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

April 17, 1985  
2:00 p.m. - City Hall  
Bridgeton, New Jersey

6:30 p.m. - Carl Arthur Center  
Vineland, New Jersey

**MEMBERS OF COMMISSION PRESENT:**

Terry Grove, Chairman (a.m.)  
Jack Johnson, Chairman (p.m.)  
Walter Ellis, Jr.  
Marsha Abrams

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Margaret Hart  
William Stubbs  
Linda Barr-Gale  
Stanley J. Emanuels

**New Jersey State Library**

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**TERRY GROVE (Chairman):** You folks have been very patient, and I'm sorry. Apparently everyone has been on time except me. I was at Glassboro State, and I just broke every speed law there is to get from Glassboro to here on Route 553. That is a fun trip, I'll tell you. But, I'm here, and we are ready to begin.

My name is Terry Grove, and I am the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Comment for the New Jersey Commission on Hunger. I just briefly want to share with you who we are as a Commission, and then I want to introduce to you the people who are the Commissioners who are here to share with you today, and to listen to you today. Then we will move right along.

The New Jersey Commission on Hunger was called into being by a legislative act of the Assembly and of the Senate, at the request of several people working in tandem with the Governor's office. We were given an 18-month life as an organization, with a budget that would go through January of 1986. We are charged to bring a response to the hunger situation in New Jersey to the Legislature and to the Governor in January of 1986. The response will be not only what we have found, but also, hopefully, some directions that the agencies of the Executive Office and the Legislature might take to begin to deal with the problem of hunger as it exists and as we find it in New Jersey today.

The Commission is a unique Commission, in that it is made up of people from both the Legislative and the Executive Branches of government, and the private agencies and private sector of New Jersey, believing that we need to have all aspects of New Jersey represented on this Commission if, in effect, we are going to bring some kind of good package that will affect hunger in our State.

The Commission has been meeting now about six months, and in that time, aside from getting organized and really finding out who we are and what we are all about, we have been holding hearings like this one across the State of New Jersey. This is the fifth of eight such hearings. We have established them, as much as we can, in both public places -- like the City Hall here in Bridgeton -- and in actual places where people are coming for assistance -- like where we will be in Vineland tonight, and where we were in Camden a couple of weeks ago,

and so on. We want the broadest representation of the people in the State who can, to have access to the Commission. The 25 members of the Commission do not feel as though they have all the answers, nor do we feel that we can figure it out among us. We do believe that we need to hear from all of you, and that you, in some way, feel as though you have had some input into the process.

There are three more hearings that will take place, and they are all in the central and northern parts of New Jersey. Other places near you where we have taken testimony were in Atlantic City and Camden. So we feel as though we have attempted to touch the southern part of Jersey with three of the eight meetings.

To show you that we are taking seriously what you are sharing with us at these hearings, the two women that you see in the back at the table, and these microphones that you see across the front in front of us, are all designed to pick up every word that is said today. Those words will then be put on paper in a report, and that report will then be made available to the Commissioners for their reading and use as they put their report together. So whatever is shared today becomes a part of the public record. How that is shared, the intensity with which it is shared, and the content of what is shared will be picked up by the microphones, and will be picked up in the written word that we will have available.

The two women who are spending the day with us-- On the far side is Terry Mantuano, and on the near side is Mary Jane Zimpleman. They are from the Office of Legislative Services. They are pros in every respect of that word in what they do. We have seen their reports and they are superb. Enough of me talking, but that should give you some background about who we are.

Starting on my right, I would like each of the Commissioners to introduce themselves to you, and then we will begin.

MR. STUBBS: My name is William Stubbs. I am from the State Department of Community Affairs.

MS. HART: I am Margaret Hart. I represent Assemblyman Schwartz.

MS. BARR-GALE: I am Linda Barr-Gale; I am Chief of the New Jersey WIC Program, and I represent Dr. Goldstein from the Health Department.

MR. ELLIS: I am Walter Ellis, a farmer, and President of the New Jersey Farm Bureau.

MR. EMANUELS: Stanley Emanuels, representing Assemblywoman Dolores Cooper.

MS. ABRAMS: I am Marsha Abrams, and I am the Executive Director of the Commission.

MR. GROVE: I would say to you that if you listened carefully to who introduced themselves and what they represent, you have a broad spectrum of the government and private agencies here. I would also brag to you that this is the best turnout of Commissioners we've had. There are seven or eight of us sitting up here. You are really important people, obviously, way down here in Bridgeton, and we are pleased to be here with you.

What we would ask you to do as we call your name to give testimony, is to come forward-- Where do we have them set up, that microphone over there? (affirmative response) Will you come to the microphone over here, state your name, spell your name, and then give the testimony that you would like to give. You have 10 minutes to share with us. If you have written testimony, will you give that written testimony to either Mary Jane or Terry? At the close of your 10 minutes -- or up to that amount -- we will then, as a Commission, take some time to ask questions of you that are important for us. We have found that this information is important information. Then we will move to the next person.

Our tradition is that on the hour we take a break, which is to say that we want to be fresh the whole way through. We don't want to be walking around; we want to be able to listen to you. So, at 3:30 we will take a five-minute or 10-minute break, and then come back in to where we are.

The first person to give testimony today is actually two people. Our first two folks will be introduced by Cynthia Wilkes.

**CYNTHIA WILKES:** I'm Cindy Wilkes. I am a Registered Dietitian. I am representing today the SCOPE Agency, which is our community action program and health department, and also the Office on Aging. I am going to introduce the first two people on your schedule with a few minutes of testimony.

I came before you in Atlantic City and talked a lot about malnutrition and children and empathy, so you have a lot of testimony on that. I want to talk a little bit now about nutrition and the elderly. The relationship between nutrition and aging is assuming more and more importance because the number of older citizens in the United is rapidly becoming larger. The increase in this segment of the population is contributing to health care costs, and is affecting the social and cultural priorities of our nation.

Improved nutrition is one of the factors responsible for the larger numbers of older people -- why they live longer, in other words. As a consequence of the general improvement in the national circumstances, 11%, or 25.5 million Americans were over 65 in 1980. It has been projected that about 12%, or about 31.8 million will become 65 in the year 2000, and that 18% will be over 65 by 2035; that is, 18% of our total population.

The long period of life when care for mothers becomes increasingly necessary is a serious drain on health care resources, and is unsatisfactory to many older persons. It has been speculated that improved nutrition will offer a means of decreasing the illness and morbidity that are associated with aging. Hospital surveys suggest that better nutrition can improve morbidity and hasten patient recovery. When that occurs, the duration of hospitalization and associated costs will naturally decrease, too.

More importantly for our purposes here, it has been suggested that improved nutrition at home will decrease the need for hospitalization. That is what we want to make clear to you, that this will decrease the need for hospitalization, and this will have broad implications on total health care costs. Over the long term it can be observed that nutrition -- good nutrition -- can retard functional deteriorations that occur in association with aging -- heart attack,

stroke, cancer, osteoporosis, gastric disorders, and even senile dementia in some cases.

As was noted in the testimony I gave in Atlantic City, malnutrition during brain development results in impairment. On the other hand, malnutrition in later life can also result in similar effects — behavior abnormalities, reduced life spans of the individual brain cells, and reduced intellectual performance among the elderly. Aging can be viewed as a process that occurs throughout the life cycle, and nutrition can be viewed as an important factor in determining that outcome.

The Cumberland County Office on Aging presently serves about 350 meals per day in a congregate setting at six sites, while 250 meals are delivered through the Meals on Wheels Program to frail elderly. Senior meal programs, which have been shown to improve the nutritional adequacy of the participant's diet currently serve only about 9% of our population here in the County.

President Reagan's proposed 1986 budget calls for a freeze in funding for senior meal programs, congregate and home-delivered. Both of those programs have been called for a freeze, and a freeze also on commodity reimbursements. In addition, as food prices and service costs increase, fewer meals will be served in Fiscal Year 1986 — the mere fact that labor costs and food costs are going up every day — even though the elderly population is growing faster than any other age group in the United States.

At this point, I want to introduce two of our meal participants who come to the Bridgeton Congregate Feeding Program. We have Everett Mires, and then we will call Alma Williams after Everett says a few words.

MR. GROVE: Everett, would you please--

MS. WILKES: Everett, are you ready?

**EVERETT MIRES:** I sat there a little bit too long. I am one of the aged, if you want to know. My name is Everett Mires. You spell it E-V-E-R-E-T-T, and my last name — if any of you can spell it right the first time, I'll give you all a quarter; we won't go into that anyway -- is, M-I-R-E-S, just like tires, only Mires.

I was born and raised right here in Bridgeton, born in 1896. I left here in 1915 and I went to Pennsylvania. I was there and went into the Navy, and came back to Pennsylvania and stayed there, and married a lady from there, and had a son, and he came back down here and married a girl from down here. Now we are all back down here again. I have been back here since 1978.

I was in the food business up in Pennsylvania from 1930 on -- the food business and, also, the food equipment business. When we came down-- On account of my wife, we came back home here because it was close to my son. That is why we are back here. I did lose my wife since I am down here.

But anyway, I got interested in the food business here in Cumberland County, which is, so far as I am concerned-- I don't think there is anything in the whole State that equals what we are doing for the people, and how well it is served, and how well it seems everybody is pleased. Like Cynthia just told you, it's something like 350 people in the five or six locations we have here, and I get around to all of them. Everybody seems to be satisfied.

Today we had about all we could take up there, about 92 today. One of our oldest men was there; he came in by himself on the bus. He is 99 years old today. So you see we do have a lot of people who need food. The Meals on Wheels goes out to the people who can't get it, and we sure do need it. There is no doubt that it is doing our elderly people a lot of good. Without it, we would have trouble. People would not get the food; there is no doubt about it. In most cases, everybody seems to be really satisfied. We get a little kick once in a while, but who in your own home with three or four people has not said, "Oh gee, what do you have for supper tonight? I don't like that." So it's nothing more than ordinary.

We serve everybody. I get around to the councils. I am Treasurer of the council of the project, all the way through, so I am pretty much interested in it. We follow through to see that the people get what they want and what they need. I'm sure they are getting good, clean food, and good hot food, and good service. And we have a good lady here who takes care of it for us. We have a good president here who keeps us all hopping.

I am going to introduce to you now, our President of the project, Alma Williams.

MR. GROVE: Before we do that, Alma, could the group at least have the opportunity to ask you some questions, Everett.

MR. MIRES: Sure.

MR. GROVE: Is there anybody who would like to ask some questions of Everett at this point?

MR. MIRES: I'm a young fellow; be careful what you ask me.

MR. GROVE: I would like to ask, are the centers open on the weekend, or just during the week?

MR. MIRES: We're only open on weekdays, Monday through Friday, and no holidays.

MR. GROVE: Monday through Friday.

MR. MIRES: I think we have something planned for going in on holidays, which we should have, because the people on the weekend -- now you have two days -- they don't get anything to eat if we don't have anything.

MR. GROVE: Is there a particular reason why you choose not to work on the weekends?

MR. MIRES: That's right. We just have Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; that's it.

MR. GROVE: Is there a reason why, though, that you are not open on Saturday and Sunday?

MR. MIRES: Well, I guess we just don't have the money to do it with. That's as near as I know.

MR. GROVE: It's a money issue.

MR. MIRES: That's right. We're trying to get something through right now. We're working very hard to at least get in on Saturday for them, you know, so they don't have more than one day off. If you hit a holiday on a Monday now, there's three days goes through and our people don't get any food, not even the people on Meals on Wheels. They don't get it either. There they are sitting in their homes with no food at all for three days. So, we are working very hard to overcome that.

MR. GROVE: Margaret?

MS. HART: Do I take it right that you only serve lunches?

MR. MIRES: I can't hear you.

MS. HART: Do you serve lunches?

MR. MIRES: Yes, lunches; 12 o'clock at noon every day.

MS. HART: Do you know, do people have trouble getting to your sites?

MR. MIRES: Well, we have very good bus service. I must say that. Our County buses do give us good-- It is a miracle what they do with the buses. They pick up these people here and there and all the way around the place, bring them in to us, and then pick them up and take them back home again. They get them back, and we don't seem to have too much trouble. Once in a while, some of them complain. They complain because they have to wait a little bit. We call them in, but they can't pick up everybody at one time. You know, somebody has to wait somewhere, no matter what it is. If you call a taxicab, he can't be there in the next minute or two.

But, it is well-organized. I think the County has 26 buses that pick up -- when they are all running and working right -- the senior citizens and move them around town. They take them to the stores and wherever they want to go. They drop them and pick them up again. So, we're well-organized.

MS. ABRAMS: I have a question. Do you know if, for both the people who come to the congregate sites and for the people who receive the Meals on Wheels--

MR. MIRES: I can't hear you. Can you--

MS. ABRAMS: I'm sorry. I said, do you know, for both the people who come to the congregate sites and for those who get the Meals on Wheels Program -- do you know if that meal they receive is the only meal they have during the day?

MR. MIRES: So far as I know. Some of them could have somebody. Somebody might bring them in a sandwich or something, I don't know.

MS. ABRAMS: I see.

MR. MIRES: As far as we are concerned, that is the only meal they get. If they want a meal on Saturday or Sunday, there's just no way we-- You might say we have no respect for them whatsoever, because we don't have anything to give them.

MS. ABRAMS: So, your feeling is that for a great many people who participate in these programs, this meal is, in fact, the only meal they would have?

MR. MIRES: That's right, and that's for the elderly. Now, for the younger people, who we don't have anything to do with-- Here in Bridgeton, the Catholic Church takes care of a lot of them. I worked there for about three or four months when they first started. It's enormous there. Now, that is in the evening. That's anybody who walks in, children and everybody. It's surprising how many people really need food. That was the same thing, but now -- we have nothing to do with this; it is operated privately -- I think they are operating -- I don't know-- I guess they're operating six days a week probably.

FROM AUDIENCE: Five.

MR. MIRES: Six days a week?

FROM AUDIENCE: Five.

MR. MIRES: Still only five, only five days a week.

MR. GROVE: Thank you, Everett. We would like to allow Alma to speak with us at this point.

**ALMA WILLIAMS:** My name is Alma Williams. I am also a Bridgetonian, born here -- I won't tell you how many years ago because that would make you think I am old.

MR. GROVE: Alma, will you spell your name for us?

MS. WILLIAMS: A-L-M-A W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S.

MR. GROVE: Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: We are down on Cohansey. At one time we were next-door, but something went wrong and we had to move to new quarters. Our quarters are very small. We could take care of more if we had the room. The meals we serve are prepared first by the people in the council; that is, they set them up. Then they turn them over to Cindy, who goes over them to see that we have the right calories for the right people. We have the bland diet, the diabetic, and then the regular meal. Those people who are on the bland diet only get the bland food. So by that, no one goes hungry. The doctor has to send in a letter saying that you are to receive a bland meal or a diabetic meal. That way we are covered.

For the five sites -- Bridgeton, Millville, Vineland, Leesburg, and Port Norris -- the meals are delivered there from the ARA Caterers in Millville. Then we have people in the kitchen who prepare them. This year, we have had to take care of the Meals on Wheels. That at one time was done in Millville too, but now there are people who come in. There are no paid workers in our sites, only the site managers. There used to be one, but after her time was up then there are none. All the work is volunteered. They are carefully prepared by these people. They are sent out -- the Meals on Wheels -- so that they are hot when the people receive them. We have many volunteers. The Meals on Wheels now has grown so in Bridgeton that they have had to have extra help, so that they can get all the way around. As Everett has told you, we have about 352 meals that we serve daily. The people from the outlying districts come in on different times of the month. For instance, in Cedarville, they come on Fridays. In the Shiloh area, they come on Thursdays. But the people who are around here, then they come any time that they want. You must sign up, and you must be 60 years old to come in. It doesn't matter how far over 60, but you must be at least 60.

I think Everett covered the rest of it. If I can answer anything you would like--

MR. STUBBS: Ms. Williams, I thought I understood Mr. Mires to say that you serve about 350 meals to one group and about 250 to another. Did I misunderstand you?

MS. WILLIAMS: The 350 meals are served in the county, and the Meals on Wheels is the first group that you were speaking of.

MR. STUBBS: Okay.

MS. WILLIAMS: Then the other--

MR. STUBBS: That's the 350? No, that's the 250.

MS. WILLIAMS: The 250, yes. And the others, they come to the site.

MR. MIRES: We don't serve them all right here in Bridgeton. That's over the five locations in the county.

MR. STUBBS: Yes, that's-- You are serving approximately 600 meals daily?

MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.

MR. GROVE: Okay. Walter?

MR. ELLIS: Are there any criteria, other than simply age, to qualify for— I mean, just anyone who shows up and looks like they're 60 can participate?

MS. WILLIAMS: Well, we hope that-- Now, in these sites, you know, when you have done a certain thing for many, many years, then you are suddenly retired, you wonder what to do with your time. And that's one of the things that has been taken into consideration -- what to do with your time. Many people come there, not because they are really and truly poor. We have a few who are coming there because they need the social aspect, but the majority of them who come really need help. If it wasn't for this meal that they get one time a day, they wouldn't get anything. Sometimes people came down there and I would say, "Well, what did you have good today?" They said, "Well, we had a half a cup of milk." And I said, "What are you going to have for supper?" Well, they said maybe they would have soup, if some of the neighbors might bring it to them.

You know, we have some people who only get \$93.00 a month, and you know it's kind of hard to feed yourself on that, especially when you get past 60 and you become a blind or a diabetic person and you have to have these special things. So this meal that is served to these people is really needed. Sometimes they tell you that is all they have until the next day. And it can be that way.

MR. MIRES: Alma, may I interrupt here just to tell them how much we really get in, in proportion to what we are putting out, you know? In other words, the meals are free if they want. You go ahead and explain that to them.

MS. WILLIAMS: Yes. They ask you for a donation of one dollar, but if you don't have the money, then they will feed you just the same. And many people don't have it. We have man and wife both. They come in there. Maybe once in a while they'll give you a quarter, but most of the time it isn't enough.

I saw in the paper last Thursday where Reverend Wriggins said that the meals were free. That is not so. That is not so. Somebody has to pay for them. But that was in The Atlantic City Press. It

distressed us when we read it at our nutrition meeting last Thursday, because somehow or another it was wrong. They ask you for a donation, but if you can't give it, then that's it.

MR. MIRES: There's never a question asked either. If they don't have any-- We don't even know if they put anything in or not.

MS. WILLIAMS: No.

MR. GROVE: We thank you, Everett, and we thank you, Alma, for being here to share with us. Jan Stanton?

**JAN STANTON:** Stanton.

MR. GROVE: Stanton.

MS. STANTON: I would like to thank the Commission for allowing me to speak today. I am Jan Stanton. I am Chairperson of the New Jersey Nutrition Council. That is an organization of over 200 professional nutritionists involved in a variety of different activities and careers within nutrition in the State.

Today we are asking the question, are there hungry people in New Jersey? But I believe we should also ask, what is hunger? When we hear the word hunger, we think of our growling stomach, or we have a vision of an emaciated African child with an outstretched hand.

The best source of concrete nutrition information that we should have for our use is not coming from an emotional source, but rather from some real strong data, and that is what we need to look at. In order to get this data, the best source for us today is the National Food Consumption Surveys that have been done by the Federal government. These are the 10-state National Nutrition Survey which was done in 1968 to '70. It looked at the food intakes, as well as clinical and physical factors.

In 1971 to '74, there was another study done, which was called Haines, The Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, and there was a follow-up Haines II in 1977. Both of these were very expensive surveys done throughout the nation, looking at exactly what people were eating and the physical status of these individuals. Based on the analysis of this data, we can see how well the citizens of the United States eat. Unfortunately, we are not doing as well as might be expected for the most prosperous nation in the world.

Significant deficiencies were found in protein, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, riboflavin, iron, and calcium. Who was deficient in these nutrients? We might assume that it was the low-income people who couldn't afford to eat, but that is not always true. It was not just the poor who couldn't afford to purchase foods, but it was all income groups that were involved in these deficiencies. For the most part, inadequate nutrition in our country and in our State is a result of improper food choices. If we look at just one meal, let's say breakfast, for example, we see that there are many of us who omit this meal completely. Research has shown that a child's school performance declines when breakfast is not eaten, and it is difficult to get adequate nutrition for the day when one meal is completely omitted. However, children in all income groups often skip breakfast. This is a prime example of a behavior which can lead to deficiencies, yet is due to factors other than economic.

If we look at one nutrient to see how a deficiency might affect our life and our State health programs as well, we could choose calcium. Calcium is getting a great deal of press recently. If we open any women's magazine, we see advertisements for calcium supplements and for foods that are high in calcium. What is this? Studies have shown that from age 11 on, the average woman is seriously deficient in calcium. As with many other nutritional problems, the results of calcium deficiency do not show up immediately. Rather, it takes years for the debilitating effects to become evident. We have all seen little old ladies who are bent over with a dowager's hump. This is evidence of osteoporosis, due to long-term calcium deficiency. We used to think that when an elderly woman fell and broke her hip it was an unfortunate accident. Now we are discovering that often what really happens is that the hip breaks first and then the individual falls. The fracture occurs spontaneously due to porous bones because of years of insufficient calcium intakes.

In the United States, osteoporosis may be severe enough to produce fractures in as many as 30% of people over age 65. Unfortunately, the fractures are not the end of the story. Of the 150,000 hip fractures that occur each year in this country, about 12%

of these people will die of related complications. Considering the high percentage of elderly citizens residing in New Jersey, we need to be especially concerned about diseases which affect seniors. The economic consequences of osteoporosis are staggering. Short-term direct costs for patient care are predicted to exceed \$1 billion annually, and that is just for osteoporosis, the one disease we are thinking of. The costs are even greater when long-term costs of extended nursing care are considered.

We have seen how one nutrient, calcium, taken in inadequate amounts over a period of years, can lead to serious illness. This is but one nutritionally related disease. The major killer diseases that have been identified by the New Jersey Department of Health are also related to nutrition -- heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, liver disease -- all have a link to nutrition. Our number one health problem is not inadequate nutrition; it's nutritional ignorance. The people of New Jersey are not dying from a lack of sufficient calories always, but from diseases caused either by inadequate intakes of certain nutrients, or, perhaps more likely, an overconsumption of certain other nutrients. The 10-state and Haines surveys found, for example, an overall average consumption of protein well above 100% of the recommended amounts. In many groups, protein consumption was as high as 300% of the recommended dietary allowances.

