible for. The authority's vacancy rate is 22% while hundreds of families are waiting for decent housing.

Despite numerous meetings with Camden Mayor Melvin R. Primas, Housing Authority Director Joseph Herd, and the commissioners of the authority, no comprehensive plan has been worked out. In July, 1984, the commissioners refused to even consider a financing plan that had been prepared by the Shelter Coalition.

## WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM ... AND WHAT WE DO WITH IT

I. OPENING BALANCE AS OF 1/1/84	7,001.67
II. SOURCES OF FUNDS	
1. Corporate Donations	2,576.00
Brokers Mortgage Service, W. Collingswood	235.00
"Toys for Tots" Program (Christmas toys)	400.00
Getty Oil Co., Cherry Hill	100.00
General Electric Co., Philadelphia	1,160.00
18 donations under \$100	681.00
2. Individual Donations	10,944.81
Annual Membership Drive	3,150.00
Other donations	7,794.81
3. Congregations And Congregational Groups	14,491.00
Our Savior Lutheran, Haddonfield	997.00
First Presbyterian, Haddonfield	3,757.00
Fairview Community Baptist, Camden	283.00
St. Matthew Lutheran, Moorestown	2,283.00
Bethany Lutheran, Gloucester	122.00
Bethany Lutheran, Palmyra	100.00
Prince of Peace Lutheran, Marlton	275.00
Search for God Study Group, Maple Shade	135.00
ARE Study Group	135.00
First Presbyterian, Merchantville	225.00
Grace Episcopal, Merchantville	270.00
Trinity Episcopal, Moorestown	1,045.00
Luther Memorial, Blackwood	147.00
St. Michael's Lutheran, Cherry Hill	572.00
St. Mark's Lutheran, Oaklyn	1,010.00
Logan Memorial Presbyterian, Audubon	240.00
Calvary Baptist, Pennsauken	100.00
First Presbyterian, Barrington	138.00
First Presbyterian, Collingswood	421.00
Moorestown Friends Meeting	325.00
Camden Lutheran Parish	100.00
St. Paul's Presbyterian, Laurel Springs	273.00
Trinity Lutheran, Camp Hill, Pa.	600.00
Mt. Olivet Baptist, Haddonfield	100.00
St. Mary's Episcopal (incl. shoe fund)	337.00
Donations under \$100 by 11 other churches	501.00
4. Churches And Church-Related Agencies	14,718.00
Lutheran Brotherhood Fraternal Insurance	3,850.00
Lutheran Social Services of New Jersey	2,134.00
Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey	2,000.00
Lutheran Church in America/NJ Synod	2,180.00
Princeton Theological Seminary	670.00
Lutheran Church/Div. of Prof. Leadership	450.00
Fairview Ministerium, Camden	53.00
American Baptist Churches/World Relief Com.	2,500.00
Council of Churches, Haddonfield	150.00
Moorestown CROF Walk	811.00

5. Foundations And Coalitions	19,419.20
Religious Coalition for Food, Camden	1,000.00
William Penn Foundation, Phila. (thru FEED)	2,394.00
Glenmede Trust, Phila. (thru FEED Consortium)	2,366.00
Federal Emerg. Managemt. Agency (thru FEED)	500.00
Gannett Foundation, Rochester, NY	6,159.20
Public Welfare Foundation, Washington, DC	6,500.00
Kenelm Foundation, Collingswood	500.00
6. Other Income	1,154.77
Interest	628.97
Other income/Refunds	525.80
7. Vouchers For Food Purchases	11,036.72
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through Camden FEED Consortium	11,036.72
TOTAL INCOME JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31	74,340.50