We might think that this is really good, that it shows that we are eating well. However, quite the reverse is true. Excessive protein can be a factor in the development of diseases such as osteoporosis. Moreover, our high protein diets can be related to our high rates of cancer, heart attacks, and strokes. So, we can see how improper nutrient intakes can lead to disease and even death.

So, in answer to our original question as to whether the people of New Jersey are hungry, we must not look only at the obvious signs of hunger, such as a bloated stomach or an emaciated body. Rather, we must come up with a definition of hunger which can be clearly measured, and then see how our citizens fare. At the moment, the most convenient and useful measure is the RDAs, the recommended dietary allowances developed by the National Academy of Sciences. I

believe we can assume that the eating patterns in New Jersey do not differ tremendously from those across the nation. If that is the case, then there are clearly many people who are indeed hungry, as evaluated by the National Food Consumption Surveys. The result of this hunger may not be a growling stomach, but rather a premature death.

The increases which we have seen recently in life expectancy are the result, primarily, of fewer deaths among infants and children from infectious diseases. Very little gain has been made at the upper end of the life span. If we truly wish to measure the extent of hunger in our State, perhaps we should consider a food consumption survey of our population. Without such an evaluation, we can merely guess at the real situation. Such an evaluation is being planned by other states, and is an option that we should at least look at.

Our State should become more involved in solving the hunger problem of its citizens. There has not been a total commitment on the part of the State government in terms of promoting and developing more information on nutrition and nutrition education for its citizens, in the Department of Health, for example.

Certainly there are people in New Jersey who are hungry, in that they don't have enough food because they can't afford it. However, I believe we face a much larger hunger problem in our State today. A . . . . . y people who are not getting adequate amounts of certain nutrients. We need to educate our citizens from the preschooler to the elderly on how they can provide themselves with proper nutrition throughout their lives, and thus avoid the perils of hunger.

On behalf of the New Jersey Nutrition Council, I would like to offer any of our assistance or our organization to the Commission in achieving any of your future goals. I would also like to mention to the Commission and to the people in the audience that there is a conference on hunger being held on April 23 in Philadelphia, and I have a notice of that meeting that I will put over on the table, if anyone is interested.

MR. GROVE: Thank you, Jan.

MS. STANTON: Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Questions? Marsha?

MS. ABRAMS: I have a question. You mentioned the 10-state Nutrition Survey and also the Haines Study. Now, those were very good studies, but the newest one is already considered-- It is quite old; it was 1977, I believe.

MS. STANTON: That's right.

MS. ABRAMS: Could you comment on the problem that exists now in terms of people who are really hungry, and not just, you know, not living with a proper diet due to the recession we've had since that time, the cutbacks in various Federal food programs, and so on?

MS. STANTON: I think, once again, that what we really need to do is to study and evaluate the data. It is very difficult to say what is the difference between just being hungry and being deficient in certain nutrients, because I see them as one and the same. That, in fact, is my definition of hunger; someone who is not meeting the RDA for all of their nutrients. I believe the cuts that have gone through have affected many, many people, and I personally don't work with individuals in that type of program, so I couldn't give you any statistics in that area.

MS. ABRAMS: But you do agree there are considerably -- probably considerably more people in the State now who are getting much less of the RDA than they need?

MS. STANTON: I think there are a lot of people who have fallen through our "safety net," a lot more than we intended to ever do that, and I believe that New Jersey is representative of the rest of the country, in that, just as we said one nutrient, calcium, for example, after age 11, there are practically no women in New Jersey, or anywhere in the country, who are getting enough calcium. They might say, "So what? My bones aren't breaking at age 12 or 13." But we're living longer and longer, and the problems become more serious as we get older.

MR. ELLIS: It would seem that the ideal thing to do is to educate people on what good nutrition is. How far can you go in that regard? I guess that is the question in my mind. As you indicated, in many cases, it is not a matter of money. People have plenty of money to eat, and still buy and eat the wrong foods. I am not quite sure

what the answer is. Do you have anything other than just a general term to educate the people as to what good nutrition is?

MS. STANTON: There is a Federal problem -- the Nutrition Education and Training Program, known as NET -- that runs through the Departments of Education in the various states. In New Jersey, it is through the Department of Ed. The funding on this Federal program has been cut back year after year, and it is now to a point of being \$5 million, which for a national program is a drop in the bucket. Many states have, in fact, totally dropped this program. New Jersey still has the Nutrition Education and Training Program, but it is getting no State assistance. In the future it may lose all of its Federal funding. Perhaps that would be an area in which the State would like to pick up some of the funding. This program works with children, primarily.

MR. ELLIS: Who runs that program?

MS. STANTON: It is through the Department of Education.

MR. ELLIS: Through the Department of Ed.

MS. HART: Just to clarify, when you are speaking about the costs for in-hospital treatment of osteo--

MS. STANTON: Porosis.

MS. HART: --porosis, was that for the State of New Jersey, \$1 billion, or national?

MS. STANTON: No, that was nationally.

MR. GROVE: Questions? (no response) Thank you very much, Jan. Mary Smith?

**MARY SMITH:** Okay. My name is Mary Smith. To the Commissioners: In my work capacity as Coordinator for Parents, I was asked by Cindy Wilkes to inquire whether there were any head start parents interested in testifying before this Commission. I immediately said I did, and that I also would testify.

I am the mother of four children ranging in age from nine years to 18 years old, and the prime support for a dependent six-month old grandchild. I am also a divorced single parent for the past nine years. It was a devastating period in time when I realized I was now a single parent, and not educated in a skilled profession, and had not

obtained a college degree, and now having to support and feed a family alone.

Since October, 1976, when I reluctantly applied for welfare to help maintain my family, it has been an uphill battle to give my children the food necessary for good nutrition. In my present situation, just trying to provide the very basics has been extremely difficult. There have been times when I have had to apply for emergency food until payday.

As the children have grown, so have the appetites, and I haven't always been able to provide the food. For example: When my car needed expensive repairs so I could get to work, the family was existing on \$146.00 in food stamps and what little cash I could provide. This has happened several times in the last nine years.

As a family, we have had to sacrifice many necessities, and many times we are forced to one gallon of milk per week, learning to prepare various one-pot dishes or casseroles, and over use such filling foods as beans, rice, and the cheaper cuts of meat in small portions. Then there were the times when we had to stretch the food or there would have been none.

To you I say, without the food stamps to supplement my income, it would have been impossible to provide adequate food for my family. In October, 1981 -- I guess as a lot of people know -- there were Federal cuts in certain programs that affected my family and caused a ripple effect that here, three years later, and making \$10,000 a year, I still qualify for, and need support from the Food Stamp Program, as well as the Free Lunch Program for my children, and WIC for my grandchild.

I am only one among many people, particularly single parents who work every day and spend money wisely to maintain the family. I only want the opportunity to provide for my family with love and dignity and meet some of their needs. As a person who works in an agency representing 493 low-income families from this tri-county area, I have had an opportunity to see, in many families, the hunger and near hunger situations that arise within the family. I also have access to records and information that confirm that due to cuts in food stamps,

WIC, emergency food, food orders, and the enforcement of new welfare and unemployment regulations, there are many more families seeking emergency food, food stamps, or homes, who are forced to accept the meager quality and portions of food that they eat for lack of being able to do better.

It is a fact that this forced existence will ripple and cause a multitude of health problems, children with less incentive to learn, and other probable long-range disability or diseases. As Americans we urge you to look carefully into this matter -- and yes, there is hunger in America, and here in New Jersey.

I would also like to say that attached with my report, is a report from the Children's Defense Fund for the Fiscal Year 1985. There are several places there that I think should be looked at for statistics. Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Thank you. Questions?

MS. HART: I'm not sure I understood you right. You said that in 1981 with the Federal cutbacks, it affected you, but you were still eligible for WIC for your grandchild and food stamps and-- Then how did it affect you?

MS. SMITH: Okay, I'll explain. In October, 1981-- Before that time, we were able, as working poor, to be able to receive a work incentive. If you were able to work, you would receive a certain portion, and if you were still below the guideline, you were allowed to receive a certain portion of food stamps to supplement the income. At that time, we did not have WIC, and I didn't use WIC for any of my children, because during my years of marriage, I was able to support them without that.

In October, 1981, President Reagan came through with sweeping cuts that, you know, are still here yet, in the year 1985. We are still feeling the ripples from it. It cut my income in half.

MS. HART: That is what I want to know. How did the cuts affect you?

MS. SMITH: My income went from \$9,500 to \$5,000, with four children. Quite a cut.

MS. ABRAMS: I have a question. Does your food budget come primarily from food stamps, or do you supplement that with--

MS. SMITH: I must supplement. I supplement my food stamp budget now-- Let's see. I receive \$200.00 in food stamps now, with the grandchild in the home. I supplement that amount possibly \$250.00 to \$300.00 per month.

MS. ABRAMS: Okay. Let me ask you two other questions. If you were to depend primarily on the food stamps for your family of five -- and that includes, I take it, a young baby--

MS. SMITH: Yes.

MS. ABRAMS: How old are the other children?

MS. SMITH: The other children are 9, 11, 16, and 18.

MS. ABRAMS: So, you have two teen-agers in the household, with their very healthy appetites.

MS. SMITH: Yes.

MS. ABRAMS: If you had to depend primarily on food stamps, how long do you think they would last you during a given month?

MS. SMITH: If I depended solely on food stamps they would last approximately 10 to 12 days.

MS. ABRAMS: So, in effect, less than half the month?

MS. SMITH: Yes. One of the statistics that shows up in the report that I will turn in, shows that most of the families that receive food stamps that are not able to supplement with other income, do not make the third week of the month.

MS. ABRAMS: Let me ask you one other question. You say that you supplement your food stamps from the very small income that you earn for this relatively sizeable family. Do you find that in order to do that you have to cut back on other necessities, such as health care, for instance? Could you address that for us?

MS. SMITH: Child care, for me personally, is not a problem, because my children are older. Of course, it places quite a responsibility on them to care for themselves while I am working. But the grandchild, at this time, because I am what the welfare office calls a legally responsible relative-- My daughter receives now, as of last month, \$41.00 in welfare for the baby, and child care runs me \$100.00 a month for the baby.

MS. ABRAMS: What about your medical bills? Do you have medical coverage?

MS. SMITH: I have what we call a Health Maintenance Program in this area, which I pay for, and that is \$30.00 per month.

MS. BARR-GALE: Have you had any major illnesses in your family?

MS. SMITH: Thank God, no, fortunately.

MR. ELLIS: Mary, you mentioned that on occasion you have had to apply for emergency food 'til payday.

MS. SMITH: Yes.

MR. ELLIS: Where does that come from, or how do you apply for it?

MS. SMITH: In this tri-county area, over in Vineland it is the Catholic organization. Here in Bridgeton, it is SCOPE, where I work at. People can receive-- There are other sites around the tri-county area.

MR. STUBBS: I have a couple of questions, quickly. Are your children all still in school -- the older ones?

MS. SMITH: Yes, they are.

MR. STUBBS: Jan, if I may -- I have forgotten your last name -- would this family suffer tremendous nutrition deficiencies if, say, when they can only get one gallon of milk a week, if they would use a non-fat dry milk, which would maybe give them two or three gallons a week?

MS. STANTON: No. I believe that non-fat dry milk has the same nutritional content as whole milk or non-fat milk has. The non-fat dry milk is nutritionally equal. However, you have to think of a teen-ager needing four glasses of milk a day. Okay? And children-- And if you are talking about a teen-ager who is pregnant, she is going to be needing even more. A child is going to need three glasses a day, and an adult needs two glasses. So just add up all those glasses for the number of people in that family, and you will see that the amount of milk that she was saying that she could afford to purchase, is probably not even adequate for a day.

MR. STUBBS: No, I'm not arguing that point. I just wanted to know if--

MS. STANTON: Nutritionally they are the same, yes.

MR. STUBBS: Then this would increase the volume of milk available. That is the only thing I was--

MS. SMITH: We do use non-fat dry milk from time to time. The children do not like it, but children will drink it if that is all that is there.

MR. STUBBS: Okay.

MR. GROVE: Do you have a question, Bill? (negative response) Margaret?

MS. HART: I have another question. Are there any school nutrition projects available for your kids -- school breakfast or lunch programs?

MS. SMITH: In our area, one of the schools that one of my children is in now does offer breakfast, but I do insist that my children eat before they leave home.

MR. STUBBS: Bless you.

MS. SMITH: So he very seldom gets to use that.

MS. HART: But it's only available for your one--

MS. SMITH: The youngest one, nine years old.

MS. HART: The younger age bracket. And no lunch programs?

MS. SMITH: Yes, they do have the Free Lunch Program in this area; a tremendous help.

MR. GROVE: Mary, thank you very much.

MS. SMITH: Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Estine Davis.

FROM AUDIENCE: Estine had another engagement. She's a little late. She should be arriving shortly.

MR. GROVE: Okay. We'll shift down then. Thank you. Lovia Parker? Am I saying that correctly? (correct pronunciation is given) Oh, Lovia. Okay, I'll go for that.

**LOVIA PARKER:** Hi: My name is Lovia Parker. I was also asked by Cindy Wilkes. I am a parent. I am a little nervous. I wrote out my testimony.

With the high cost of living each year, and the lack of jobs, there is a growing concern with the shortage of food and homes. A large amount of the population in South Jersey depends on food stamps

and food assistance programs. Without these programs, it would be hard to make ends meet.

In the Salem County area, we have programs such as WIC, a special supplemental program for women, infants, and children; the Food Stamp Program, which enables low-income families to buy more food of greater variety to improve their diet; city welfare, which gives food orders to those in need of food; the Soul Saving Center, a church which shelters and gives food to the homeless and needy; the Penns Grove Head Start Center, which recommends needy people to the Regional SCOPE Office in Bridgeton; and other clubs and churches which give donations to various organizations to feed the needy.

I feel that with the help of these programs I can adequately supply food for my family without too much strain. I can remember when there was no money or food in my home. I was left alone with my children with no means of support. A friend told me about city welfare, and I got immediate help. I contacted them, and they did help me. They told me about the Food Stamp Program, but my pride would not allow me to apply for food stamps right away because welfare, to me, seemed like a bad work. Plus, I figured the government is not out to help people like us, but just to downgrade us. But I found out differently. They do help us. They made it possible for my family to have sufficient income and food. Thanks to welfare and programs like it, people are able to live without going hungry.

God said, "Those who bless others will also be blessed," and as long as the government continues helping the poor and needy, this country will stay blessed.

MR. GROVE: Thank you. Questions?

MS. HART: When you applied for food stamps, did you have to wait long, or were they able to give them to you right away?

MS. PARKER: When I filed, I had to wait quite a long time.

MS. HART: How long did you wait?

MS. PARKER: Well, after I got my help right away, you know, they gave me immediate food, then it took about a month and a half.

MS. HART: Was there a time when you had no food while you were waiting?

MS. PARKER: Yes. I had to keep going back and getting more food orders.

MS. BARR-GALE: Do you feel you're getting sufficient food now through food stamps and WIC?

MS. PARKER: Well, it's better than it was at the beginning. It's still kind of hard, you know, because of the cuts and things, but we're making it.

MR. STUBBS: Ms. Parker, I don't recall, how many children do you have?

MS. PARKER: Three.

MR. STUBBS: And the oldest is?

MS. PARKER: Thirteen.

MR. STUBBS: Thirteen. And there is no income in the family?

MS. PARKER: No.

MS. HART: Do you run out of food stamps before the end of the month, usually?

MS. PARKER: Yes.

MS. HART: About when do you run out?

MS. PARKER: Most of the time about the second week.

MR. GROVE: One of the things that we have run into as we have been traveling around the State, is that prices in the food stores change at certain times of the month. Do you experience that? I see some other people shaking their heads. Is there a universal yes to that, that at the beginning of the month when the food stamps are available, the price goes up, and at the end of the month when they are not so available, the price comes down?

FROM AUDIENCE: That's right.

MR. GROVE: In that system, do any of you get caught in a sort of company store syndrome, where you buy against what is coming later, and, therefore, you must buy at a certain place because you owe them in advance? Does that happen?

MS. SMITH: I know some people do. That's really a matter of--

MR. GROVE: Am I describing accurately so that you all know what I am talking about?

FROM AUDIENCE: Yes.

MR. GROVE: And you do find that happening?

FROM AUDIENCE: It happens for some people, yes.

MR. GROVE: And, when that happens then it is sort of like-- That happens at the beginning of the month when the prices are up, so it takes the food stamps much quicker? (affirmative shake of head) Okay.

MS. BARR-GALE: When you go to the stores where you find this, are they small stores, or are they medium stores, or large stores?

FROM AUDIENCE: They're all kinds, supermarkets--

MR. GROVE: (addressing person in audience) Are you suggesting it is the chain stores that do most of the-- (addressing Ms. Barr-Gale) Is that what you're asking, who does the--

MS. BARR-GALE: I'm trying to find out if there is a type of store--

MR. GROVE: Is it the chain stores that do the changing of prices?

FROM AUDIENCE: It's the chain stores, yes.

MR. GROVE: What about the smaller Mom & Pop type stores?

FROM AUDIENCE: They're higher, also.

SECOND PERSON FROM AUDIENCE: They never change.

MR. GROVE: They never change. Other questions?

MS. ABRAMS: Just one more question. When you find that you have run out of food stamps, what do you do to get food to feed your family?

MS. PARKER: Well, I go to the church, and they help out.

MS. ABRAMS: They have a food pantry?

MS. PARKER: Yeah.

MS. HART: I have a question, Terry.

MR. GROVE: Okay. Margaret?

MS. HART: Do you have trouble getting to food stores? Is there a food store, or two, or three in town, near where you live, or do you have problems? Sometimes people have a lot of trouble getting to the food stores, and end up spending some of their food money just getting there. Are they located in an okay spot around here?

MS. PARKER: Well, where I live there is one right in the center of town, but some people still have trouble getting there cause they may be disabled or something, and don't have anybody to take them to and from.

MS. HART: Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Is the public system of transportation for the senior citizens -- those 28 buses, give or take a few, that work and don't work-- Is that available to anybody, or only to senior citizens?

FROM AUDIENCE: Disabled.

MR. GROVE: Pardon?

FROM AUDIENCE: Disabled.

MR. GROVE: Disabled.

MS. SMITH: We don't have that in all areas down here.

MR. GROVE: You don't have it in all areas either?

MS. SMITH: We don't have a transit system in all areas, no.

MR. GROVE: So that if you are a single parent -- like you are, and like you are -- and you want to, let's say, go to the grocery store, and you don't have transportation -- maybe your own car or whatever -- how do you get to the store and get back again?

MS. SMITH: They take taxis, or they walk.

MR. GROVE: They take taxis or they walk? And that is fairly expensive, I assume, if you're taking taxis. Okay, thank you very much.

We will take a five-minute recess. We will come back, and Callie Walker will be the first to give testimony when we come back.

(RECESS)

#### AFTER RECESS

MR. GROVE: I would like to call Callie Walker, please. Callie, are you here? (no response) Okay, we'll pick Callie up later. Frank Dawkins? (no response)

MS. HART: I'm afraid we've lost a few people in the halls. They don't know we have convened again.

MR. GROVE: Cynthia, is Callie--

MS. WILKES: I know Callie, and I don't see her.

MR. GROVE: Was she here?

MS. WILKES: I haven't seen her yet.

MR. GROVE: And Frank Dawkins?

MS. WILKES: I don't know Mr. Dawkins.

MR. GROVE: Franny Krawiec?

**FRANNY KRAWIEC:** I'm here.

MR. GROVE: Bingo.

MS. KRAWIEC: I have a copy of my presentation, if you would like to have it.

MR. GROVE: Copies go to the ladies when you are finished. That would be fine.

MS. KRAWIEC: That would be fine. I'm Franny Krawiec. Thank you for the pleasure of speaking today. I am the County Coordinator for the Cumberland County Meals on Wheels Program.

The Cumberland County Meals on Wheels Program is sponsored by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Cumberland, and is funded primarily under Title III of the Older Americans Act through the County Office on Aging. It has been in operation for 10 years, since March of '75.

The Program provides a hot, well-planned, nutritionally balanced meal Monday through Friday, delivered to the home of those elderly clients who cannot prepare or procure a hot meal. Special diet meals are provided where prescribed by a physician. Recipients may live anywhere within the boundaries of Cumberland County, and must be 60 years of age or older.

The Cumberland County Meals on Wheels Program fulfills a unique need of the elderly who are homebound due to acute or chronic illness or handicap. This Program provides nutritious meals for the purpose of assisting clients in maintaining or improving their health status, as well as delaying or preventing institutionalization. It is intended to strengthen the support of family, friends, and neighbors, rather than to replace it. It is not intended to foster isolation or to develop unnecessary dependence upon the services. Those requesting long-term service are reevaluated at six-month intervals to determine

current need for service -- by their physicians, incidentally. Referrals for other services are made on behalf of the client when appropriate.

The suggested contribution to the meals is paid by the client; however, arrangements can be made for subsidy of meals where the need exists. Food stamps can be accepted, full or in part, by the Program as payment for meals.

In 1984, we delivered 13,762 meals at a cost of \$28,074.48 to Bridgeton area residents alone. Client contribution for this period amounted to \$10,622.08. Now, that is less than half. These people really needed the meal. We find a direct correlation between low income and poor health. Most of our low-income people are diabetic. Oftentimes, poor diet is a contributing factor. Hungry people consume a diet heavy with carbohydrates, as they are filling.

Since funding is somewhat limited, our current funding level is for 180 units of service per day. If these people were not hungry and in need of our service, we surely would not be overextending ourselves by serving between 210 and 220 daily, which keeps me constantly in trouble.

Many of our people do not have proper facilities. Some lack refrigeration; some have inadequate plumbing; few have anyone to assist with shopping; and, many are physically incapable of preparing proper meals, even if the shopping was not a problem.

The cost of meals has risen each year, which is understandable, due to rising raw food costs, plus the increase in the cost of delivery. When the folks in Washington make statements that they have not cut the funding for the nutrition programs for the elderly, they may speak the truth, but we all know with costs escalating each year, this does, in fact, eventually mean cutting services.

Many of our people should be in nursing homes, but are struggling to make it in their own homes. If they were willing to accept nursing home care, there are waiting lists, and beds are not readily available. Since most of their costs are fixed, when they run out of money there is not enough to eat, and many go to bed hungry.

For some, the food provided by the Cumberland County Meals on Wheels Program is the only decent meal they get. Five out of 21 -- it's not much, is it?

Hunger truly exists, and I trust proper financial arrangements can be made, not only to continue the existing services, but to expand services to the homebound, to assure that we do all in our power to make the final days of the lives of our elderly as comfortable as possible. Let's not let them go to bed hungry, if we can help it. Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Thank you. Franny, please stay here until we ask some questions. Questions?

MR. ELLIS: I have a question.

MR. GROVE: Go ahead.

MR. ELLIS: May I ask, do you-- In preparing your meals, do you make use of local produce and that sort of thing -- fresh produce, as opposed to processed?

MS. KRAWIEC: The Program has been in existence for 10 years. The first seven years, we got the meals from the hospitals. The cost became a real factor there. And so-- Ms. Samuels is here. Cindy is a nutritionist for the Nutrition Program. Ms. Samuels is the Director of the Nutrition Program, and we combined the two programs. So therefore, the meals go out to bids, and by combining the programs we got them much cheaper. We pack, with Ms. Samuels' site managers-- My people assist in packing the meals, and volunteers from the various programs-- We pack the meals ourselves, load them into the cars, and go out and deliver them. That is a considerable saving.

They do, in planning the menus-- Cindy takes advantage of the local things that are available because that makes the cost of the caterer cheaper, because he can-- She could probably explain that better, but the menus-- We have winter menus and summer menus. Summer menus definitely take advantage of the crops that are available in the area. They have watermelon for dessert, and so on and so forth.

MR. ELLIS: Obviously, speaking from the perspective of a farmer-- We keep talking about the prices of meals going up, and they do. I don't deny that at all.

MS. KRAWIEC: Yes.

MR. ELLIS: I just know that I have not realized a great deal of increase in the costs or prices of my produce, which is the case with most farmers, where the price difference always-- You know, a major part of the price difference comes in with processing, in whatever form it has to be done. My point, of course, is that the more fresh produce that can be used, with as little processing as possible, is a heck of a lot better. Of course, the work load involved, obviously, gets to be more.

MS. KRAWIEC: But they do-- The summer menus take advantage of the available things -- local available things.

MR. ELLIS: Thank you.

MS. KRAWIEC: Meals are prepared by ARA -- anyone familiar with that. It's a caterer. You must go out to bid and, of course, in this area, it's hard to find someone to cater. And we certainly do not have the money for a facility -- to put up a facility so that we can cook ourselves. I know they do that in lots of areas, but, you know, we're low on the totem pole for funding down here.

MR. ELLIS: This is a regular catering service that you--

MS. KRAWIEC: Yes.

MR. ELLIS: --subscribe to?

MS. KRAWIEC: Yes. Ms. Samuels prepares the bids. It's advertised, and the paper goes out to bid, and whoever sends the bids in-- You know, you have to go with what you have. So-- But the hospital meals were going to be \$.50 a meal more, and there was just no way; just not enough money.

MR. GROVE: If you had the funds, would you be able to supply more meals?

MS. KRAWIEC: Probably. The thing now-- When you go to Meals on Wheels, the thing now is, our office recently became the second Office on Aging. Atlantic County was first, and we became the second office in the State to incorporate the handicapped. Now, this is a whole new ball game. They're getting rides on the bus. They are not included, so far, in either the Congregate Nutrition or Meals on Wheels. And that is another whole ball game. They're hoping that maybe they can get some casino funds to include handicapped people,

because you have handicapped people, their parents die, and these handicapped are left in the home with no one to take care of them, no means of getting meals, and no funding available for them. So, you know, that is another whole ball game.

MS. BARR-GALE: Did you say that you have a waiting list?

MS. KRAWIEC: No. I had a waiting list of 180, and I just kind of went ahead and charged in and got in trouble, but so far-- We don't have a waiting list right now. We did have in Vineland, and we had to split the route. We now have two routes in Vineland.

MS. BARR-GALE: So you just went ahead and increased it?

MS. KRAWIEC: Yeah.

MS. BARR-GALE: How does this affect your budget?

MS. KRAWIEC: Well, I've been called in. (laughter) I've been called in; I'm always in trouble. I have trouble saying no. I started as a volunteer. If you get a volunteer, when he or she becomes a professional, you know they are going to be in trouble because they're still thinking there's got to be a way.

I always have trouble with my budget -- January, February, March, and April. I am always in trouble every year, but this year I got called in early because it was pretty bad. I'm always in trouble while people are having to buy fuel. You know, people can't give me money when they have to buy fuel. You know, you can go without food, but it's terrible to be cold 24 hours a day. So, while they are buying fuel, if they don't give me any money, they eat. I mean, we serve them. But it will pick up in May; it does every year. You know, I keep a strict record of the funding from year to year. But if all the cities were like Bridgeton, we would just be floundering. But we have more people in the Millville area, and the Vineland area, who can afford to pay for their meals, and those who can afford to, do. But most of our low-income people are in the Bridgeton areas -- the surrounding areas, and Port Norris.

MR. GROVE: Who provides the transportation?

MS. KRAWIEC: We have county vehicles -- five county vehicles. The people who deliver the meals are those people who are employed under Title V, who meet the income guidelines, who either have

not reached the age of retirement -- they must be 55 at least -- because their income is low enough that they can qualify for this, which only pays minimum wage. But their income is low enough that they qualify for a little supplementary job of 20 hours a week. So that is helpful. Of course, the costs of transportation, insurance, and so forth come out of the grant.

MS. BARR-GALE: If additional people want to get on Meals on Wheels, or if your Millville people do not pay out as much as you want them to, who will make up the difference?

MS. KRAWIEC: I have no idea. I think I would go to the community because we started-- I started as a community person. We started with a luncheon in St. Andrew's with community funds before it was federally funded. And I think I could go to the community, go around and make speeches to the service organizations, which I would do.

MS. BARR-GALE: So you would do your own fund raising?

MS. KRAWIEC: I would be perfectly willing to. In fact, I offered to when I was in trouble last month.

MR. ELLIS: Can you tell us, is Cumberland County still the highest-- Does Cumberland County still have the highest unemployment rate in the State?

MS. KRAWIEC: Yes, sir. Unemployment rate, yes, sir. Now, it is a sad state of affairs. You know, Owens-Illinois was such a large employer, and now, just to show you what kind of a situation we're in, in the City of Bridgeton, the largest employer in the City of Bridgeton is the hospital, which is unreal. There is no industry that employs as many people as the hospital. So that tells you the story of Bridgeton. It's pretty bad.

MR. GROVE: Thank you.

MS. KRAWIEC: Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Carolyn Acker, would you please come up?

**CAROLYN ACKER:** I want to thank you for the opportunity, Commissioners, for speaking this afternoon. I did not call to be on the program because I did not understand fully what this was. But we felt that we would like to come and find out.

My name is Carolyn Acker. I am President of the St. Vincent dePaul Society of Bridgeton. This is a Catholic lay organization, and we are based out of St. Theresa's Church in Bridgeton.

We run an afternoon meal for the poor. We serve meals from a quarter of three to a quarter of four. We serve at that time because we have Green Thumb workers who prepare the meal. I guess you all know what Green Thumb workers are. So we have six of them, and then we have volunteers from our own organization who go and prepare an afternoon meal. We have one of our members who had worked in a school cafeteria. She managed that, and she prepares a nutritionally balanced meal.

MR. GROVE: Carolyn, let me interrupt. What is a Green Thumb?

MS. ACKER: A Green Thumb worker-- You don't know?

MR. GROVE: No, I've got a brown one. I don't know much about Green Thumb workers.

MS. ACKER: Well, Green Thumb workers are under the United States Department of Labor. They are persons over 55 with an income -- I believe it's \$5,400 or less per year, for a single person. They are allowed to work so many hours a week. They had been working 25 hours. Their hours were cut to 20. Now, starting the sixteenth of this month, they are going up to 24. So they come in at 11:30 in the morning and they work until 4:30 in the afternoon, four days a week. To make up the four hours, they work from twelve to four on Fridays.

We serve meals. We get the food-- It's partly United States Department of Agriculture food, which we get through the State of New Jersey. They supply basic foods, like rice, flour, powdered eggs, corn meal, macaroni, some canned vegetables -- but right now we haven't been getting many -- and some canned fruits. We get peanut butter, and the rest of the food we have to either purchase ourselves-- We did get some FEMA money last year. Are you all familiar with FEMA money -- Federal Emergency Management Act money? We did get a grant from that. Then we do get support from our church, as well as many of the Protestant denominations in the Bridgeton area. They are all familiar with the work we do. As Franny Krawiec said, she can go out and make

speeches. We go out and speak before groups, and sometimes come back with \$25.00 or \$50.00.

Before Christmas, one man came and asked if we were going to prepare a meal for Christmas. We said we weren't going to do it on Christmas Day, but they were going to have a big meal the day before. He held out his hand and he had \$300.00. We don't even know who the man was. But money comes in when you are doing something good.

At the first of the month, we serve approximately 60 people. At the end of the month, it should go up as high as 180. This, of course, as you know, is when the food stamps run out and the other moneys are low. We serve people of all ages, but mostly we have a great many single males who come to us who live in rooms. Due to the economy, many of these men are out of work. They are low in education, and cannot go somewhere else and get a job. They live in rooms, or some of the families live in homes where the utilities have been shut off because of nonpayment of bills. They have no way of cooking, and they come to us for a meal. We have families. This young girl who spoke here, she would be eligible to come to our afternoon program because we do not have an age. We do not have people sign in every day. Occasionally we take a roll call of the people there, so we know the ages, the addresses, and the names of the people who come.

People are referred to us by city welfare, the Salvation Army, and other organizations. Our St. Vincent dePaul Society, while we don't do it here in Bridgeton, our Society in Woodbine does supply some food staples to the Salvation Army, the Bridgeton Apostolic Center, and to some of the churches in Millville and Vineland. They dispense some of the food that comes through our St. Vincent dePaul Society.

I just jotted down a few notes. We started our feeding program because some of our members saw people in Bridgeton eating out of garbage cans. What I mean by that is, they opened up the trash containers downtown, picked up a container, maybe with milk in it, or soda, and tried to get the last drop of it. Or maybe someone had discarded a sandwich and there was still part of it in there.

We serve street people. You know what street people are, the people who fall between the cracks. We don't turn anyone away. Mothers come with maybe two or three children. They come in, get in line, get a plate, and they are served a hot, nutritious meal, even dessert. We may make a cake; sometimes we have fruit; but, we try to have something that is well-balanced.

On Fridays, we pick up muffins -- Thomas English Muffins. We get a supply of them every Friday. These we dispense to the people, so they will have something for over the weekend. We only serve five days a week because the church is in use the other two days, and we can't tie up the church hall. We serve in our church hall.

We also sometimes have casseroles on hand. If we know somebody is going to be without food for the weekend, we will give them a casserole to take home. If they don't have the means of warming it, they may know somebody they can share it with. That way there is some way for them to have something to eat.

In the summertime, the farmers and the fruit growers are very kind to us. Through the RSVP Program here, they provide the workers and we provide the truck, and they go out to the farmers and bring in food to us. We have just used the last of the carrots and the squash that we froze, which we had left over from last summer. Sometimes we have apples or peaches for dessert.

Last year, we served 26,350 meals. We keep a daily record of the meals we serve. Just a moment-- Did you have something else? (addressing someone in audience, who responds negatively)

That is about all I can think of. If there are any questions, I will be glad to answer them.

MR. MIRES: They do a real good job, I'll tell you that, because I worked for them.

MS. ACKER: You worked for us when we were next-door. We started out in the church next-door here, and then we moved the operation up to our own church. We started out here because it was closer to the poor -- the location.

MR. MIRES: No matter who they were, little ones or what, we fed them.

MS. ACKER: Yes, and they can come back for seconds if they're hungry, and sometimes they haven't eaten for a couple of days when they come to us. In the spring of the year, we get some of the migrant workers who come up, but who have not yet become established in a farm camp.

MR. GROVE: Questions?

MR. EMANUELS: You made a good point, and I would just like to reiterate on it for the Commission. You said that your feeding program, at the beginning of the month-- Now, I understand this is per week that you feed approximately 60 people at the beginning of the month -- on a weekly basis.

MS. ACKER: A daily basis.

MR. EMANUELS: A daily basis. At the end of the month, you feed approximately 180--

MS. ACKER: A day.

MR. EMANUELS: A day. I think that was a good point because earlier someone had said that--

MS. ACKER: Yes.

MR. EMANUELS: --the food stamps run out in the second week.

MS. ACKER: Yes. We find this out. There are some people who are regulars -- 60 to 75 people we have all the time. But then it builds up with people with other problems. See, many of the people who come to us don't even-- Some of the older men may have Social Security, but some of them don't have anything because they don't have a permanent address. You can't get welfare if you don't have an address.

MR. EMANUELS: Question-- So, are we more or less to assume that the 60 that you serve on a daily basis all through the month-- Are they homeless?

MS. ACKER: No. Many of them live in single rooms, like some men who are out of work. They may get a small welfare from the city. The fact that they are single means that they are not entitled to county welfare. They are not a family. It is only a hundred-and-some dollars a month and, of course, they are probably paying out \$25.00 a week for a room, or more. So all the money they get from the city practically goes for their shelter.

Also, some of the people bring in clothing, and we put clothing out there. Some of the people only have the clothing that they wear, especially our street people.

MR. EMANUELS: Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Marsha?

MS. ABRAMS: Yes, I have one question. What year did you say you started this program?

MS. ACKER: We are in existence about three years.

MS. ABRAMS: So that's approximately since 1982.

MS. ACKER: Yes.

MS. ABRAMS: Or something like that. Have you seen any change or increase in the number of people you serve since you started, or is--

MS. ACKER: Well, it changes. Some of the people move away. Occasionally they'll come in, and they'll say, "We're going to Florida because we have an uncle down there," or "We're going to Georgia," or "We're going to Tennessee because I have a cousin there. We thought we could handle it here, but we can't, so we're going there."

MS. ABRAMS: So, many of the people who have been coming to you are people who have been put out of work, perhaps, by the closing down of the industry?

MS. ACKER: And many of them were the unskilled laborers.

MS. ABRAMS: So they join the group of people who have gone on the road in search of work in other places, in effect?

MS. ACKER: Yes. Of course, many of them are people who have lived in Bridgeton and, for one reason or another, they may be handicapped in some way, or they may have been hurt at work, but it was a minor hurt and, not working for a large company, they did not get benefits. They're all passers, yes.

MS. BARR-GALE: Do you turn people away?

MS. ACKER: No.

MS. BARR-GALE: So you always have--

MS. ACKER: We ask the children to bring a parent or a guardian with them. If they come alone, we tell them, "We'll feed you today, but tomorrow you bring your parent with you, or a guardian."

MS. BARR-GALE: So you make estimates as to how many people will be coming that day?

MS. ACKER: Well, we can tell by— We keep a daily record, so we know about how many. If anything is left over, sometimes we will give it to a family to take home that night, especially on a weekend, because you might hold some things over for the following day and serve them, but some of the food you wouldn't want to hold over, especially over a weekend.

MS. BARR-GALE: Have you ever run out of food during the day, so that when people came in you could not serve them?

MS. ACKER: We haven't run out of food. We have run out of cooked food, but then we quickly run and open up a can of something. That may not be the best-balanced meal at that time, but it will be something for them to eat. And if you're hungry, you're not going to worry whether it is going to be too nutritionally balanced. It's much better than eating out of a garbage can.

MS. BARR-GALE: Yes.

MR. GROVE: Are you noticing the single parent, young woman family? Are there many of those families in Bridgeton?

MS. ACKER: There are many, many families in Bridgeton with a single parent, and some of them are very, very young, maybe 14 years of age.

MR. GROVE: I'm thinking like range 15 to, say, 25 to 30.

MS. ACKER: Yes. Now, we don't get too many of them all through the month. We may get them toward the end of the month because they are on county welfare, and they also come in under the different programs. Some are on WIC; some get food stamps.

MR. GROVE: Would you hunch that there are many hidden poor; that is, those people who will not come for help throughout the county? Or are there not enough programs or enough acceptance at this point that those who would have pride, or for other reasons--

MS. ACKER: There are some people who will not come out because they do have pride, but--

MR. GROVE: But, do you think you are getting a fairly high percentage of the people?

MS. ACKER: We think so, for the area we cover. And, of course, we cannot cover outside of the city too much because many of these people walk. Some come in a car or a truck, and many will come together, but many of the people walk.

MR. GROVE: Franny, Alma, and so on, the congregate feeding centers and the Meals on Wheels that you are doing throughout the county— Do you have a sense that most of those in need are having their needs met in one form or another, or is there a high percentage of people you still don't know about?

MS. KRAWIEC: There is still a high percentage we don't know about.

MS. STANTON: I had to stop advertising. You can't advertise when you are in trouble.

MR. MIRES: They pick up the leftovers. When they don't know where else to go, they just go in and they get food. They get something to eat there.

MR. GROVE: Yes, but that's just Bridgeton locally. You've got Vineland, Millville, and Port Norris.

MS. KRAWIEC: We have nutrition centers in five areas of the county that serve five days a week, and one at Seabrook that serves two. And we know we are not-- There are many we haven't found yet. The Office on Aging Outreach is constantly finding people who don't know about the programs -- any programs -- who are going hungry, or who don't have fuel. So, they're out there.

MS. STANTON: I did a percentage, and it's about 9% in our county.

MR. GROVE: Nine percent what?

MS. STANTON: About 9% we're reaching.

MR. GROVE: That you're reaching?

MS. STANTON: Yes.

MR. GROVE: You think there is 91% of the poor that you're not reaching?

MS. STANTON: Of the elderly.

MR. GROVE: Of the elderly poor?

MS. STANTON: Of the elderly — of the elderly that we are not reaching.

MR. GROVE: Oh, of the elderly, okay.

MR. ELLIS: Where would you get the statistics for that, may I ask?

MS. STANTON: Just looking at the number of meals we serve, based on the number of people we have in the county over 60.

MR. ELLIS: You're making the assumption that-- You're talking about all of the elderly, whether they-- You're serving about 90% of those that you--

MS. STANTON: No, we don't assume that those are all poor elderly. We know that in our county we look at the rate of unemployment, the county food stamp level-- We proportion that out. Our rates are strictly high of elderly poor in the county, but we're reaching about 9% of the elderly total, which isn't much.

MR. ELLIS: I don't really see how you can make that statement. I just don't understand, I guess.

MS. STANTON: We're reaching about 9% of the elderly at the nutrition sites.

MR. ELLIS: But 9% of the total elderly, or 9% of the elderly who are--

MR. GROVE: Total by census.

MR. ELLIS: Okay; all right. That's a lot different than 9% of those who are--

MR. GROVE: That's why I was classifying it, yes. Carolyn, thank you very much. Are there any other questions?

MS. ACKER: Thank you for your attention.

MR. GROVE: Just a minute, I'm sorry. Margaret?

MS. HART: Could you tell me-- You said that you give seconds and that you have a feeling that for many people this is the only food they get. On Mondays, do you find people going for many more seconds? Are many more people going for seconds?

MS. ACKER: Well, I don't know whether we've ever really thought about that. We could take a count of that. We've never really noticed that. When you're hungry, you're hungry.

MS. HART: Yes.

MS. ACKER: And some of the children-- In fact, this is an interesting note. One schoolteacher told me that one of her youngsters told her that she was going to the feeding church every day. She didn't know the name, but this teacher knew me and knew the program. She said, "I know that child doesn't have a breakfast when she comes to school, so I take cookies or something and have it for her in my desk." Then she said, "I know she gets her good meal in the afternoon from you."

MS. HART: One other question on behalf of Leslie, who isn't here. When do you find at the end of the month, in terms of people running out of food stamps or other kinds of money to feed themselves, and then they come to your place-- When does that start happening?

MS. ACKER: It starts happening around the fifteenth to the eighteenth of the month, and then there is a gradual increase. See, maybe the first day of the month we might have 50 or 60. We were up yesterday to something like -- I think it was 90. Then this will gradually build up. It could get up to 180.

MS. HART: Thank you.

MS. ACKER: You're welcome. Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Patty Pierce? Patty, we're asking you to use the microphone here, tell us your name and spell your name for us, and tell us what organization you represent. If you have written testimony, when you are finished, would you please hand it to the ladies at the table? We would like to have an opportunity to talk with you or ask questions after your presentation. You have about 10 minutes to share your information with us.

**PATTY PIERCE:** My name is Patty Pierce. My last name is spelled P-I-E-R-C-E. What I basically represent is a group known as United Methodist Women. It is affiliated with the United Methodist Churches.

What we do is, we work on a district. I work on a local and a district level from my church. We go out at different times, and the different churches in our areas have what we call "food cupboards" or "food banks" for people, which people constantly come to from different areas. I have one girl from Millville, who tells me that their cupboards are depleted all the time. No matter how much food they have there, someone is there constantly.

As an example, we had a service where we used rice as a communion. The rice that was left over -- the rice wasn't cooked-- She asked for this rice so she could take it back to put it in bags to put in their cupboard, rather than throw the rice away. We figured, you know, even though the rice was used, it could be boiled and cooked, which would kill, or which would work for any sanitary purposes so that people could eat it.

I have a lady from Dividing Creek who tells me that from their church, they feed 22 families in their community. At the church that I attend, out on Fordville Road in Bridgeton, we feed and work at different times. Rather than collect a food bank per se, we fix a meal. We take a meal out at Christmastime and at Thanksgivingtime. During those times, we have fed 50 people from what we can gather from our little community.

It was requested that I read this statement that was taken when we fed-- We fed people in the street, and it was really -- I don't know -- it's a different experience. I can't explain in terms of Federal. All I know is that it works on me by being a Christian. You know, I don't know what bearing that has on what your needs are, but that is how we function. It was requested that we write this letter. It was directed to Reverend John Ewing, who is the District Superintendent for our district. It says:

"Re: St. John United Methodist Women - Thanksgiving, 1983.