III. USES OF FUNDS	
1. Staffing	28,135.55
Salaries for four part-time staff	24,968.28
Personnel Expense	1,625.05
Transportation/bus fare for volunteers	1,542.20
2. Building And Equipment	6,935.32
Heat	1,425.11
Electricity	741.29
Water and Sewer	310.61
Maintenance and renovations	2,527.29
Weekly Cleaning Service	548.20
Insurance	827.22
Van Rental	555.60
3. Administration And Office	3,842.81
Office supplies and postage	1,390.65
Telephone	714.88
Publicity/newsletter	1,357.14
Corporate Expense and misc.	380.11
4. Programs	28,854.38
Food purchases/cash grants	14,874.38
Food purchases/FEMA vouchers	11,036.72
Infant clothing project	37.00
Summer program contribution	750.00
Christmas shoe fund	285.00
Christmas Toy & Gift Shop/toy purchases	408.00
Summer Youth Employment Program	1,460.27
TOTAL EXPENSES JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31	67,769.04

IV. BALANCES	
Opening Balance as of 1/1/84	7,001.67
Total 1984 Cash Income	63,300.79
FEMA Vouchers for Food Purchases	11,036.72
Total Available	81,342.17
Total 1984 Cash Expenses	56,751.52
FEMA Voucher Expenses for Food	11,036.72
Closing Balance as of 12/31/84	13,574.13

# KEEPING OUR BUILDING IN SHAPE

Keeping our building at 325 Market St. in shape is an on-going task. In 1984, we were able to make many improvements.

Thanks to a special \$500 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, received through the FEED Consortium, we were able to build a new and larger food room on the first floor. Our receiving department, where all incoming clothing is sorted by volunteers, moved into larger quarters as well, on the second floor. Our "old" food room was transformed into a meeting lounge for counseling sessions and committee meetings.

Gus Winder, the center's treasurer, deserves a special thank you for the many hours spent fixing and repairing. Among

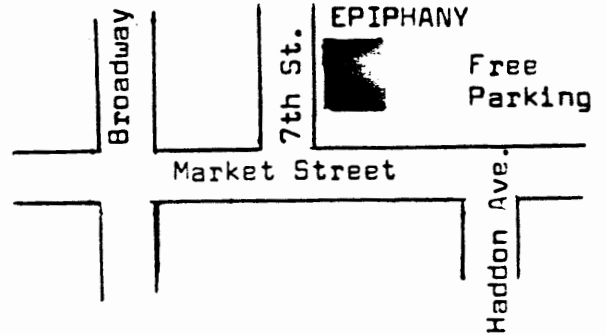
other projects throughout the year, Gus singlehandedly put in a fire alarm system, fire extinguishers, and safety ladders.

Bob Gift and Menton Kohl, members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Moorestown, continued to volunteer one day a week to do maintenance work. Their biggest job in 1984 was a new floor for the second floor bathroom. Thank you, Bob and Menton!

The Youth Employment Service (Y.E.S.), a youth project sponsored by the Camden Lutheran Parish, provided weekly cleaning services, mopping and waxing floors, cleaning the building, etc. Y.E.S. members, all of whom are junior high or high school students from Camden, run their own company and receive minimum wage.

## 11TH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER  
ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1985 AT 2 P.M.  
AT EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
7TH AND MARKET STREETS, CAMDEN



ALL ARE INVITED! FREE PARKING IS AVAILABLE ON THE LOT AT MARKET STREET  
AND HADDON AVE. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Camden, N.J.  
Permit #2024

GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER  
EL CENTRO BUEN SAMARITANO  
P.O. Box 452  
Camden, New Jersey 08101

## Testimonies

"After moving here, we found ourselves in an embarrassing situation—no job, no money, no food or place to stay. Then someone took us to the People That Love Center. There we met the greatest people in the world. They helped us, prayed with us and referred us. There should be a center in every town so those in need have a place to get help and to learn to love one another and the Lord like we have." **C.S., Gadsden, AL**

"Recently I was burned out and lost nearly everything. I went to agency after agency but no one would help. Then at the grocery store one day someone said to go to the Love Center for help. I went and they gave me food, clothes, bedding and furniture. PTL is wonderful to help when others can't or won't."

**R.F., Charlotte, NC**

"Five weeks ago I was at the bottom of my life. Then someone gave me the address of the Love Center. I was so low I had made up my mind to take my life. After visiting the Love Center, I attended church the next Sunday and felt like I had come home. I have been freed from the desire to take my life. I received Jesus back into my life—my life has completely changed. This ministry has saved my life. I would not be alive today unless they had helped."