"As you had requested, the following represents the experience we had on Thanksgiving Day, 1983. We hope that the words will convey the joy that is within our hearts because we allowed God to come in and take control.

"This Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1983, was indeed very different for us. Instead of preparing individual baskets for one or two needy families, we decided to prepare a Thanksgiving meal for as many less fortunate people as we could. The platter consisted of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, string beans, and so on.

"The meal was cooked and prepared for delivery on Thanksgiving morning. At this point, we really felt good about ourselves, that the Outreach Program we talked about was finally

beginning. Still not realizing the blessing that God had in store for us, we called the Bridgeton Police so that we could get directions to find the dwellings of the people that we wanted to feed.

"Our first stop was on Broad Street -- Broad and Pearl Streets. At first we all hesitated, but realizing that we could not turn back, we approached two men sitting on a step. When we asked if they wanted dinner, they replied that they did not have money. We then let them know that the meal was free and that God loved them and so did we. To our surprise, these men, too, knew of the love of God. We bid them a Happy Thanksgiving and began our search for the others.

"The fear, or whatever the feeling that caused us to hesitate, was now gone. With tear-filled eyes and joyful hearts, we found five men at the bank of the Cohansey River. As we gave out the platters, we fellowshiped in the love of God. On our way back to our car, we heard one of the men say, 'Our God is merciful and loves the low as well as the high.'

"Then we headed out North Pearl Street, behind Stotter's, or what was known as the old Mr. Big store. We went out along the railroad tracks, but we couldn't find anyone. Reluctant to give up, we looked on the other side of the train tracks and saw two men walking down. They were too far for us to catch on foot, so we drove to the point where the tracks met the street. We did reach them, and we gave them a meal. They cried and thanked us for remembering them. It was as if God was testing us. One of the two men reached out and embraced one of us. Remembering what we had read in Bible Study and other services, how could we say we love Jesus if we do not love our brother? The embrace was returned. We were seeing these men as brothers, regardless of how they looked or smelled. We laughed and cried and rejoiced in the power and the glory of the Lord.

"Then we went down behind Gia's Suburban House. The area where people lived was vacant, but we looked around at their poor living conditions. Their shelter consisted of boxes propped against trees, and their personal things hung on the trees. The only sign of food was a carton of powdered sugar. Upon leaving we realized that God had truly been merciful unto us. We rode around the side streets

continuing our search, but finally gave up and decided that they were seeking dry spots for shelter since it was raining really hard.

"We visited and delivered the remaining platters to the shut-ins and sick members of the church and the high-rise. They, too, were very happy that we had remembered them. We fellowshiped and prayed, giving God praise for His many blessings. The remaining platters were taken to the senior citizens in the high-rise and shared with those who could not or did not have a place to go for Thanksgiving dinner.

"The Lord had truly blessed all of us with a Thanksgiving that we would remember for years to come. We may not see how the love of God and Jesus will affect the lives of the people that we fed on that Thanksgiving Day, but we know that God is watching over them. As for ourselves, we will spread the words and the love of Jesus. We were humbled so that we could see and reach our brothers and sisters of lesser means as God's precious children, too. We learned a lesson in love, which is to love one another just as we are, because that's how God accepts us — 'just as we are.' Am I my brother's keeper? If we say that we love God and Jesus, then yes, we are our brother's keeper."

I would just like to leave one more comment. People have ridiculed us because we feed street people, but we look at it as though-- Sometimes people choose to live in lesser conditions, not because that is a way of life, but sometimes they cannot cope with the way society is. And because they choose that way, no one should really go without nourishment. A lot of these people have families, and it is not fair for children, or wives, or older people to be sacrificed just because, you know, somebody wants to have a hard heart or wants to be cold.

I think things should be done, maybe not so much to give money to people to constantly buy, but there should be a way, or a program provided so that every man can take care of himself and be self-sufficient.

That is all I have to say.

MR. STUBBS: Ms. Pierce, the United Methodist Women— Is this one denominational group, or does it include other Methodist Churches?

MS. PIERCE: All the Methodist Churches.

MR. STUBBS: All the Methodist Churches?

MS. PIERCE: Yes. The specific group that I represent is from the Southwest District. We cover Dividing Creek, Port Norris, the Bridgeton area, Elmer, Salem, Penns Grove, Pennsville, and Woodbury — just around South Jersey, Southwest Jersey.

MR. STUBBS: Where do you get your food from?

MS. PIERCE: It is donated by people at the church.

MR. STUBBS: At the church?

MS. PIERCE: Yes.

MR. GROVE: Just for clarification, it's the United Methodist Church. There are many different groups that have Methodist in their names.

MS. PIERCE: Right.

MR. GROVE: But the UMW is the United Methodist Church, a major Protestant denomination, not to be confused with AME or some others.

MR. STUBBS: So that's one denomination, as opposed to--

MR. GROVE: Just one denomination.

MR. STUBBS: Okay. That is what I was trying to find out.

MS. PIERCE: Oh, I'm sorry. It is the United Methodist Church.

MR. STUBBS: Okay. Thank you.

**CATHERINE SAMUELS (from audience):** Ms. Pierce, I would like to ask you about the rice that you said they used, and then it was reused. What did you use it for in the beginning?

MS. PIERCE: Okay. It was a rice communion. We had a program that was to call women to conscienceness to take a part in the world, rather than sit back and see conditions go by. I think this has been an old cliché. Everybody sits and talks about a problem, but nobody really wants to do anything. It was starting to get to me. The rice was not cooked. It was a communion where the rice was in a bowl. You were to pick the rice up, and the rice flowed through your fingers. As the rice flowed through your fingers, you were to meditate and ask God what it was that He really wanted you to do in your life, which was a personal commitment.

MR. GROVE: So we have it for the record, what is your name?  
(addressing woman who asked question of Ms. Pierce)

MS. C. SAMUELS: My name is Catherine Samuels. I am from Paulsboro. I am the Welfare Director.

MR. GROVE: Catherine Samuels, okay, thank you. Other questions? (no response) Thank you, Patty.

Cynthia Wilkes, do you have more testimony to give?

MS. WILKES: No.

MR. GROVE: You do not? You gave all that you wanted to start with?

MS. WILKES: Yes.

MR. GROVE: Okay. Let me go back. Has Callie Walker come in yet, or Frank Dawkins? (no response) Estine Davis?

Estine, please come to the microphone, give us your name, the organization you are with, spell your name, and then share with us, if you will.

**ESTINE DAVIS:** All right. Hello, my name is Estine Davis. I am a Rutgers Community Assistant. The generic title is Nutrition Aide, Nutrition Education Program, New Jersey Cooperative Extension Service, Rutgers, The State University, Cook College.

As a Rutgers Community Assistant, I have been teaching and helping low-income families, the poor, and the needy in Cumberland County since 1969 -- 16 years. I have taught over 1,000 poor homemakers during these years, and I continue to reach out and teach the low-income families in the communities of: Bridgeton, Seabrook, Cedarville, Port Norris, Dividing Creek, and Fortescue. I visit homemakers in their homes and teach them: Basic nutrition for health; food shopping; meal planning; low-cost dishes; breakfast, the most important meal; food safety; feeding the young child; and, gardening, if interested.

I also watch, listen, and help them build their self-confidence. If you take the time to visit the poor and the needy in the surrounding low-income communities, you will see lots of poverty and hunger.

I have seen:

1. Many families run out of food before the end of the month;
2. Young children underweight because they do not get enough of the right kinds and amounts of foods — proper nutrition;
3. Children going without breakfast;
4. Children eating only bread because that is all the mother had to feed them;
5. Mothers who do not know how to shop and use their food stamps wisely;
6. Young teen-age mothers who do not know how to cook. They know how to make a sandwich and open a TV dinner;
7. Milk and other perishable goods left outside of the refrigerator. Food safety is a problem. Mothers cut back on buying milk because it is too expensive;
8. Flies and insects on kitchen table and on food, contaminating the food, and on utensils and equipment, where food will come in contact with them;
9. Children sick. My assessment is that the child is sick due to careless food handling. Mother does not know;
10. Food credit as a problem in isolated communities. Credit bills in neighborhood markets prevent homemakers from extending their food dollars. The next month's food stamps are nearly spent before they arrive;
11. Too much poverty in Port Norris. It is an isolated community. There is high unemployment. The work is seasonal. Transportation is a big problem. To pay someone to take you to the supermarket is very expensive;
12. Families who miss receiving food stamps by one dollar, yet there is a great need for nutritious foods for the children; and,
13. Too many rules, guidelines, and errors causing the poor to miss benefits. For example: too busy, mistakes made, employee out sick or on vacation, and complicated forms which the poor cannot read or understand.

Food is a need; you can't live without it. It is not a luxury item, or it should not be in the United States. Food programs

help the poor to simply exist; they bridge the gap. Sometimes these programs are the whole bridge. Food programs, such as: Donated foods, which need to be more and different, and readily available, the Summer Feeding Program, the School Lunch Program, the Breakfast Program, the WIC Program, the Food Stamp Program, and the Nutrition Education Program, are extremely important to the survival of the poor. These programs should not be cut. They should be given more dollars, with components to educate the needy, helping them to help themselves out of poverty. The present food programs are good; however, adjustments are needed to help them to operate smoothly to really help the needy.

There are many poor families in South Jersey. Ethiopia is bad, but we, too, have some bad situations in South Jersey. This should not be in our society. If you want to see, firsthand, hungry, poor, needy, low-income people, I invite you to go on home visits with me one day, and I will show you. Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Will you please give your written testimony to the ladies at the table when we have completed asking questions?

MS. DAVIS: Yes, I shall.

MR. GROVE: Thank you very much. Questions?

MR. ELLIS: Estine, you mentioned the complicated forms and so on. I have to confess ignorance in that regard. But do you mean that folks can't qualify for various either Federal, State, or local programs because they haven't the knowledge to fill out the forms -- that the forms are too complicated to do it? Is that it, or is it--

MS. DAVIS: Yes. Some people say they don't bother because they don't understand. And, the transportation getting there is hard. When they get there, sometimes the people who work there are too busy, I mean, with the crowd, to take the time out to help the needy as they should be helped.

MR. STUBBS: Ms. Davis, as a Rutgers Community Assistant, do you work for Rutgers University?

MS. DAVIS: Yes, I do.

MR. STUBBS: So, you are a paid employee?

MS. DAVIS: Yes, I am. Of course, there is a lot of volunteer work I do also because, like, I see people without clothing,

and some of my friends give me clothes to give them. Sometimes children stay inside all winter because they don't have clothes. So I also take the clothes.

MR. STUBBS: But, primarily your job is to teach people how to better care for themselves?

MS. DAVIS: Proper nutrition, within their incomes.

MR. STUBBS: Have you brought-- I thought of asking this question earlier, but I might ask it of you, if you don't mind. Have you brought this problem to the attention of other agencies or groups?

MS. DAVIS: It has been brought before the agencies.

MR. STUBBS: Other agencies?

MS. DAVIS: Yes, it has.

MR. STUBBS: Such as?

MS. DAVIS: Well, there is a feeding program in Millville, and every Sunday they take many families food. I also give the ladies referrals. I think this is from the Presbyterian Church.

MR. STUBBS: A question I would like to ask, not just Ms. Davis, but others, too, who are addressing this Commission, is, if they bring these problems to elected officials and persons seeking public office, what kind of response are they getting?

MS. HART: Joe Ford has asked that at other hearings. I remember that question being brought up.

MR. GROVE: Go ahead and ask the question, and others in the room, if you would like to respond to the question, please do. Tell us your name so that the ladies won't go crazy trying to figure out who is talking from the floor. But, do respond to the question in general. Go ahead, Bill.

MR. STUBBS: The question is: Are we bringing these problems, these situations, to our elected officials and those who are seeking public office?

MS. DAVIS: They have been brought before them.

MR. STUBBS: What kind of response are we getting from them? What are they saying when you tell them?

MS. DAVIS: Ms. Lennon can help me out here, please.

**DIANNE LENNON (from audience):** I'm trying to understand his question. That's why I was waiting.

MR. STUBBS: Well, my question--

MS. LENNON: I'm Dianne Lennon, and I supervise the Nutrition Education Program in Atlantic, Cape May, and Cumberland Counties.

MR. GROVE: Please spell your last name.

MS. LENNON: L-E-N-N-O-N.

MR. GROVE: Okay, thank you.

MS. LENNON: I'm trying to thoroughly understand your question. You said, "Are we bringing the problems of the poor," or are you talking about the farm problems? I'm trying to understand specifically what kind of problems you're referring to.

MR. STUBBS: The question is, are the same problems that are being brought to this Commission-- Are these problems, these conditions, being presented to our elected officials?

MS. LENNON: I think if you-- In my knowledge of dealing with public officials -- we're talking about freeholders, county administrators, etc. -- yes, they are aware. We have programs in place that they refer you to, so they are aware. It is the referral cycle. You see, if I went with a food problem, they would tell me about welfare, or the Food Stamp Program.

MR. STUBBS: Let me interrupt, if I may. I don't want to be rude. I know they are aware. I know if I know, they know; they're smarter than I am. I want to know what kind of a response you are getting.

MS. LENNON: I'm telling you the response. The response is, you get referrals. Take for example, I can call Dolores Cooper -- I do know her -- if I have a problem in my County, Atlantic County. That is one county. I can call the freeholder who is responsible to the Extension Service in Cape May County. But then they will tell me about the programs I am already aware of. So, it behooves me to do my own directing, to know those various agencies, and to contact them directly.

MR. STUBBS: Do you mind if I continue just a little bit?

MR. GROVE: Sure.

MR. STUBBS: Let's suppose I am your freeholder, or I'm your councilman, and you come to me and you say, "Councilman Stubbs, we have

hunger in our community. People need food." And I say to you, "Go to your local Welfare Department and tell them that I sent you," or "Go to the United Methodist Women. They are helping out in this situation." Would that satisfy you?

MS. LENNON: I don't think I would approach it that way. I hear what you're saying.

MR. STUBBS: Yes?

MS. LENNON: But I wouldn't approach it that way -- you're asking me my opinion -- having the knowledge I have, because our role is to seek out agencies within a county which can service as best they can.

MR. STUBBS: Okay.

MS. LENNON: And I believe with the limited resources that are available, they do the very best that they can.

MR. STUBBS: Let me take this away from you because it is too personal. What I want to say is— (laughter) It is, it's too personal. This is what I think happens, and I think the people who bring the problems to this Commission, or any other commission, ought to be aware of this. This is what I think, and I may be wrong. I think that the public official whom we elect too often refers us to someone, or some agency, or some group, instead of really addressing the problem. The problem, among other things, is that there just isn't enough public assistance to support all of the needs we have. There will never be enough until we have more taxes, and most elected officials, and most people who want to run for public office, will never say, "Let's raise taxes to provide more funds," because if they say that, they aren't going to get elected.

MS. LENNON: Correct.

MR. STUBBS: So they are not really addressing our problem, in my opinion.

MR. EMANUELS: If I may add-- The problem first has to be addressed, and then a cure sought. Just yesterday, I think you all read in the newspaper that the Department of Community Affairs, along with the Department of Human Services, appropriated \$250,000 to address a problem in Atlantic County -- the homeless, the needy.

MS. LENNON: Absolutely.

MR. EMANUELS: So once, say, the constituents come to that Assembly person — let's take for example, hypothetically, Assemblywoman Cooper -- a bill is introduced and identified, and it goes through the process, and the result is what happened yesterday in Atlantic County. The money was appropriated to house 300-and-some-odd people. Was that the number, Ms. Lennon?

MS. LENNON: There is a program. I am aware of it, and I know Assemblywoman Cooper is directly involved. I think she spearheaded the Hunger Conference in Atlantic County.

MR. GROVE: Go ahead, Margaret.

MS. HART: You mentioned-- Did you want to comment on the political— (addressing Ms. Krawiec) Go ahead.

MS. KRAWIEC: I don't know about statewide, but locally you have the good old 5% cap. You can blame everything on that. You know, if you say, "Can't we get more money?" the answer is, "Well now, remember we have a 5% cap."

MR. STUBBS: (inaudible comment)

MS. KRAWIEC: No, but I mean, this is what they say when you say, "Can't we get more money?" It's everything status quo, you know. You can't get more money because you have to recognize the cap. That was just the response.

MR. ELLIS: I have a question.

MR. GROVE: Margaret's up. Margaret?

MS. HART: You mentioned that in the isolated areas, people are going into credit in the stores. What areas are you speaking of, because someone earlier said that wasn't happening much here in Bridgeton?

MS. DAVIS: Well, it does happen in Port Norris, and it has also happened in Vineland, where people credit the food stamps. When the food stamps arrive, they have to pay for the food they have already bought.

MS. HART: And those people do not have easy access to a larger supermarket.

MS. DAVIS: That's true.

MS. LENNON: Tell them how far it is from Port Norris to the major supermarket.

MS. DAVIS: The major supermarket is about 15 or 16 miles, in Millville.

MS. HART: How do those people -- if they do go to the supermarket at the beginning of the month -- get there?

MS. DAVIS: They pay somebody \$10.00 or \$15.00 to take them and bring them back.

MS. HART: Okay. Are you aware of any nutrition programs in the schools, besides Bridgeton?. I asked somebody else--

MS. DAVIS: Yes, in Port Norris-- That area has a Breakfast Feeding Program and a Lunch Program. I encourage the people I work with, and the children, to take advantage of the Breakfast Program. Also, the Summer Feeding Program-- I have approached a lady trying to get that in Port Norris this summer. In Fortescue, a mother was telling me-- She has three children, and her children get breakfast and lunch at school. If they don't have a Summer Feeding Program at Fortescue this summer, she doesn't know how she can feed her three children.

MS. HART: So those are the two townships that have nutrition. Do most of the townships in the area that you cover have a School Nutrition Program?

MS. DAVIS: Yes. Millville has a School Nutrition Program, and Bridgeton. Seabrook doesn't. I think Seabrook is about the only one that doesn't have a feeding program.

MS. HART: Thank you.

MS. DAVIS: But they have many needy children there who could use a feeding program.

MS. ABRAMS: I have a question for you also. Are most of the families that you work with-- Are most of them single mothers with children who are on welfare, or do you have other kinds of families that you work with?

MS. DAVIS: I have both, the married and the unmarried single families with children.

MS. ABRAMS: Married families among the working poor?

MS. DAVIS: Yes, I have the working poor, where maybe the father is sick. The Port Norris area is a seasonal area.

MS. ABRAMS: Farm workers?

MS. DAVIS: No, it's more seafood and clams and oysters.

MS. ABRAMS: I see.

MS. DAVIS: Some days they work three or four hours, and some days they don't work any hours at all.

MS. ABRAMS: So, they're employed, but they're underemployed, in effect?

MS. DAVIS: Yes. We have a lot of people who are underemployed. Then we have people who are working who may make just a dollar or so over the food stamp limit of their budget. That causes a great hardship on people. Like you say, by the second week of the month you find many people without food.

MS. ABRAMS: Let me ask you another question. I think you mentioned a couple of times that people -- that most of these people receive food stamps, and they seem to run out of their food stamps around the middle of the month. I assume that you are teaching them nutrition education and how to spend their money wisely. Are you, in effect, teaching them to use the Thrifty Food Plan that is recommended by the Department of Agriculture?

MS. DAVIS: Yes, we are. In fact, we have a whole book of those low-cost menus. Not only do I teach them, but I also demonstrate the recipes to them.

MS. ABRAMS: I see. And do you try to teach them how to deal with-- For instance, if they have young children or teen-agers in the family--

MS. DAVIS: Yes. We also have a program where we teach the children nutrition, and we have a lot of children. When a mother says, "Well, my child won't eat this," I say, "Don't say that." The child sits down and listens to me teach the mother. The next time I come to the house, the child says, "Mrs. Davis, I drank my milk. I ate my vegetables," or the mother says, "My children are eating their vegetables now."

MS. ABRAMS: Have you found, in trying to teach some of the mothers how to use their resources as economically as possible, that the Thrifty Food Plan, in fact, is really not an adequate diet for people? Have you found that to be a serious problem?

MS. DAVIS: Well, what we do is teach them to use food from the basic food groups, and we plan the menus. We try to have them plan their menus at least two weeks ahead and stick to them.

MS. LENNON: I want to help you.

MS. DAVIS: All right.

MS. LENNON: I want to help her here because I was directly involved in the regional program on Making Food Dollars Count, and dealing with that \$58.00 — feeding a family of four on the \$58.00 — and I think that is what you are alluding to.

MS. ABRAMS: Right.

MS. LENNON: That plan can happen, but you must do some cooking yourself. You have to buy the store brands; you must bake those cookies. You can't buy them in a box, or half a box, or what is it, 20 cookies in a box?

MS. ABRAMS: Right, I understand that.

MS. LENNON: You do need to have some cooking skills, and many low-income homemakers do not have those skills.

MS. ABRAMS: Right.

MS. LENNON: And that is what Ms. Davis is trying to say: "Yes, I get out there and do some demonstrating, but that \$58.00 can be difficult with the low-income homemaker who does not exercise homemaking skills. You have to make your muffins; you can't buy them in a box. You have to use the store brand, the generic brand, you have to clip coupons, and you have to look for the store specials.

MS. ABRAMS: In other words, you have to make an almost superhuman effort, in effect, to provide adequate nutrition to a growing family with these kinds of resources.

MS. LENNON: I am just going to paraphrase you and say you do need to have some sophisticated knowledge or some good skills--

MS. ABRAMS: Okay.

MS. LENNON: —to do it. Otherwise, it is going to be difficult, and you are going to run out of food. Isabel Wolf from the USDA office did go around the country demonstrating that. She did her shopping in Camden, and there was an in-service training at Rutgers University on Making Food Dollars Count. Ms. Davis is using those

resources to teach low-income homemakers, actually demonstrating with small groups of homemakers some of those low-cost meals, and trying to get them to implement some of those skills. We may not get them all implemented, but our job is to make a start there.

MS. ABRAMS: Could you give me an idea of how many families you think you are reaching with the program who are in need of such assistance?

MS. LENNON: Very small. I only have four staff in Cumberland County. In Camden County, I have four; two in Atlantic County at, of course, decreased dollars. President Reagan has redlined the program for 1986. At one time we had 7,000 nutrition aides throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii and, of course, it's an enormous program that is tied into the Land Grant University of each state. The mission is education -- nutrition education.

MS. ABRAMS: I understand that.

MS. LENNON: Okay.

MS. ABRAMS: I have one other question I want to ask. What do you find that the families you serve do when they have run out of food? Do they have recourse to food pantries? Do they go to soup kitchens, or to relatives or neighbors? Do you have any idea?

MS. DAVIS: Well, in the Port Norris area, they do have a food bank which has surplus food. I tell them about that. Also, they have another food supplier there, and they go there for food -- those two areas.

MR. GROVE: Questions?

MR. EMANUELS: I think Ms. Lennon answered my questions, but I think she said she has another employee, other than Ms. Davis.

MS. LENNON: I said four. I have two bilinguals, and you will hear one of those, Noemi Ribot, this afternoon. I have four staff in Cumberland County.

MR. EMANUELS: Okay.

MS. LENNON: That's the whole County.

MR. EMANUELS: Right. So, of the total County, there are four staffers. Do they have a caseload? Do they have an ongoing clientele?

MS. LENNON: Definitely. Ms. Davis, do you want to tell them about that?

MR. EMANUELS: What is the caseload?

MS. DAVIS: My caseload is from 50 to 55 families; that's individual home visits a month. I do group meetings, and I have two groups of youths which I work with. Also, there are volunteers who work with groups, and I work closely with them. These are youths. But, my caseload is some 55, sometimes 60.

MR. EMANUELS: Do you work with the Division of Youth and Family Services at all?

MS. DAVIS: We have done some work with them.

MR. EMANUELS: Okay. I have no other questions.

MS. DAVIS: I do work closely with some of the people in Youth and Family Services.

MS. BARR-GALE: I have a question. The food that is available through food stamps, WIC, or other sources— Do you see sharing of WIC foods, for example, with family members other than the children?

MS. DAVIS: Most of the families use WIC for themselves and their children.

MS. BARR-GALE: In other words, they gear the WIC foods to the people who are—

MS. DAVIS: Yes. I teach them how to use it, how to shop wisely with it. Today I just left a WIC meeting. Cheese has been given out, so I have been teaching them how to use the cheese, how to store the cheese, and the nutritional value of the cheese; also, the function of the nutrients.

MS. BARR-GALE: Do the WIC foods tend to run out near the end of the month the way the food stamps do, or do they make it a little bit better?

MS. DAVIS: The WIC food usually lasts. It helps with the food stamps. Another hardship on the families in the summertime is, after the winter, the heating program is over, and the Food Stamp Program is cut. People have their children home from school, and they need more food, instead of cutting the food stamps.

MS. HART: That's a good point.

MR. GROVE: Walt?

MR. ELLIS: Yes. First of all, I would like to say that I have some small amount of knowledge about your program, and I think it is really a great program because, you know, we've heard time and again the fact alluded to that food stamps run out in the middle of the month, and that sort of thing. My personal opinion is that you folks do more to help the people who need them to stretch those food stamps and whatever other resources they have, to get themselves decent food.

The other thing I would like to say is, I hope we haven't come to the point where it is a superhuman effort to bake cookies from scratch. (laughter)

MS. C. SAMUELS: May I ask a question?

MR. GROVE: Yes.

MS. C. SAMUELS: Ms. Davis, you mentioned having a food plan, and also you say that some children are kept inside all winter because they don't have any clothing.

MS. DAVIS: Yes. There is not sufficient clothing to go outside.

MS. C. SAMUELS: Well, what do you do about the clothing? That is important, also.

MS. DAVIS: Okay. Well, Ms. Lennon has given me clothes; my friends have given me clothes.

MS. C. SAMUELS: Is that sufficient?

MS. DAVIS: Well, right now the trunk of my car is loaded with clothes for a family. I have a dear friend in Millville, and when I run across a family who needs clothing, I ask her-- If you don't mind, I would like to call her name -- Mrs. Landon. She also gets food and clothing. One of the freeholders works very closely with that church, and they give out meals every-- I think they take a family and give that family the whole meal every Sunday for a month.

MS. C. SAMUELS: Could you also have a clothing bank, in case you get clothes--

MS. DAVIS: Well, there is a place in Port Norris. They do have a clothing bank now. They also have food there from Campbell Soup Company and other companies. Recently, they have a surplus food bank. So, things are picking up a little bit.

MR. GROVE: I have a question in terms of networking. Does the tri-county area have a fairly good network, or are there meetings where the agricultural people -- people like yourselves -- the nutrition people, the Meals on Wheels people, the emergency food pantries, where they sit together and talk together, plan together, think together? Is there any network like that in the tri-county area, or in the County of Cumberland?

MS. DAVIS: I don't know, but I think so.

**ALAYNE SAMUELS:** The only thing in the County of Cumberland is an every-other-month meeting of the county agencies on aging, any agency dealing with the aged.

MR. GROVE: So, in effect, what's happening is that we have sort of a scatter-gun approach, where everybody is doing very well at their own thing, but they are not talking with each other to try to share resources, ideas, do some networking, and so on. The reason I'm raising that is, last week we had testimony -- and a rather unique situation, I admit-- In the Somerset County area, the Town of Somerville, they were able to get a building, an old school, and in that old school, all of the agencies that were in the helping kind of things came together. They all had space in that one spot. The cost to them was minimal compared to what they were doing individually. Support services were very inexpensive and they could get equipment that they could never dream of before because they had networked themselves together. I just raised that as a question for you to think about.

Franny?

MS. KRAWIEC: Yes. I'm Franny Krawiec from Meals on Wheels. I, also, distribute clothing to my people on the basis of need. Recently -- during the month of January -- two men were released from Bridgeton Hospital with nothing to wear. Ms. Samuels' son -- fortunately for me, unfortunately for him -- gained a little bit of weight. She had some different sizes, I got clothing from my friends and my husband, and so forth. Can you imagine coming out of a hospital in the wintertime with nothing to wear? One man was in a motel. He didn't even have a place to stay, and we fed him at the motel until the Welfare Department could find him a place to stay.

We also do more than just Meals on Wheels. We make referrals. We get all of the surplus commodities for those who qualify. We pick them up in bulk and deliver them. In some cases, the drivers were able to help; in other cases, we did it ourselves in a special trip. After the cars came back, we went out. Because we are a rural area, we have to do more than just what we're--

MR. GROVE: Sure -- what your job is.

MS. KRAWIEC: --what our job description is, to tell the truth.

MR. MIRES: May I ask a question?

MR. GROVE: Everett Mires.

MR. MIRES: Did you ever ask the question of the lady about whether the freeholders know about these projects? Did you ask her?

MR. STUBBS: I didn't ask that question.

MR. MIRES: Didn't you?

MR. STUBBS: No, I did not ask that question.

MR. MIRES: Didn't you ask if the freeholders knew about their troubles?

MR. STUBBS: No, I did not ask that question.

MR. MIRES: Oh, I'm sorry, sir. I was a freeholder--

MR. STUBBS: I don't want to prolong this.

MR. MIRES: (Portion of Mr. Mires comment inaudible because he is speaking from out in the audience; not near microphone.) over somebody who's got charge of the food stamps, and say, "Here, you got to give them more food stamps."

MR. GROVE: That is not the question that was asked, Everett. Thank you very much.

MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

MR. GROVE: We have 10 minutes of scheduled time left. We have been through the folks who called to share testimony. Is there anyone here who would like to give testimony who was not scheduled? Alayne?

MS. A. SAMUELS: My name is Alayne Samuels, and I am the Director of the County Nutrition Program for the Elderly. I have been Director of this Program since October, 1983 -- since its inception.

In the years that I have served in this capacity, I have seen hunger among the elderly. I have seen people who have gone three or four days before we could get to them who have not had anything to eat. I have seen people who have gone three or four days with not only nothing to eat, but with no heat, no electricity, and sick in bed.

I had an instance where I was called by a landlord for help. He had a tenant in his apartment. The electricity had been turned off; he had no heat. They could not make him do anything. He had not eaten for four days. He had a kerosene burner on the floor that he had been inhaling, and his skin was black from the kerosene smoke. He was lying on a bed. I got him out of that apartment and into my car, and I took him to the Bridgeton Hospital. But, unfortunately, we were too late. An hour later he died.

There is poverty and there is hunger in Cumberland County. I have a senior citizen in Vineland who is 93 who is maintaining her own home. If it were not for our program, she could not do so, as she has told us so many times: "I can't cook; I can't climb the steps to my second floor apartment too often." When she can't come to our program, we send her meals home.

We have people who come to us for a meal who have fallen through the cracks. They do not have enough money to survive a month, but yet they have too much to take advantage of some of the other programs. Sometimes it amounts to a dollar or a dollar and a half.

We have people who were ill when they came to us because they didn't understand what diabetes was, what ulcers were. When they came to us and we put them on our program and gave them proper diets, their blood sugar came down, they lost weight, and they felt better. It isn't just feeding the hungry; it's also feeding their minds and their souls because they come for a congregate and social setting.

There are many people out there who are hungry, because if you live alone and you are used to cooking for a family, and you have to cook just for yourself, it really isn't worth the trouble. So they were subsisting on tea, and toast, and cookies. But they come to us, and they have learned how to eat properly and how to subsidize.

With many of our people, I know the meal that we give them is the only meal they get all day. We know this; they tell us this. I know the Federal government has not exactly cut the funds for the congregate feeding, but they haven't increased them either. This amounts to a decrease because our funds have not increased, but our costs have, to the effect that last year, under my budget, I was allowed to serve 355 a day. This year I am only allowed 335 because of increased costs. We have not cut back. We are living on hope -- Franny and I -- that while we are over our budgets, somehow before the end of the year we are going to get some help, and we will be justified in not cutting our numbers. How can you say no to someone who is hungry?

Thank you.

MR. GROVE: Questions to Alayne?

MS. HART: I have one. Are there any sites-- You said you are the Director for the County. Are there any sites in the County which feed on the weekends?

MS. A. SAMUELS: We used to serve, not weekends, but we used to serve all holidays. We had to cut that out because there wasn't enough money in the budget.

MS. HART: So there is nowhere in the area for weekends or holidays?

MS. A. SAMUELS: No. That was our next step. When we started serving holidays, our next step was going to be weekends. Then the funds were not increased. Each year they were held frozen or status quo, and we had to not only give up the idea of weekends, but we also had to give up the idea of serving on holidays.

MS. HART: Thank you.

MS. KRAWIEC: We used to serve Christmas and Thanksgiving -- the JACs, the Jewish War Veterans, and my family. We delivered in the Port Norris area because nobody ever went there, so my family delivered down there. We used to do that on Christmas and Thanksgiving, but we can't do it any more. We did it until three years ago.

MR. GROVE: Do you have any idea what the philosophy is behind the idea of feeding people Monday through Friday, skipping holidays and skipping weekends? Where does that come from?

MS. A. SAMUELS: I don't know. Nutrition is seven days a week; we understand that. When the program was first talked about, I think the people who planned it could not get above the five-day-a-week working pattern. I think they were thinking of the paid staff or those who were going to administer the program. They worked Monday through Friday; therefore, the program would be Monday through Friday. I think there was a lack of foresight there. That is just my opinion. That is where I think it came from.

MS. KRAWIEC: If you go in on a Monday, and people haven't had anything Saturday and Sunday, there will be a can of beans with a spoon sticking out of it. You know, there is just a little bit left in the bottom.

MS. A. SAMUELS: You read in the paper every once in a while where senior citizens are eating dog food, and I know a lot of people scoff at this. They don't believe it, but I have seen it. I have seen it.

MR. GROVE: Other questions? (negative response) Alayne, thank you very much.

MS. A. SAMUELS: You're welcome.

MR. GROVE: On behalf of the Commission, I thank all of you for our spirited encounter this afternoon. It has been exciting; it has been rewarding for us to be here with you. We hope that we have been able to hear you well, and that we will represent well to our colleagues what you have shared with us. Yes? (in response to question from the audience)

MS. LENNON: Could we get the panel to introduce themselves again, please?

MR. GROVE: Sure we could. Start from this end.

MS. ABRAMS: I'm Marsha Abrams. I am the Executive Director of the Commission.

MR. EMANUELS: I'm Stan Emanuels. I'm representing Assemblywoman Dolores Cooper.

MS. LENNON: Okay.

MR. GROVE: Is that as far as you want to go? (laughter) She did this especially to find out who you are because you made fun of her superhuman cookies.

MR. ELLIS: We have to have a little humor. If we don't, we may as well all go home and starve. But, I'm Walter Ellis. I am a farmer and President of the New Jersey Farm Bureau.

FROM AUDIENCE: And his wife makes cookies from scratch.

MR. ELLIS: Yes, she does.

MS. LENNON: Thank you.

MS. ABRAMS: I do, also. I also make them from scratch.

MR. GROVE: (At this point, everyone speaking at once.) Hey you two down there, stop it. We want to introduce the rest of the panel.

MS. BARR-GALE: I'm Linda Barr-Gale. I am the Chief of the New Jersey WIC Program.

MS. HART: I'm Margaret Hart. I am representing Assemblyman David Schwartz.

MR. STUBBS: I'm William Stubbs, Director of the Division of Community Resources for the State of New Jersey, representing Commissioner Renna of the Department of Community Affairs.

MR. GROVE: And I'm Terry Grove. I work as the Director of Church World Service CROP in New Jersey. You may get CROP funds periodically from CROP in Millville, Bridgeton, and so on. If you don't, you need to talk to those communities about getting some of their money funneled back into your programs.

We thank you all. I declare the hearing closed for now. We will be coming back together at 6:30 this evening in Vineland. We have three folks scheduled to speak to us. If there are others who would like to walk in and speak to us this evening, we would be more than happy to hear from them at that point.

(AFTERNOON SESSION CONCLUDED)

## **EVENING SESSION**

**JACK JOHNSON (Chairman):** Let me welcome you. My name is Jack Johnson. I am the Chairperson of the New Jersey Hunger Commission. It was a Commission that was created by the Legislature of New Jersey -- by the Assembly and Senate -- passed into law late last spring, and was created by the appointment of 26 members. Some of those members were appointed by the Governor; some are members of the Assembly and members of the Senate; some represent nonprofit organizations; and, others represent the Departments of the Governor's Cabinet: the Department of Human Services; the Department of Community Affairs; the Department of Agriculture; and, the Department of Education.

What we are about as a Commission is to look and study the issue of hunger here in the states, specifically in the State of New Jersey: to see if we can discern and define in some way the extent of hunger here in the State; to see if we can discern and define the kinds of services that are being offered to the citizenry of the State of New Jersey, both by governmental agencies, as well as nonprofit agencies; to see if we can discern and seek to recommend to the New Jersey State Legislature, as well as to the Governor, ways that we need to address -- that government needs to address -- the issues of hunger here in the State of New Jersey.

This is what one might call a long-term study; it depends upon how you define studies. But, the legislation created to establish this study calls for this Commission to return a report to the Legislature and to the Governor in January of 1986. To that end, part of what we have been doing is, we have been going around the State of New Jersey-- And, obviously, we are not 26 people here tonight. But, different members of the Commission are taking turns, for all the members of the Commission are persons that wear other hats too and have other responsibilities. But, we're going around the State to seek from the citizenry of the State input about how you perceive the issue of hunger.

Some of you here this evening have already called and asked to speak. You're representing agencies or concerns that are dealing with this. Some of you might just want to reflect your own personal concerns, and we would welcome that.

These hearings are being transcribed, or recorded, if you will, so that we might have them as a matter of public record. I mentioned "testify" before. I didn't want to upset you or concern you, but it is for the record, if you will, that we're seeking to get this information. We hope from the kinds of information that we gather from the citizenry that we'll be able to have a better handle on the issue and see, again, if we can come back with recommendations.

We have been, as I say, going around the State. We have now-- I think this is about the fifth or sixth hearing. We've been in New Brunswick; we've been in Atlantic City; we've been in Jersey City. Today, members of the Commission were in Bridgeton, New Jersey, and we're now over here this evening in Vineland, New Jersey.

Let me, again, introduce myself as Jack Johnson. I'll let the persons to my right introduce themselves as we go along.

MS. ABRAMS: I am Marsha Abrams, and I am the Executive Director of the Commission.

MS. HART: My name is Margaret Hart, and I am representing Assemblyman Schwartz.

MR. JOHNSON: What I'd like to do is, we have a person scheduled -- Wanda Genter?

**WANDA GENTER:** That's right.

MR. JOHNSON: You're Wanda, okay.

MS. GENTER: Thanks for letting me go first.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Wanda, you can come right up here and just sit down.

MS. GENTER: I did sit there a little--

MR. JOHNSON: Okay, why don't you sit down here?

MS. GENTER: I will.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. GENTER: But, this will not-- Actually, it will not be what you want.

MR. JOHNSON: That's all right.

MS. GENTHER: I understood that I was just to talk about hunger and the program that I'm involved in, which I will address.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Wanda, the first thing you need to do is sit down and tell us your name. You need to spell that out and also your address. Is that correct, ladies? (addressing hearing reporters) No, just your name.

MS. GENTHER: Just my name?

MR. JOHNSON: And who you might represent.

MS. GENTHER: Am I close enough?

MR. JOHNSON: You're close enough.

MS. GENTHER: My name is Wanda Genter and I live in Vineland, and have lived here for 65 years. I have experienced a lot of various things throughout the years in Vineland. We have had, throughout the years, many of our Vineland people who have been just wonderful about taking care of people who were needy.

Throughout the years, for instance, our firemen and the Salvation Army had baskets of food in the days when there were no really big efforts to take care of hungry and needy people. They prepared baskets. They had toys for the children, Christmas parties in our fire halls. The churches did many things of the same type, and all of those things I remember so well because we were not very affluent in those days either.

Right now, I am involved with our food bank. The food bank came about because we were given a quite large grant from the government. It came through our church. We could not handle it at our church because we are not centrally located so, therefore, the First Methodist Church in Vineland at Seventh Street offered their facilities, and that is where we distribute the food.

Now, we were pretty generous in times gone by because we did have an abundant supply. Many churches, many organizations, private people -- all subscribed to the program. They gave funds. Some people gave food, and we continued and continued the program. It is running very short now, and we have come to the conclusion that we have been just a little bit too generous. It really was meant to be emergency food, if people had a fire, for instance, or their welfare check did

not come in, or something of that nature -- if they had some type of an emergency. But, it developed-- It sort of became like a free food thing and, therefore, the food became scarcer and our funds became lower.

But, we have been very, very fortunate because the people in Vineland are really very, very generous and cooperative. I will say that for them. But, we are really running short, and we have come to the conclusion now that we must stress the point that it is emergency food only.

I would like to just point this one thing out. I believe that we have a big job ahead of us. So many people really don't know how to handle their budgets. They have an abundance at the first of the month. They load their carts full of food. But, by the middle of the month, they come to the food bank. They no longer have any food, and their welfare check is not coming for another couple of weeks. They maybe have five children, or something like this.

I believe we need to teach people how to budget, how to prepare foods -- maybe not expensive foods -- prepare food a little bit more -- how shall I say? -- spread it out, and how to do without a little bit of some things and make do with others.

I hope-- I'm trying to explain what I mean, and I hope I'm getting it across. That, I think, is one of things we need -- education badly. Our young people, for instance, grow up in homes where the mothers work, and they -- I think many of them -- have never cooked a pot of water when they get married. It is a very big handicap when they don't know how to run a house, and then they just buy the things that are quick and easy. And they may even just go to McDonald's and bring home a bunch of sandwiches or something like that. For now, that is great, but how about next week when there's no more money? So, I'd like to suggest to the people who are responsible to think in terms of education.

I'd like to also say another thing. We have these people, and I don't know how we're ever going to do anything about it. We don't know how to judge them either, because we know that they are not hungry. They do something else with the food. They will come in, and

time and time again-- They will come in, and they will have three children. And maybe three weeks or five weeks later, they have six children. And we don't know how to cope with that. It's one of our big problems. We just don't know how to cope with the freebies. It's a shame to have to say this because I was just at a meeting, and the questions I asked of people were: "Do we have hunger? Do you know of anybody hungry?" And I got the same answer that I'm telling you now. I did not get the answer, "Yes, we have hunger." But, they told me all about the freebies.

MR. JOHNSON: There may be some questions, if we could ask some questions.

MS. GENTHER: Yes?

MS. HART: I was wondering, what part of the government gave you the money to start the program? Was it Federal or State?

MS. GENTHER: The first grant came from the Federal government, and it was \$10,000. It was granted to the Lutheran Church -- the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Vineland.

MS. HART: And how do you fund the program now? Where do you get the money?

MS. GENTHER: Now? We did get one grant. I believe that came from the State -- \$5000 -- and the rest has been funded through the organizations, and other churches have contributed. Private citizens have contributed very generously. But, you know, there comes a time when you just can't do it any more.

MR. JOHNSON: What was the original grant for, as you perceived it, for your church?

MS. GENTHER: Emergency food.

MR. JOHNSON: So, your church was trying to set up an emergency food bank?

MS. GENTHER: That's exactly what we did. And we also had a nutritionist come and tell us what types of food to give, how much to give for a family of one, how much to give for a family of two, three, and so forth. It was-- We were told just what to give, and what-- They had purchased the kinds of food that we could give out.

MS. HART: And you don't feed people prepared meals. You give them food to take home?

MS. GENTHER: Yes. Yes, we do.

MS. HART: For how many meals or days do you?

MS. GENTHER: We give them enough meals for three days.

MS. ABRAMS: Would you say that most of the families that come for the food are single-parent families with children, or do you also have a family with a husband and wife and children where the husband perhaps has left his job or something of that nature?

MS. GENTHER: I would say that we have both kinds. Many people have lost their jobs and have run out of unemployment compensation, things like that.

We had one man who came in with a-- He had two children, and they did not-- Well, they had been evicted from their home because of no funds, and so they were given rooms in the Imperial, a motel here in Vineland, where they do this. He did not care to live there, but he did have a car, so they lived in the car. At that time, one of our bakers sent over lots of bread. You know, the day-old bread? We gave him some bread, and he said, "Oh, I wish I had some peanut butter." If I had had my money with me that day, I would have gone across the street and bought him some peanut butter. It just so happened it was a bad day. Now, somebody like that, you knew very well that he really was in need, and he really was a person who could use it. He was not taking any charity that he could possibly avoid taking.