**J.M., Portsmouth, NH**

"The People That Love Center was my last thread of hope. I had wandered aimlessly and lost for many years and was ready to give up. The 'People That Love' have helped me make a whole new start in life. They helped me with food, and nice clothes to wear for a job interview; they helped arrange some temporary housing. Now I've got a job, a place of my own, and most of all, friends to care and share."

**R.C., Rock Hill, SC**

"Thank you so much for your organization that helped me in my time of need. I can really see the family of God in action through it. As I get back on my feet it is my hope that I can become a person devoted to helping the poor and needy."

**H.T., Smyrna, DE**

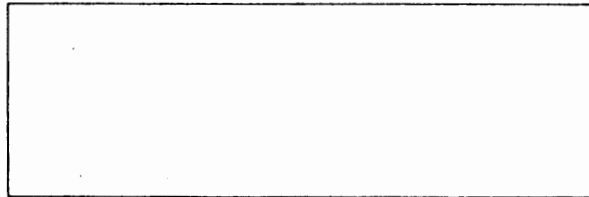
"God is really blessing our center. People are seeing that we aren't just saying we love, but are seeing it in ACTION."

**Plattsburgh, NY**

## You Can Count On Us

Love is more than something we say, it is what we do—loving folks right where they are. It is providing clothes, groceries, and furniture to needy families; being that caring, listening ear, offering prayerful encouragement, letting people know where jobs and other helps are available.

We are your neighbors and we care for you. If you have an emergency need, let us know. We can help with food, clothing, household items, job and community resources referrals, or just a listening ear and prayerful encouragement. Contact us at:




We'll be here. You can count on us!



**Your People That Love Center Is the place In your community where caring folks are reaching out to others in need. Won't you help with your time and/or donations? You can count on us. Can we count on you?**

*Mildred Maroon*  
783-7441

 Heritage Village Church & Missionary Fellowship, Inc.  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28279



# People That Love Centers



Caring volunteers help meet the physical needs of those who visit People That Love Centers, also offering prayerful encouragement. Emergency clothing, food and household items are available at no cost, provided by many "People That Love."



## What Is A People That Love Center?

People That Love Centers exist throughout America and in several other countries for the purpose of helping needy, hurting, destitute people make it with God's help and the loving assistance of His people.

The Centers accomplish this by freely providing emergency food supplies, clothing and furniture, and offering spiritual counsel, prayer and encouragement.

Other services of a People That Love Center may include helping people with job information, money management help, and community service referrals.

**President Reagan Has Recognized People That Love Centers, declaring...**



"The PTL Television Network is carrying out a master plan for 'People That Love,' opening centers all across the country to provide food, clothing, furniture and job bank centers at no cost."

## What Are People That Love Centers Doing?

Following the vision given to Jim Bakker and PTL, over 725 People That Love Centers are now reaching out in love, extending a helping hand and heart of love to needy people in small communities and large cities alike.



Dedicated volunteers become PTL's "arms and legs" in every corner of America, giving food, clothing and household items. Many centers are able to provide help with job information, community services referrals and basic money management. Every center offers God's love, expressed through His people, and the prayerful encouragement that says to the hurting, "You Can Make It!"

The real story of People That Love Centers is told in the testimonies of just a few of the thousands who have been helped: (see opposite side of this file)

CATHEDRAL KITCHEN

FEEDING PROGRAM

- Who
- a) Cathedral Conference - St. Vincent de Paul Society
  - b) 23 Church groups - 500 casseroles per month
  - c) 40 volunteer servers; one paid chef
  - d) Campbell Soup Co. - soup donations
  - e) Bread Basket } Bread donations
  - Pitman Bakery }
  - f) Tea and sugar - donated
- What Evening meals - 2300 people served per month
- Where Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Camden, N. J.
- When Weekday evenings: 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
- Why
- a) Provide meals to those who need them - no questions asked
  - b) Act as a vehicle for Christian Witness
- Expenses
- Paper Supplies } \$ 1000. per month
  - Salary }
  - Dumpster fee }
- Approximate Meal Cost - 50 cents per meal