MR. JOHNSON: Other questions? We thank you and appreciate your coming out and sharing with us. Noemi Ribot, is it? Noemi, once again, state your name and spell it out for the record, and tell us who you represent.

**NOEMI RIBOT:** My name is Noemi Ribot. I'm really nervous. Okay. My name is Noemi Ribot. I'm a Rutgers Community Assistant. My generic title is Nutrition Aide. You'll notice, it is an aide. I'm not a nutritionist. I work for a nutritional program in (due to accent, remainder of sentence inaudible).

My main thing I do is, I teach the needy people in Cumberland County -- more in Vineland -- basic nutrition and how to plan and prepare meals. I have the low-income children that we put in groups. We call them Nutrition 4-H Clubs. We teach nutrition to them -- all

the basics -- and we have fun. We have special lessons we go through to teach them too.

I have 50 to 55 families that I visit every single month. (sentence inaudible due to accent) I involve others -- three or four. It all depends on how many they want to fall in the month. I teach the same lessons every month to them, according to the needs that they have. The children of those families are the ones I get in groups, and we teach nutrition to them. We involve the whole family in the nutrition program, so that there is no (remainder of sentence inaudible).

This places me in the condition to see where there is hunger here in Cumberland County. And, I would tell you, I witness mothers telling, "What I going to do at the end of the month to feed my family?" Some of them say, "The only thing I have is rice and beans." It is because they buy the big bags of the rice and beans, and it is the only thing they have to feed the children. Some of them have only milk until the end of the month. Why?

Most of them -- 99% of them -- are on welfare. As you know, welfare doesn't give large amounts of money. When they pay their rent -- it is very high right here in Vineland -- they have less than \$100 to go through all the payments on the other things they need during the month. Some of them really-- I'm telling you, what they tell is true. They are forced to change the food stamps into money to meet their other needs. It's not right to do it, but some of them do it because they need to pay the bills. They need to pay the gas. They need to pay the electricity. Otherwise, they are going to suffer from that too. And they have little ones. Most of them, they have four, five, six, seven. I have a family of 10 or 11 children in the home.

Sometimes, you know, when I see this -- it is critical at times -- I go back to my church where the members of the church put something together. We go there and we give them some food from the church, so that they can go through to the end of the month. It is very sad sometimes, you know, when you have to go and dig in your own pocket to give some money to those people that are hungry.

As nutrition aides, we teach things -- things they should buy in the supermarket. They should go to the supermarket so that they will save, and go to the corner store just when they need something in an emergency. Because they don't have any transportation, they have to go there. But, it is better to pay a taxi and go to the supermarket and do the whole month's shopping than going just to the corner store. You know, when they do-- When they shop just in the corner stores, they get the food stamps at the beginning of the month, and they have to leave the whole amount right there. Then they don't have no money to go to the supermarket. I've been telling the people: "When you go to the corner store, pay just a little, and keep some so you can go to the supermarket to buy a big amount. Do that until you don't have to owe nothing to them, and go straight to the supermarket for the whole month." Some of them get into the habit of doing that, and some of them have been doing it. I'm very happy about that.

They use other ways of saving. They check in the coupons; they clip the coupons from the newspaper, and all of those things that most of us know already. Well, we have been doing that with them too.

Some of them belong to the WIC Program, if you are familiar with the WIC Program. Okay. We are too. We teach them that that is one of the places (remainder of sentence inaudible). The WIC Program-- Later on, there has been less given to the poor people. Like, later in this past month, I found out-- They said, "If the family has three or two, they will be on the edges for the WIC Program." They put two of them on the waiting list, and just gave to one. I don't know what is going on -- whether they have less program, or what is the program. But, that is what is happening right here in Cumberland County. I wonder why. But, anyhow, that's a problem right there.

Most of those mothers have to take their little ones off of formula and give them just regular warm milk. And warm milk is no good for the babies before one-year old. This is a problem too.

Sometimes, you know, in the WIC Program, they have to donate milk from the companies. I just tell the ladies, if they really need milk, go there and pick up some cans so that the babies will have formula. But, they can't be doing that every month. Then they tell

the people they don't have the money to spend on those real expensive formulas for those little ones. Then they have to just keep them on regular milk. This is one really -- the best problem.

Then I think we have another hunger problem here because the people that don't have enough money to spend-- Unemployment is high. You see? You go there. Say the husband is there. To tell you the truth, sometimes I don't like to find husbands at home because sometimes they question: "What is this lady doing here? Maybe she's questioning me. She's going to tell welfare that I'm home." But, when I see that man, it is because he don't have a job, right? I mean, if they don't have a job, there is less money coming into the house.

We really need to have more money and food. I believe that. I don't know if you do too. We have been giving cheese and milk and butter here in Cumberland County. We need all of those things too. We need the cheese for the calcium; we need the milk for calcium, too, and for Vitamins A and D. Otherwise they will not get it. We need the flours and corn meals because they have Vitamin B, and they have the carbohydrates. They need the honey -- something sweet too -- for energy. Some need butter for protein.

I don't know why. We call America the breadbasket of the world. Right? We do. Why do we have so many hungry here in Cumberland County?

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Questions?

MS. ABRAMS: Yeah, I have a number of questions, as you probably do too. You go into people's homes and you attempt to teach them skills in terms of how to prepare foods so they can get the most nutrition for their money, how to shop, and so on.

My understanding is that these families go through a program with you, and that you continue to visit them for a set period of time. Is that right?

MS. RIBOT: Right.

MS. ABRAMS: And then, in effect, you graduate them?

MS. RIBOT: Right.

MS. ABRAMS: And you take on some new families?

MS. RIBOT: Right.

MS. ABRAMS: At the point when the families are quote "graduated," in your estimation based on what you've seen, how do you think they can adequately feed their families on the financial resources they have, or must they have recourse to food banks and so forth?

MS. RIBOT: How are they doing?

MS. ABRAMS: How are they doing, even with the skills that you've been able to teach them?

MS. RIBOT: Well, I think they are more conscious of what they do and where the money goes for food. The problem is more solved, but not completely, when-- You know what I mean. They will be getting much better at the time of graduation; otherwise, we don't graduate them. You know?

MS. ABRAMS: But is it possible on their meager financial resources to purchase an adequate diet for their families?

MS. RIBOT: Yes, I know it is. But, you know, they have to have the skill to do it, and we try to put that skill in them. But, some of them, they need a lot of work, and we are not allowed to be years and years with them. You know? We just go through-- Some of them absorb more than others.

MS. ABRAMS: I'm sorry. I didn't hear.

MS. RIBOT: Some of them absorb more than others when you teach them the lessons. Do you see what I mean?

MS. ABRAMS: Yes, I understand that some people will pick up more quickly and so on. But, what I am trying to get at is this: You go in, and you do your best, and you teach them the skills that you have and the best ways that they can stretch their food dollars. My question really is, are people even using those skills still finding that towards the end of the month they do not have money to purchase food?

MS. RIBOT: Well, I will tell you, some of them do use them, because I notice. Some of them are using them.

MS. HART: Do you think, for instance, food stamps-- The amount of money or food that a family can buy with their allotment of food stamps, even on the Thrifty Plan that you teach, would they be

able to make that last a full month? The food stamps, even when they are very thrifty and careful, and they prepare their own foods, and buy generic brands -- do they still run out in the last week or the last couple of days?

MS. RIBOT: Well, most of them do. Some of them are very careful, you know. When they see something they would like to have so that they will have up til the end of the month--

MS. HART: Right. Not that your program isn't helping them, and certainly they'll have more food last longer if they know how to do it and cook it and shop right, but what we're trying to find out is, are they getting enough in the food stamps to last, even if they are the most careful people?

MS. RIBOT: Well, to tell you the truth, the families don't get the same amounts all the time, because when we get the numbers of the food stamps, there are five people in the family who get one amount, and there are five people in another family who get another amount. I don't know how the welfare does, you know, figure out how much they have to give. Not everybody gets the same amount of food stamps. Maybe because their income is higher, one is different from the other. But, when they have the money in their hand -- not for food -- to pay the bills, then they just concentrate on the food stamps they have to buy the food.

MS. ABRAMS: I have another question. Do most people in this-- Is there any kind of public transportation system in this area -- buses that people can take to go shopping?

MS. RIBOT: To go shopping like that? No. Not at all.

MS. ABRAMS: I see. Are the supermarkets located some distance from where most people live?

MS. RIBOT: Yes. We have just one big supermarket here, a Shop-Rite. The other one is all the way to Lincoln Avenue.

MS. ABRAMS: So, how do people get to the supermarket to do their--

MS. RIBOT: Some of them have car pools, or they go by taxi.

MS. ABRAMS: I see, and what is the cost of a taxi?

MS. RIBOT: High. Do you know, somebody here? (speaking to audience)

FROM AUDIENCE: I would say an average of \$5 to \$6 to \$7 to go from one end of town to the other.

MS. ABRAMS: I see. So, in effect, that money must come out of their food budget?

MS. RIBOT: Right.

MR. JOHNSON: I thought I saw a bus stop when I came into town, or signs for bus stops.

MS. RIBOT: Yes, from outside of town, like Jersey City and Philadelphia -- those places.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay, fine.

MS. ABRAMS: Do the families whom you visit find that there is any change in the price of food at different times of the month? Have you noticed that, or have they commented on that?

MS. RIBOT: In the prices?

MS. ABRAMS: Change in the prices of food.

MS. RIBOT: Yes, they tell me.

MS. ABRAMS: What is it that they have told you?

MS. RIBOT: They tell me that in the beginning of the month, all the prices are high. Some of them don't go to the grocery store in the beginning of the month because they say if they go the second or third week of the month, they will be saving.

MS. ABRAMS: Okay. And, that is generally true for all of the stores? Well, I assume that the little mom-and-pop stores are probably expensive all the time.

MS. RIBOT: Terrible.

MS. ABRAMS: Okay. Do you know what kinds of foods the prices are being raised on? Is it general staples and meats and produce and rice and flour?

MS. RIBOT: General.

MS. ABRAMS: Milk?

MS. RIBOT: General.

MS. ABRAMS: Generally speaking?

MS. RIBOT: Milk more or less is the same. You know, the fresh milk, but the canned milk and the powdered milk, they do put it up a couple of cents or whatever. Yes, they do.

MS. ABRAMS: So, you would say it was kind of an across-the-board kind of increase in the prices.

MS. RIBOT: Yes.

MS. ABRAMS: This is really interesting. This is something that we have been finding in the hearings we've held all around the State. It seems to be relatively uniform.

I have one more question about the comments you made about the WIC Program. You said that a mother was going in with three children for the Program, and only one child was being put on the Program and two others were put on a waiting list.

MS. RIBOT: On the waiting list.

MS. ABRAMS: Does that represent a change from past practice?

MS. RIBOT: Yes.

MS. ABRAMS: Has it been in the past that a mother with three children would go in and--

MS. RIBOT: (beginning of sentence inaudible) They don't put them on the waiting list.

MS. ABRAMS: I see. And you've had no explanation?

MS. RIBOT: I don't know. I know because the mothers I visit, they tell me, you know? They figure I could have an answer for that because I'm dealing with food too.

MR. JOHNSON: On your programs, a couple of questions: How long is the program for a person that gets into the program? How long is he or she or a family involved?

MS. RIBOT: Have to stay in the program?

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, or how long does it usually average to take you to train a family?

MS. RIBOT: I'll tell you. We computer them. When a person gets into the program, then we take (inaudible) and see what is their custom -- how they eat. You know? And then, if it is high, there will be maybe one year, or maybe one and a half years, maybe two years. It all depends -- you know? -- on what the people eat, or where we get the people. Do you understand what I mean?

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. Who refers those people to you? Where do you get the names of persons--

MS. RIBOT: Where do we get the names? All different ways. When I go to visit one person, it is, "Oh, my sister needs this." Then the WIC Program refers to us, and the welfare program refers to us.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. You mentioned you're handling about 85 cases, I believe. Is there someone else here in this community doing that also, or are you the only one in the County?

MS. RIBOT: Oh, no. We have four working the same here in Cumberland County.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay, and each caseload is about 80 to 100 per person?

MS. RIBOT: I have 50 to 55, you know.

MR. JOHNSON: You mentioned about people leaving a whole month's food stamps, I assume, at the mom-and-pop grocery store. Is that legal, or how does that happen? You know, what motivates people to do that? Is the store owner demanding that when--

MS. RIBOT: Credit. Buying credit. They are buying credit. You see? They send them notes, or they call by telephone, "I need bread. I need milk." And then they send it. They could send it home, you know? Then they put it down in a notebook, and when they come over at the end of the month, they owe all of the food stamps to the store. Do you see? Then the next week, the next month, they go in and do the same again.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. You mentioned about high rents. I'd be curious. What is a high rent in this area? What are rentals that you sense a lot of your clients are paying?

MS. RIBOT: What are high rents on apartments?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

MS. RIBOT: Well, you know, according to what they are making, I assume it will take three-quarters of the money. That is high for them.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. ABRAMS: Do you have a waiting list for your program of families who are to go on it?

MS. RIBOT: Do I have a waiting list? Yes, I do have.

MS. ABRAMS: You do. How large is that waiting list?

MS. RIBOT: It's pretty big.

MS. ABRAMS: Quite large? Quite significant?

MS. RIBOT: Yes.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay, this has been most helpful. We thank you.

MS. RIBOT: You're welcome.

MR. JOHNSON: Venelda and Howard Unruh, is it?

**VENELDA UNRUH:** Unruh.

MR. JOHNSON: Unruh, okay. Do you want to come together? You can both come up together.

MS. ABRAMS: You can bring another chair up if you'd like.

MRS. UNRUH: I am Venelda Unruh, and my husband, Howard Unruh. We're volunteers--

MR. JOHNSON: Do you want to spell the names again for the record?

MRS. UNRUH: Oh, Unruh. Venelda -- V-E-N-E-L-D-A. Unruh -- U-N-R-U-H. And this is Howard. We are volunteers at the Vineland Nutrition Site. Of course, I don't know if it's a help, but this is something I--

MR. JOHNSON: Everything's of help.

MRS. UNRUH: Our need is for help for nutrition for the elderly, as well as the young people today. Eating a well-balanced diet for young and old alike is important. Programs for more help for nutrition should be increased, not cutting out the money for these programs, which they are doing.

Nutritional deficiencies exist in at least 50% of the elderly population living independently and with the homeless and those on low and fixed incomes. At a great risk living alone, incomes and jobs loss and susceptibility to fads often occur when they are this way.

We need all the help we can get in the way of funding these programs to feed and care for all people in our State and County. We never outgrow our need for a well-balanced diet. Our thought was always food for thought at any age.

MR. JOHNSON: Do you want to make your--

**HOWARD UNRUH:** No, thanks. I'm having a hearing problem with air in my ears since I came into this room.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Do you want to read Howard's statement?

MRS. UNRUH: Well, this is my statement.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay, fine.

MRS. UNRUH: If you would like it, I'll leave you a copy.

MR. JOHNSON: You attend the nutritional program here.

MRS. UNRUH: Yes.

MR. JOHNSON: And that's here in the community?

MRS. UNRUH: Yes.

MR. JOHNSON: How many people go to that program daily?

MRS. UNRUH: Well, daily there's about anywhere from 100 to 115. It's according to the days, and they're staggered, you know. We couldn't let them all come at once because, I'd say, there may be 300, and we can only handle so many because of the fire code. What we need is a larger place because they've been cutting on what they are serving because of the food budget.

Last year, they told us-- I belong to the Council, the same as him, in Vineland for nutrition. The Council had told us that we went in the red last year because of the funds. Now, we are supposed to try to, you know, give something. We ask for a dollar, and those who can't afford it don't pay it. It's hard, I know, for a lot of those people that live alone. They cannot afford it.

But, to cut these things down, it is pathetic. We should be taking more in because there's-- They're getting older; they're not getting any younger. And we're getting more of them. The only thing is, we can only handle so many. So, I think that instead of cutting these programs out, they should build them up a little bit. We do need it.

MR. JOHNSON: Do you have any idea how they turn people down in terms of-- I mean, how do you make decisions as to who can come to the program and who can't come?

MRS. UNRUH: Well, we've been taking them in, and like I say, we've been staggering their days in order to do it. Like I say, there is a fire code. With Tarklin Acres, you're only, I think, allowed 120 at the most.

MR. JOHNSON: But, there is no means test as to other--

MRS. UNRUH: No.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. The question, again-- I guess my concern would be if a person perceived the need to have the food every day, is that somehow discerned?

MRS. UNRUH: That's right. And we also have the Meals on Wheels at the same place; that is paid for, you know, by the-- I think it's a separate program in itself, but just the same, we do the Meals on Wheels there.

MR. JOHNSON: Is there a group of people though that come every day on a regular basis?

MRS. UNRUH: Well, we do, and there are a lot of people that do. But, you just can't take them every day because we have to stagger them somehow so the other ones can come. It would be just too many. You couldn't take them all.

MS. HART: How many different people per week do you think you're feeding then, if you're feeding about 120 a day, as you said?

MRS. UNRUH: Well, that is tops. Tuesdays and Wednesdays seem to be our biggest days. The time that this program started was on a Wednesday, and it was one day a week. Then it kept growing and growing until, well, they just have to stagger it.

MS. HART: But, do you have any idea how many people use the program? Rather, how many different people-- In the beginning of the month, maybe you have less, and the end of the month, you might have more.

MRS. UNRUH: Yes. I would say there are around 300 at least. But, you see, they have five sites in Cumberland County, which our Vineland site-- This is where it started, from what I understand. There are five sites, and they're smaller, you know. Bridgeton doesn't have as many, or Millville. There's Leesburg, and Port Norris. So, we do what we can.

MS. ABRAMS: Your program serves hot meals fives days a week? Is that correct?

MRS. UNRUH: Yes, five days.

MS. ABRAMS: To your knowledge do many of the people who come to the program have anything to eat over the weekend, or what kind of a diet do they have?

MRS. UNRUH: Well, that kind of a thing seems to be personal, you know. We feel that maybe somehow they get along, but they do get a well-nourished dinner there. The only thing is, if they start cutting down, they might cut down on the food too. That's what we're concerned about. Like our head one said, we went in the red last year, and it seems to be a problem maybe this year if they don't get more funds.

MS. ABRAMS: I gather you're serving as many people as you're capable of. You are the Vineland site. Your one of five in Cumberland County. Is that correct?

MRS. UNRUH: Yes.

MS. ABRAMS: Do you feel that there is a great unmet need out there -- that you could be serving a lot more people?

MRS. UNRUH: Yes, I do.

MS. ABRAMS: Do you actually have a waiting list or any other--

MRS. UNRUH: We used to keep a waiting list, but people die and someone else comes in to take their place. I feel there are a lot of people who don't know about the program as well as we'd like to think. And we do have buses that pick them up and take them back and forth, no matter where they live, as long as they're in the perimeter area of where we are.

MR. JOHNSON: Do you think for some of those people that is their only meal a day?

MRS. UNRUH: I often think that. I hear some talk, like that's their big meal. Some don't eat breakfast; some do. But, I think that is a preference in even younger people who just don't eat breakfast. I still think they should have three meals a day.

MR. JOHNSON: Do they take food from you?

MRS. UNRUH: No, they're not supposed to take food from there because they ride on the bus, and a lot of times, they are maybe an hour or two on the road, and it would spoil. And then they may go shopping too, so they cut that out. They're not allowed to take it home with them.

MR. JOHNSON: I was involved in that program up in Ocean County. I remember, they used to take-- One of the things is, if a

person didn't eat all of his or her meal, he would take part of it with him.

MRS. UNRUH: They're not allowed to do that. You can take your milk home. Milk will keep very well. But, the other food—

MR. JOHNSON: This particular program is-- Essentially, most of the participants are from Vineland -- the City of Vineland itself?

MRS. UNRUH: Yes.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay.

MRS. UNRUH: You see, Atlantic County has theirs, and from what I understand, it's seven days a week. It is the only place that we know that has it seven days a week. This is only five days a week, and I often wonder myself.

MS. ABRAMS: That's typical.

MRS. UNRUH: But, you know, I feel it's personal and that you don't ask. If they want to tell you, fine. But, then there is-- I guess they have some way of having something; I hope so.

MS. HART: Are you open on holidays.

MRS. UNRUH: No. Federal holidays, no.

MS. HART: You mentioned in your statement that you read that 50% of the elderly are malnourished?

MRS. UNRUH: Yes.

MS. HART: Where does that come from? I mean, where did you get that information? Was that a local study?

MRS. UNRUH: Well, I read what's in the papers, and I figured it up. It must be somewhere near right because we don't have them all there. Like I say, its whether they know, or like that. When they had the piece in the paper, what they had this last week about-- You know, it was free and everything. I thought we would have them coming in bus loads, but really, it didn't happen.

MS. HART: We heard about that. Somebody was misquoted in the papers saying that the meals were free, when actually they asked for a donation. It was mentioned earlier.

MRS. UNRUH: Yes, but it is free if you cannot afford it.

MS. HART: Right.

MRS. UNRUH: It was put to me that they were matching funds in the beginning, so I don't know. But, they are cutting down. They're going to have to cut down. If something doesn't come up pretty soon, if we have more money— They are allotted — the first of the year I think it is -- what they think they'll need. But, then again, food goes up, and you know yourself. I go several times a week to the stores, and I look around. And every time I go in, they don't seem to be coming down — only the come-ons. They always have something to get you in there, you know. Something they are giving so much money off of, and if you buy this or that— That's the way we do; we wait for the bargains, I guess like everybody else, and then we do our shopping.

MR. JOHNSON: When you go to the program every day, do you also serve as a volunteer in some way with that program?

MRS. UNRUH: Yes, I do now, yes.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. What have you noticed since you've been involved with the program? Has there been, through the-- When you actually serve the meals, do you try to cut back on the amount of food that is now placed on the plate?

MRS. UNRUH: No, we've been trying to give them what is given. It's counted out. See, we keep records every day. I give the tickets out to the people that come in, and they have to let you know the day before, if they can -- if it's possible -- whether they're coming or whether they're not. The meals are ordered that day for the next day, and they have to pay for that meal. If that person doesn't come in, they still have to pay for it -- in our program.

MR. JOHNSON: Right. When the meal arrives, does it arrive in bulk and you dish it out, or is it--

MRS. UNRUH: That's right. So, it's a matter of people coming and, of course, people get sick. Sometimes they can't help it.

MR. JOHNSON: I guess what I was trying to say is, do you think there is less quantity of food coming in bulk now? As you dish it out, that you don't have as many potatoes as you used to have, or do you have any cutback?

MRS. UNRUH: Not yet.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay.

MRS. UNRUH: Not yet, but it has been put to us that they may be cutting down pretty soon on something, or the amount of people coming, which isn't right. We should be opening the doors for more people at a bigger place because we know they're out there.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much, and thank you for the work you're doing.

MRS. UNRUH: I hope it was some help.

MR. JOHNSON: Oh, it was. Now, according to our schedule, there is no one else listed, but we'd be more than happy to speak to other people. So, we'd invite you to come up. It makes no difference who's first. You need to identify yourself -- your name, spell it again for the record, and if you represent an organization.

**ISABEL BRUNI:** Hi. My name is Isabel Bruni. I am-- Like Noemi, I am a Rutgers Community Assistant. My generic title is Nutrition Aide. I am employed by Rutgers, The State University, Cook College, and I am with the Nutrition Education Program, New Jersey Cooperative Extension Service.

The Nutrition Education Program helps families, youngsters, and teens learn how to eat more nutritiously for less money. I visit low-income homemakers in their homes and teach on a one-to-one basis. I sit down at the kitchen table, or any other place that is suitable, and conduct a nutrition class. I teach and show homemakers which foods can give their families a better chance for good health. I teach planning meals, savings dollars on meals, using food stamps wisely, and being a smart shopper.

From each homemaker, we take a diet food recall. A food recall gives us specific information about the diet of that family. Based on that data, my supervisor, who is Mrs. Dianne Lennon -- she is here; I don't know if you've met her or not -- gives me directions on what to teach.

Low-income families generally skip breakfast. Fruits and vegetables for vitamins are lacking. Milk servings are low. When I see a poor food recall, I ask the homemaker if she is on food stamps, and I also can reinforce what Noemi said. I do believe that the people are getting a small amount of food stamps as opposed to what they have

to pay for their rents here in Vineland, because they are extremely high. Some of my homemakers may have \$30 or \$40 a month left after they pay their rent, and it almost seems impossible that they can manage. I know I'd have a heck of a time managing.

Then I take the food recall. I ask the homemaker if she's on food stamps. If not, I refer her immediately. I can't teach nutrition if there is no food in the home. Nutrition aides refer many low-income families to food stamps and WIC. I think you heard Noemi talk about WIC, and I know that you know that WIC stands for Women, Infants, and Children. Okay?

Low-income homemakers frequently don't serve breakfast because the food supply is so limited. Fruits and vegetables, essential for vitamins and minerals, are not served because they don't realize how important they are to the diet. The bulk of the food dollar is spent on meats, the most expensive food item, and I'm am sure we are all aware of that factor. The recommended servings of milk are not served to the children because it is expensive, especially if there are a number of children in the home. Nutrition aides teach homemakers the importance of breakfast and how to plan and serve breakfast, even breakfast on the run.

We teach creative ways to serve vegetables in family meals, and we teach how to stretch the milk dollars by using non-fat dry milk. Nutrition aides like myself work in low-income communities teaching people and showing them, through food demonstrations, how to feed their families nutritious meals for less. Daily we see hunger and malnutrition. Sometimes the homemaker lacks the knowledge about food, nutrition, and food shopping. Oftentimes, the homemaker can't do any better because she does not have the resources.

Children are hungry because the mother can't do any better. Whom do you turn to if your food stamps don't last until the end of the month? We help by turning to other sources in the community when we can, but we need permanent food closets. The poor need larger food stamp vouchers, and we need to stay in business to educate the needy.

The Nutrition Education Program has been redlined by President Reagan for the year 1986. We teach the low-income homemakers

nutrition, how to manage, and how to extend their resources. Since 1969, we've taught thousands of low-income families in Cumberland County in New Jersey. There are many more that need our service. The Food Stamp Program and WIC refer to us; we refer to them. The poor need us and welcome our visits. The poor need education too. Nutrition education is our mission. The Nutrition Education Program should be restored so we can continue to help the low-income families. We, too, can help combat hunger and poverty through our educational programs.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Questions?

MS. HART: Have you ever -- you or your organization -- followed -- done a follow-up study on people who participated and graduated a year or two later to see if they're still practicing the things that they were taught? Just out of curiosity.

MS. BRUNI: Well, in our job description, we are not really allowed. We have a job description, and we are to go out and make six to seven visits a day. Our supervisor stresses that we try to get to meet as many people as possible and teach them. On occasion, I think we have maybe gone into the home, or sometimes we may run into people, or ask through friends how they're doing. And, we are a little concerned, you know, if we've taught them, because we can only keep them for a certain amount of time, and our time is limited. We would like to keep them longer, of course, but that's not in our job description. When we meet them, we take a food recall like Noemi told you, and then we find out who is eating well, who is not, and of course, I find that by the end of the month -- I think other nutrition aides find -- that the people are out of money and have only the bare necessities. Like I said, when they pay their rents and all -- because I see -- they say they have \$30 or \$40 a month sometimes to buy clothes and things. That's a small amount of money to work with, because I think the rents are astronomical here for the poor people.

MR. JOHNSON: You made a statement that low-income families usually skip their breakfast. How have you discerned that or found that out?

MS. BRUNI: Well, probably I think maybe some of them, maybe if they have a couple of kids going to school, they may get up late or they don't have time to feed the children, or maybe they don't have the food to take care of the children. So, we do a thing. We make a little breakfast thing, and we'll put a piece of cheese in there, and make some crackers, and a piece of fruit, and put it in a Baggie or something, and show the mother how to serve the breakfast on the run, because, you know, breakfast is the most important meal of the day. So-- I don't know if I can convince you or not. I mean, juice is better than nothing. So, we're trying to convince them to have the kids have something. Juice is better than nothing. Or, if they were running to catch the bus -- which, naturally, a lot of us are always in a hurry at different times, and they have the little Baggies-- So, while the kids are waiting for the bus, they can have their little Baggie. And we try to teach them to maybe have the cheese and the things on hand.

MS. ABRAMS: You said that because of the high cost of living in the area -- the high cost of rent and so forth, and other necessities of life -- that it is the food budget that suffers, and that is very, very common. I gather you said people-- Or, perhaps your colleague said that people don't get a large allotment of food stamps, and in terms of what they might have left over from their welfare checks, they have a very small amount of money, including the food stamps, to spend on food. Have they been going to the food banks or pantries to get other foods to supplement what they're able to do?

MS. BRUNI: Yes. As a matter of fact, I don't know if you're familiar -- if you're from the area-- We have the dePaul Center here, and that is a food bank, but they only help people on a one-shot basis.

MS. ABRAMS: We have heard about that. It's for emergencies.

MS. BRUNI: It's for emergencies. Someone was very solicitous and donated a lot of money, and he didn't want people to know about it. He wanted to help the needy on, maybe if there was a fire or something. But, they have to go through a long procedure. They have to sign a form, and do all the things, and say that this is "in fact," so that people will not abuse the program, because like the

woman that spoke first, she said, "There are freebies." When people hear about things that are free, naturally they want to catch the train, you know. But, some people go and maybe they abuse it -- not that many.

MS. ABRAMS: Is that the only food bank that is in the area here? The woman who--

MR. JOHNSON: It is with the United Methodist Church.

MS. BRUNI: Well, I think she talked about the church, but see, in our program, I guess we don't go to the churches because I don't know if they have specific people that they would like to help, and we work with low-income families. So, I'm aware of the dePaul Center. Maybe there might be one or two, but we really don't have that many food banks that I am aware of, and if there are, I would like to know about them. So, we probably could use some, as I said, more food closets.

MS. RIBOT: (Speaking from audience; transcriber unable to hear.)

MS. ABRAMS: So, it's either the Methodist Church or else it's individual churches that are just doing things on kind of an ad hoc basis. Is that what I'm hearing?

MS. RIBOT: Yes. You know, that's more personal.

MR. JOHNSON: Will you state that again?

MS. RIBOT: Okay. The Methodist Church, they have some food that they collect between the members of the church. Some of them, if they have the need, they could go there for emergencies.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. I hear the rent high figure again, or the high rent issue. We're not dealing with housing, but we think that's one of the issues. I still would like to know-- Could you give me a dollar figure on that? I'd still be curious.

MS. BRUNI: I'll give you a dollar figure. Okay. I'll give you a one-bedroom apartment -- \$345.

MR. JOHNSON: That's in the Vineland area?

MS. BRUNI: Yes.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. BRUNI: I think that's high. I mean, we do work with all the limited resources, and Noemi and I are in all the apartments — Apple Tree; I can name them all. We're there, and I think that what they get— I know you're not with housing, and I know we're with food and hunger, but what I'm saying is, the bulk of the money goes for the rent because they have to have a roof. So, what is their priority? Their rent. But, they are borrowing, and probably sometimes they take the food stamps and sell them to somebody so they can have the rent. And then they are running out of food stamps because of that reason.

MR. JOHNSON: I'm not from this area. I came down this afternoon, and I noticed it seemed to me like a lot of rural areas or farm areas, and then I came into the center of this town. Some of the people that you service, do they live in a rural area also?

MS. BRUNI: Not necessarily. No, not necessarily. The people where we live are basically in center city and the area of low income, because we work with all food stamp and welfare recipients, because our guideline is-- We have to work with the families of limited resources.

When we do take a food recall, on the back, we have to put the income of that specific family. If it doesn't meet the U.S. guidelines, we cannot work with those people.

MR. JOHNSON: Public housing-- Is there public housing here?

MS. BRUNI: Yes, we do have public housing in Vineland.

MR. JOHNSON: Other questions?

MS. ABRAMS: Yes, I wanted to pursue the line of questioning. I was curious to find out-- One of the members of our Commission has been asking a question throughout all of our hearings. She's not present tonight, and I guess I'll ask it for her.

MS. HART: As I did earlier.

MS. ABRAMS: As you did earlier. And, that is, when do you find that people who are on food stamps-- How long are the food stamps lasting them during the course of a month?

MS. BRUNI: I would say the first week, they probably go bananas. You know, they get all these books, and they go in a store, and naturally, they're probably so hungry from the end of the month,

that maybe some of them do buy things-- Maybe they should take more time, which we try to teach them, when they buy the stuff. By the third week, they're low. By the fourth week, I've been in homes, and I say, "Oh, my God." One time, this little boy opened the refrigerator, and I saw the condiments -- catsup, mustard, mayonnaise -- on the door, and a pitcher of water. And I said, "No, it's not true; I can't believe it." The mother went to the bathroom and I said, "Honey, what have you been eating?" He said, "Onions and mayonnaise." Well, that made me ill. Now, I don't know if that's not planning, but they usually are out by the third week. As I said, they probably take the money, because they get it in bulk, and naturally, when they go, they probably want things they were probably deprived of at the end of the month, which would be my assumption.

MS. ABRAMS: Yeah, I think we're seeing-- We're hearing pretty much the same story everywhere -- that the money is not lasting any longer than about the middle of the month.

MS. BRUNI: No. Right, by the third week, they are kind of--

MS. ABRAMS: Yeah, even with the people who are trying their best to budget and to cook as nutritiously as possible and as cheaply as possible.

MS. BRUNI: And, as like Noemi was talking, you see, we have apartments, and there are a lot of people that don't have transportation. So, naturally, where are they going to go? They're going to go to the corner store -- WaWa or 7 Eleven. We try to teach them that they are spending money there, but they don't have the means. They're close by, so they run out of milk or out of cheese or out of lunch meat, and they go there because they are within walking distance. When they go by cab, it's anywhere-- They tell me \$5, \$6, \$7 by cab, one way. Well, that takes a big chunk out of their money by the time the end of the month comes. If they take that out for a cab-- They don't have the storage, so they can't shop once a month because they don't have the facilities. Refrigerators that they have in apartments are very small. Their freezers are small, so they cannot store food in the freezer for a whole month. So, they would have to make two or three trips to the store, and that costs a lot of money by cab. Some ask friends and--

MS. HART: Excuse me. Does Vineland only have one supermarket, and is it easily accessible? Are the supermarkets -- the larger ones, not the corner stores -- are they hard to get to for most people?

MS. BRUNI: Well, I think we're at a handicap. We had supermarkets, and for one reason or the other, they went out. We had an A&P that went out; we had an Acme that went out. So, we have two big ones on one end of town, and they're both Shop-Rites. They're run by two brothers. One is on Delsey Drive, which is the west side of town; one is on the east side of town, and then we have an IGA. Those are the three stores that we have for a community of maybe 55-60,000 people. I don't think we have enough, to be perfectly honest with you. That's my opinion.

MS. HART: The people who live outside of Vineland-- I know that you service not just Vineland, but the other areas.

MS. BRUNI: Right, in the outlying areas. Right.

MS. HART: How about them? Do they have many supermarkets to shop at?

MS. BRUNI: No.

MS. HART: What would their cost be to get to the supermarkets here?

MS. BRUNI: Probably more. If they don't have transportation or any means, or if people don't have friends or cousins or whoever, they wait. I mean, that is a big problem in the community that I have discovered, and I've been with the program 10 years.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Any other questions? (no response)  
Thank you very much.

MS. BRUNI: Thank you.

MR. JOHNSON: Come forward.

**DIANNE LENNON (speaking from audience):** Okay, I'm Dianne Lennon, and I tried not to jump in this evening because I wanted you to have an opportunity to interview the nutrition aides, because they're out there in the community working with the consumers and hearing and experiencing some of the poverty, and they can tell you firsthand. So, that's why I wanted to hear them.

But, I did want to respond to your question. Yes, we have been conducting some studies. In fact, Dr. Burkhart at the college recently worked on a study, and I do have the data. But, I can't really react to it right now. In terms of the knowledge gain of homemakers who have gone through the nutrition program, certainly it does show evidence that there is learning taking place. But, one of the serious problems is the mobility of the low-income homemaker. And, when we attempt to follow up on a homemaker after two or three months, or a year, to check knowledge gained, we get such a small percentage. There are numerous reports throughout the United States that have been conducted, or surveys that have been conducted on the nutrition program, looking at the knowledge gained, and the success story of the program. Of course, that data we use to document the effectiveness of the program. We have a lot of success stories. I wanted you to hear that today.

Mrs. Ribot, and Mrs. Davis who spoke in Bridgeton, have both applied for the cheese. This was beyond the call of duty. It's not in their job description, but they applied for it through a church -- for cheese -- and, of course-- How many did you have show up?

MS. RIBOT: How many people?

MS. LENNON: On your food distribution?

MS. RIBOT: Well, I had about 300 people.

MS. LENNON: And, I know Mrs. Davis had somewhere around 350 people standing in line. And, of course, this is not something that we ask them to do, because their job is to teach. But, they do try to teach in groups. "You must hear us if you want the cheese." That's the way we put it. And, you must hear some information on how to store it and how it can be used in family meals.

I've authored a publication, "Cheese in the Family Meal," with recipes and some of that kind of data. Dr. Burkhart has provided us with a fact sheet that we use on cheese, and we've printed thousands of those. In fact, I can't keep them in stock. We've donated milk -- instant milk; we use that -- how to use that. Many people have not accepted that -- accepted the donated milk because they don't know how to use it. We need to do some educational-- We are doing education on

it. Put it in soups; put it in-- Use half and half. The lady said this afternoon that children don't like it. We want to tell them if they make it up and don't let them see it, and put it back in the same container -- make it half and half -- it does extend the milk dollar. So, we try to tell them clever ways. If the children see it, they're not going to drink it. So, we say, "Make it up before they come home and put it in the refrigerator." It must be nice and chilled. Keep it on the shelves, especially when have to go distances.

Now, you asked the question about where these two ladies were working. They're working here in Vineland. We can't spread their services so thin. Mrs. Davis is working in a number of communities -- about six -- and we are really spreading her services too thin. We need another nutrition aide in Port Norris, just to service that area. Her round trip is 50-some miles -- close to 60 miles. We pay her to go down there, spend the day, and come back. And, it is really expensive on the program, but we need a person in that area because we have hard-core poverty in Port Norris.

I can tell you, I worked with the Farmer's Home Administration before coming to the extension in 1970. I was working in the housing area with people to apply low-income interest loans and that kind of thing, and knocking on doors, and saying, "Apply. See if you can improve your living standards."

I had an opportunity to visit Port Norris with Mrs. Davis. It was a most distressful day, I'll tell you. Those people had not moved forward. I mean, I was newly out of school at that time. It was during my first five years of employment, and I was just amazed to see that Port Norris had not moved in 15 years. The poverty was still there, and it was very bleak. I don't know. That is an area the government needs to address. New Jersey needs to address it, and the Federal government needs to address it. It needs some serious attention -- housing, food nutrition, and help for the poor people there. People are really living in shanties -- shanties on the ground. I mean, children-- I saw three young girls, and I don't know how many children I saw in one house where Mrs. Davis was teaching. I was really cramped trying to get around the stove, and I kept seeing

people coming in. The place is very small. I mean, the house is a good-sized bathroom, if the kitchen was a kitchen in the living room area. I think there were three or four -- the mother and the father, or the mother and some other gentleman, I don't know -- an uncle, whatever. Then the three daughters had children, so it was just that kind of poverty, and this was a community.

So, you do have-- In South Jersey, there is some serious poverty that needs to be addressed. I know your interest is hunger, but I wanted to make that statement.

Thank you.

MR. JOHNSON: Questions?

MS. HART: What kind of special adjustments or considerations do you make if there are special diet needs?

MS. LENNON: We do not address those. The nutrition aides are not equipped to handle special diets. In fact, we refer them to dietitians or nutritionists, and we sometimes will pass out a list if they're on a-- If they're hypertensive and on a low sodium diet, we might give them a list of foods that they should afford, but we do not write out special diets. Nutrition aides are trained in basic nutrition. We encourage them to talk to a dietitian because the dietitian needs to talk to the physician to see what the doctor is trying to accomplish. So, special diets are just what it says -- special to that unique person.

You get into cultural differences. "What foods can I eat on that special diet?" And, I don't want to talk down to you, but that's important, because when you go on a special diet, it can be a traumatic experience. "Teach me how to eat foods that are in my own unique culture. Show me how to adjust my collard greens. Show me how to adjust my rice and beans so that I can eat them on a low sodium diet or a low fat diet." These things are important. You do need to talk to a dietitian. You cannot have lox and bagels on a low sodium diet. You can't, really.

MS. ABRAMS: There's no way you can have lox on a low sodium diet. (laughter)

MS. LENNON: Right, no way. You know what I'm trying to say here. The cultural— Those unique foods need to be addressed, and "You can have this, but you can't have this." Some foods can be consumed.

MS. HART: Okay. I was wondering if you could speak— You direct three counties?

MS. LENNON: Yes, I do.

MS. HART: Could you or one of the people who works with you speak a little bit about the different needs that you see -- the people who are in need in town versus out in the more isolated rural areas? Do they face different kinds of problems in finding enough food, in getting enough food? Besides, we spoke about transportation, but it seems that there are some differences in what goes on in the city and out in the suburbs and the rural areas. Could you comment on any of that?

MS. LENNON: I think I can. Most of the agencies are located in the cities. For example, WIC, food stamps, and welfare headquarters are located here in the city. So we ask, how do persons out in the community avail themselves of those services?

Once a week here in Cumberland County, let's say, or is it once a month, twice a month? Sometimes they do go into outlying areas for an hour or two hours -- a half a day -- to try to service some of those people. It meets a great need when we can take the service to the people, but still, there is that transportation problem over rural areas. It creates a problem shopping. We can talk about the corner store and, of course, we know it's not the best place to shop, but sometimes it's the only place to shop. It's the only place to get credit when you don't have any food, so what would you do? Would you go hungry, or would you go get credit?

You know, I hear the aides talking about the credit book. I remember that from the South, and I thought that had gone down the chute. But, it is still happening. There is the ledger and, of course, that ledger is not always accurate. Of course, I can add on some things to make things come out the way I want them to come out, and that does happen. We don't have all honest small store owners. Of

course, I doubt very seriously if there are receipts that are given for each purchase. The mother calls on the phone and says, "Send milk," or the kids go, and of course, sometimes they shop for the meal just before dinner time. That happens frequently in low-income areas.

So, I believe that transportation is a problem, and the availability of food stores or supermarkets.

MS. HART: Is that the biggest difference? What about Outreach or the different programs that are available? Do you think that the people in the more isolated areas are aware of them? Do they know that there are people that can help them if they can get to them?

MS. LENNON: I think more needs to be done in that area -- making persons in those low-income areas aware. But, how do you do it? If you don't do it in the media-- Many have televisions, and if you don't get it through television, forget it, because that's what low-income people watch. It's not the radio today; it's the television.

MS. BRUNI: That's their entertainment.

MS. LENNON: That's their entertainment, correct. Many do not come out to meetings. That's why the extension services had to utilize the nutrition aides -- to go to the homes -- because we would conduct programs in various places throughout the County. But, the low-income people -- the people who need it the most -- do not come out. So, we're sending the nutrition aides to knock on doors and educate the low-income people, the persons who need it the most.

MS. HART: Thank you.

MS. ABRAMS: Do you know what the poverty rate is for the County, and the unemployment rate? Do you have any kind of-- Could you comment on some of the poverty that you might have to deal with first? I wonder, do you have a lot of migrant farm workers in the area, and what-- They are an especially vulnerable population. Do you get to see any of these people?

MS. LENNON: I don't believe we work with very many migrant individuals. We work with those who remain. Mrs. Ribot's caseload is primarily the Spanish-speaking clientele, and of course, she does have a waiting list because you must build a very close rapport with Spanish

families. She's unique in that because they accept her, whereas they may not accept Bruni or I. We're very fortunate to have her on staff.

And, we have Mrs. Romaro in Millville, who is also bilingual. So, those are (inaudible) treasures that I don't have in my other two counties.

There was another point that I wanted to make, but I can't-- You asked me another question before. Oh, about the poverty. All right. Now, let me tell you how we make a decision in terms of where we put nutrition aides. We look at the poverty rates in a particular county, and in order to develop my plan, Yale/Rutgers requires that I look at the census data, and look at the poverty figures, and develop a long-range plan. From that kind of data, we make a decision as to where we're to put nutrition aides and work them.

For example, in my last long-range plan -- five-year plan -- we found a little community in Wildwood proper. I didn't even know about it. It was on the map, and we had to send a nutrition aide in there to reach out -- only to discover-- I saw Wildwood as predominantly black low income, but there was that little small Caucasian community within the City of Wildwood that we needed to tap. And so, we had to reach out. Our mandate is to reach into low-income areas first -- families with young children, as I mentioned.

MS. HART: Do you think-- Have there been a lot of successes, do you think, with the kids?

MS. LENNON: Oh, yes.

MS. HART: Can you tell us a little bit about it?

MS. BRUNI: Can I tell you about the program, or would you like to, Noemi? See, she wouldn't want to blow her own horn, right? (laughter) Well, she got this brainy idea that she would have a kids' camp -- a day camp -- and so, we would get kids from the area -- a little community of homemakers -- and we would either get a church or houses and have these kids on a a whole-week basis. She planned everything -- what we would give them for breakfast, what crafts we would do, teach them how to cook lunch, go outside and do activities. This was her brainstorm. It was fantastic.

MS. HART: Dianne's?

MS. BRUNI: I don't know. Maybe Noemi might want to share something.

MS. RIBOT: Yes. I forgot to tell you before, but I have a group of children, and I meet them every week — every Tuesday night. We have a room in a church where we do that. Every day in the month is different. Do you follow me?

A couple of weeks ago, I was teaching them how to use the powdered milk and peanut butter, right? Peanut butter was no problem; everybody loves it. When we went to the powdered milk, nobody liked it. I said, "Well, you're going to see. You're going to taste it, and you're going to like it." Then there was a time--

MS. BRUNI: Honey.

MS. RIBOT: Oh, and the honey. They don't care for honey. "Oh, that is a medicine, right?" The mother used to give them honey just when they had a sore throat, right? Then they don't want honey in there. But, we say, "Sugar is not too good." I assist them, and I make them fix those peanut butter logs. We put all the ingredients together, mix honey, peanut butter, and that's it. Mix it together.

I send them to the bathroom. They wash their hands. I put aluminum paper on the tables, and I give one spoon of the mix to each one of them. They're supposed to make logs. Do you know what? They don't finish it. (laughter) They don't finish it. They taste a little bit, you know? I say, "You have to keep rolling them because the peanut butter will melt. They will look so nice, and it will be so easy." You know, they don't finish. I say, "Oh boy, where are the logs?" They say, "Oh, I ate them. Will you give me some more?" Then at the end of the class, everything has to be cleaned up and have everything straight too.

There were two little skinny girls, and I was watching, you know. I was just doing the class and watching what was going on. And, I was amazed to see them pick up all of the papers and clean up the crumbs. You know what? When one was picking up one of the papers to put it in the trash, that girl took all those crumbs and ate them. I was feeling terrible. I said, "Oh, this is hunger. This is hunger." You know? She might not have any food at home.

MS. BRUNI: And, the dry powdered milk is (remainder of sentence inaudible).

MS. RIBOT: Yes, you see? After they taste it--

MR. JOHNSON: I'd like to ask a question in terms of being here in a rural area. That is my perception -- that part of New Jersey has been noted as the Garden State, and the perception also that, at least in the summer -- particularly in this part of the State -- there is a great deal of production of fresh produce. Are there any programs that-- Are there opportunities in terms of-- Do the people have opportunities to grow their own produce, and secondly, are things enhanced in some way for low-income families in terms of produce in the summer, in terms of its availability? My assumption might be, it might be lower in terms of cost? Can you comment about those?

MS. LENNON: We strongly encourage the low-income homemakers to go to the farms and pick their own. In fact, last year, we had lessons on sweet potatoes. We had sweet potato lessons. All the aides were equipped with resources on how to use sweet potatoes, and that's what they taught. We had varieties of sweet potatoes growing in this area, and we taught the homemakers the types that were available and the nutritive value, and how to use them in family meals. Of course, we're hoping that enhances -- will encourage the homemakers to go out and purchase sweet potatoes along the roadside. We try to talk about creative ways. "What are some of the things you did? I know you had a sweet potato bread and sweet potatoes and apples."

One of them went to a farm and picked up pumpkins, because we thought-- Our assessment is that if we take a pumpkin in, with the recipes, and talk about the nutritive value of super-food in terms of Vitamin A, we can encourage the use of it. And we try to take in a food that they can sample and say, "Hey, this is great. I think I'll try it." So, of course, a variety of recipes--

MR. JOHNSON: Do any of these farms or produce stands accept food stamps?

MS. BRUNI: I was going to say that there is only one that I know of in Vineland that takes food stamps, so they are at a handicap. In other words, if they go in the beginning of the month, they may have

a little money. But, there is only one stand to my knowledge -- and I do work in the community -- and that's all the way on the other end of town, and they take food stamps. I don't know if Noemi knows of any.

MS. RIBOT: No, I don't, but I was going to say something else. In the summertime when some of the migrant people come here, and they have families in town (inaudible). The farmer-- They let them take a certain amount, and they take it home and take it to their friends or families, and they will eat better at that time. When wintertime comes, they have a problem again.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Do any of these people have their own gardens?

MS. RIBOT: Yes, some of them; they have them in the back. They plant some. Yes, they do.

MR. JOHNSON: Is there any part of your program in any way that teaches people that?

MS. BRUNI: Yes. Our job description has-- We do have all the information on gardening. I'm blowing my own horn because I work in a trailer park, and you know how much space there is in a trailer park.

MR. JOHNSON: Sure.

MS. BRUNI: Well, the lady told me that that had all manure from years ago -- from chickens -- and I said, "We're going to plant the garden." She said, "You're crazy." I said, "Get someone to do the (inaudible)" She said this guy down the street had one. Rutgers came down and took pictures. She grew peppers, tomatoes, pumpkins, and peas in this little garden. I was the proudest I've ever been. We do encourage, and we do teach gardening, if they have the facilities and the ground. We'll come out and test the soil. But, so many of them live in apartments.

MS. LENNON: And then, too, farmers will allow you to come and pick your own. But, here again, transportation is a problem. You see? How do you get to the farm? And, many farmers, after they finish, will let you come in and pick whatever you want.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Any other questions? (negative response) Is there anyone else here who would like to speak? (no response) Speak now, or forever hold your peace. (laughter)

Well, we thank you for coming out this evening, and for the information you've given us. We will be continuing to have other hearings throughout the State. I think we can leave a list here of where they will be, just in case you might want to share them with friends elsewhere in the State, or with members of your organizations.

Again, we appreciate your presence and your input. It has been most helpful to us. Thank you.

**(HEARING CONCLUDED)**

**APPENDIX**



# Childrens Defense Fund FY 85 Report

health, child care, child welfare, and Aid to Families with Dependent Children. The findings, submitted in final reports to CDF, show how children are faring under President Reagan.

Families Are Unable to Meet Their Most Basic Needs Across the country, requests for emergency services like food, clothing, utilities, and housing have risen. Ninety-seven percent of the Child Watch reports that we received noted substantial increases in requests for basic services.

- In Birmingham, Alabama, St. Andrew's Parish Soup Kitchens served 1,200 children under age 16 in 1981 and 2,500 in 1982. The kitchens expected to serve 5,000 children in 1983.
- Requests for emergency assistance rose 99 percent in Johnson County, Kansas, in 1982. The money available to meet these requests rose only 9 percent.

The Salvation Army and the Crosslines Cooperative Council told Child Watch participants in Kansas City, Kansas:

"People just do not have enough money to get through a month of basic essentials. The need is more constant and more desperate than a year ago or six months ago. This change is due to unemployment, the excessive costs of utilities, food, shelter, and clothing, and to changes in eligibility for assistance. The economy is bad and people need more help to survive." (Wyandotte County Salvation Army)

"Budget cuts have created a population of new poor who are not eligible for assistance; do not know where to go for help; and go to all the wrong places...before they finally get help. Our requests for cash assistance have increased 150 percent in the past six months. There are also more requests for food and clothing." (Crosslines Cooperative Council, Kansas City)

Agencies have been so inundated with requests for help, they cannot meet all the demands. In Tampa, Florida, for example, 12 of 15 agencies surveyed had experienced an increased demand for

From all regions of the country--Chicago, San Francisco, Des Moines--come reports that welfare families are running out of food stamps before the end of each month. Similarly, many parts of the country report that families are unable to meet housing and utility bills and have lost the day care that enables them to work.

Concludes the Rhode Island Child Watch project:

"Parents on AFDC and subsidized day care have been forced to leave jobs, quit school or training programs, and return full time to the welfare rolls. Parents of young children on AFDC are staying on welfare rather than working. They simply cannot go to work and make \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year and lose medical benefits in the process."

Many Women and Children Who Are Eligible for Nutritional Packages Under the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Are Not Being Served Because of inadequate funding, WIC programs serve only one-third of the women and children whose poverty and nutritional needs qualify them for services. Estimates of eligible mothers and children who were actually receiving WIC services ranged from 17 percent in Wilmington, Delaware, to 60 percent in San Antonio, Texas, with the majority of programs serving between 25 percent and 38 percent of the mothers and children who qualified for assistance.

- In Monroe County, Indiana, an estimated 2,700 residents are eligible for WIC, with funding available for only 1,200 people.
- A Child Watch report from Cleveland stated, "Perhaps the most alarming information resulting from these interviews were the reports of malnourished and anemic pregnant women who have not sought medical care until late in their pregnancy, and the inability of the WIC program to provide food supplements to all those who needed them. The relationship between inadequate nutrition and infant mortality, developmental problems, and mental retardation is well established."
- In Tampa, Florida, "one of the unanticipated results of the

- cutting WIC services for between 500,000 and one million low-income pregnant women, infants, and children at nutritional risk. The administration has failed to request the full amount of supplemental funding needed to carry the WIC program throughout fiscal year 1984 at its current caseload of 3.0 million people. As a result, hundreds of thousands of pregnant women and young children would lose WIC services. The administration has also requested \$200 million less for WIC for fiscal year 1985 than the administration's own budget acknowledges is needed to maintain the current caseload. This means that caseload cutbacks started in fiscal year 1984 would continue into fiscal year 1985.

This problem is particularly serious given the current evidence about hunger in America. For example, the same Massachusetts health department study that found up to 17,500 stunted children in Massachusetts also found that 32 percent of the low-income children surveyed who were eligible for food stamps were not getting this assistance. In addition, because of the recession and high unemployment, many more people have become newly eligible for food stamps who are unlikely to know about the program and its requirements and are therefore going without help.

Those who do receive food stamp benefits also face serious problems. These households are poor, with average gross incomes (including federal and state welfare assistance) of just \$4,275 a year and average cash assets of \$62. Their already limited income for food and other essentials has been going down in real dollar terms. During the 13-year period from 1970 to 1983, federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) benefits plummeted a staggering 36 percent after adjustment for inflation. In addition, most food stamp recipients are outside the work force and are not helped much by improvements in the economy. Nearly three of every four food stamp recipients is a low-income child, a female head of a household with children, an elderly person, or a disabled person. Poor children alone constitute nearly half of all the recipients.

Cuts since 1980 in an array of other basic support programs -- made largely at the Reagan administration's urging -- further reduced the disposable incomes of food stamp families and the money available for food. Due in part to cuts in unemployment insurance, fewer than two out of every five jobless workers now receives unemployment insurance (compared to nearly four of every five during the 1975 recession). All 3.5 million families in public and subsidized housing now must pay a larger share of their income for rent, as a result of cuts in low-income housing programs. Because of a freeze in low-income energy assistance

## A FACT SHEET: NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM

*What Is The Nutrition Education Program?*

A program begun in 1969 now helping people in 12 of New Jersey's inner cities and areas of rural poverty. Its parents are the New Jersey Cooperative Extension Service and Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey from its Cook College, New Brunswick location.

*What Is Cooperative Extension?*

The largest informal education program in the world! It is an out-of-school way for people to improve their knowledge, awareness, skills and competency. Programs relate to five major areas -- home economics, 4-11 youth development, agriculture, natural resource management, and marine resources.

*What Does The Program Do?*

As part of the home economics department of Cooperative Extension, the Nutrition Education Program helps families, youngsters and teens learn how to eat more nutritionally for less money.

*How Does This Happen?*

New Jersey's needy residents learn nutrition basics and improved living skills in their own communities. The program includes both adult and youth educational activities.

*Who Does The Teaching?*

Rutgers community assistants (nutrition aides) are employees who are hired, trained and supervised by Extension home economists to teach adults one-to-one at home or in small neighborhood groups. Volunteers are trained to lead groups of youngsters and teens.

*What Do People Learn?*

Adults learn principles of nutrition and food management skills through lessons tailored to individual needs. Youth find that learning nutrition can be fun, and teens follow a special food and fitness series.

*How Do People Learn?*

By doing. By changing their food shopping, food spending and food eating habits. By saving newspaper coupons and using them. By planning nutritious meals around a family's tastes. By trying low-cost substitutes. By watching and listening and doing and thereby building self-confidence.

*What Are The Results?*

Food consumption records show positive dietary impact -- people are eating better. Homemakers follow a series of progressive steps to graduation. This year 654 graduated, many to new roles as volunteers. In a recent evaluation, program homemakers were superior volunteers with youngsters. And youth groups made significant improvement with our special lesson series. People can put what they learn to use. There are dozens of individual success stories.

*Are There Other Benefits?*

We're glad you asked!

. Families learn about the wide range of other community services and learn how to use them.

**New Jersey State Library**

- . Self-confidence and decision-making skills increase as participants improve their family management practices.
- . Youth participants carry their learnings home and extend themselves to their communities through service activities.
- . Individual accomplishments grow ... program participants become Rutgers community assistants, job holders ... program homemakers become volunteers ... group members become teen group leaders ... graduated homemakers participate in other Cooperative Extension Service activities.
- . Homemakers participate in job retraining programs and expand their horizons through adult education or community colleges.

*Where Can I  
Get More  
Information?*

Contact the Cooperative Extension Service offices in these counties:

Dianne S. Lennon  
Extension Home Economist  
Rutgers University

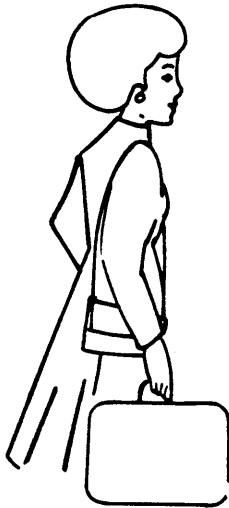
ATLANTIC COUNTY  
Atlantic County Cooperative  
Extension Service  
1200 W. Harding Highway  
Mays Landing, NJ 08330  
625-7000 Ext. 5449

CAPE MAY COUNTY  
Cape May Cooperative Extension  
Service  
Dennisville Rd. - Rt. 657  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210  
465-5115

CUMBERLAND COUNTY  
Poultry Center  
2569 E. Landis Ave.  
Vineland, NJ 08360  
691-0369

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
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NEW BRUNSWICK**

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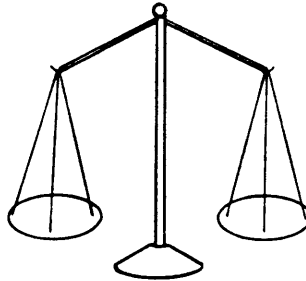
## *Hello There!*

Meet your Rutgers community assistant!

She has a helping hand for you. She wants to show you which foods can give your family a better chance for good health with a smaller amount of money.

Do you want help with:

planning meals?  
saving money on meat?

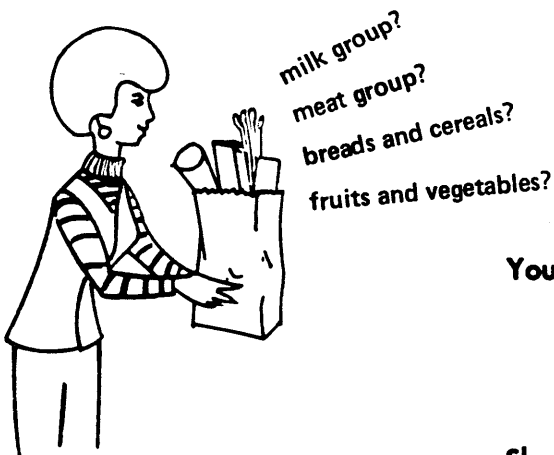


using food stamps?  
being a smart shopper?

Your Rutgers community assistant will come to your home every week or month, or she may invite you to a small gathering with your neighbors in a nearby home or community room.

She works for the Cooperative Extension Service of Rutgers University to bring this nutrition education program to you. . . and you pay her nothing.

She works with children too. . . ask her about nutrition fun for them.



**Your Rutgers community assistant is:**

**She can be reached at:**

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April 17, 1985


In Cape May County, and more specifically in Wildwood, it is difficult to assess who are the hungry.

Sandra Miller, Counselor for County Department on Aging, indicates senior citizens on low, fixed income who pay a good portion of their income for rent, often will be without sufficient food for the rest of the month. Pride or whatever prevents them from taking part in the various support programs available to them.

Larry Wilson, 4-H Club Leader, is tasked to visit the homes of his club members to provide one-on-one nutrition training. The response usually is "I know all about it." In-depth questioning usually reveals a lack of knowledge. At that point, the person may indicate a need for the training, but will either refuse or not follow through. When there is cooperation, Mr. Wilson conducts follow-ups. One portion of the follow-up is to question the mother about what she ate in the past 24 hours. The answers range from soup, a sandwich, to nothing. In these instances, the children either fixed something for themselves or were sent out to buy hoagies, soda, and other junk food.

In my position, I find an inability to plan for the entire month, especially among the Welfare recipients. From the 15th of each month until the end of the month is the highest rate of requests for assistance. As soon as the Welfare checks are out, few requests are made. Also observed is that when the Welfare checks are received, the children are out buying hoagies, soda, and other junk food. When we have the Summer Youth Feeding Program, these same children will refuse to eat the balanced meals that are served--they aren't use to eating such meals. Our Emergency Food program receives most of its referrals from the Welfare Department on a Friday afternoon between 3:00 and 4:00. The recipient of food then goes out on the street to spread the word that free food can be obtained at the Wildwood Community Center. Where's the hunger? How do we define HUNGER?

In each case, EDUCATION is the key. A second factor is the willingness to ask and receive assistance, in the case of senior citizens, or to accept and USE the training available for wise shopping and better nutrition.

  
Curtis A. Miller  
Division Director

8X

STATEWIDE BI-MONTHLY REPORTING FORM

Please fill in the following information to the best of your ability. We will be using these statistics to document hunger in New Jersey and also to allocate possible future bulk food donations.

COUNTY: Cape May MONTH: January YEAR: 1985

ORG./CHURCH/AGENCY: CHR/Wildwood Division

ADDRESS: 115 W. Davis Ave. TOWN: Wildwood NJ ZIP: 08260

PHONE: 522-0231 CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

# Of People Served Who Are Single Heads Of Household	: <u>11</u>
Number Of Children In Single Parent H/H'S	: <u>17</u>
Number Of Adults In Two Parent H/H'S	: <u>5</u>
Number Of Children In Two Parent H/H'S	: <u>5</u>
Number Of Senior Citizens	: <u>2</u>
Number Of Adults W/O Dependent Children (Non-Senior)	: <u>17</u>
Total Number Of Adults Served	: <u>28</u>
Total Number Of Children Served	: <u>17</u>
Total Number Of Individuals Served (Adults & Children)	: <u>45</u>

REASONS FOR FOOD EMERGENCY	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
FOOD STAMPS LOST OR STOLEN	_____
FOOD STAMPS DELAYED	<u>13</u>
FOOD STAMPS RAN OUT (WHAT TIME OF MONTH) <i>5<sup>th</sup> of the + 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.</i>	<u>10</u>
FOOD STAMPS REDUCED	<u>22</u>
WELFARE CHECK STOLEN OR LOST	<u>0</u>
WELFARE TERMINATED	<u>5</u>
MONTHLY STATUS REPORTING PROBLEM	_____
UNEMPLOYED RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS	<u>0</u>
UNEMPLOYED/NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS	<u>0</u>
ON STRIKE-NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AFDC/FOOD STAMPS	<u>0</u>
DISABLED RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS	_____
DISABLED/NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS	_____
WORKING/RAN SHORT OF FUNDS (WHAT EMERGENCY?)	_____
SHELTER PROBLEM	_____
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY):	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please return this form to: The Center for Food Action in N.J., Inc.  
 192 W. Demarest Ave.  
 Englewood, N.J. 07631  
 Attn: A.H. LaTourette

STATEWIDE BI-MONTHLY REPORTING FORM

Please fill in the following information to the best of your ability. We will be using these statistics to document hunger in New Jersey and also to allocate possible future bulk food donations.

COUNTY: Cape May MONTH: February YEAR: 1985

ORG./CHURCH/AGENCY: CHR/Wildwood Division

ADDRESS: 115 W. Davis TOWN: Wildwood NJ ZIP: 08260

PHONE: 522-0231 CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

# Of People Served Who Are Single Heads Of Household	:	<u>4</u>
Number Of Children In Single Parent H/H'S	:	<u>5</u>
Number Of Adults In Two Parent H/H'S	:	<u>0</u>
Number Of Children In Two Parent H/H'S	:	<u>0</u>
Number Of Senior Citizens	:	<u>0</u>
Number Of Adults W/O Dependent Children (Non-Senior)	:	<u>1</u>
Total Number Of Adults Served	:	<u>4</u>
Total Number Of Children Served	:	<u>5</u>
Total Number Of Individuals Served (Adults & Children)	:	<u>19</u>

REASONS FOR FOOD EMERGENCY NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS

FOOD STAMPS LOST OR STOLEN	_____
FOOD STAMPS DELAYED	<u>9</u>
FOOD STAMPS RAN OUT (WHAT TIME OF MONTH)	<u>4</u>
FOOD STAMPS REDUCED	<u>2</u>
WELFARE CHECK STOLEN OR LOST	_____
WELFARE TERMINATED	_____
MONTHLY STATUS REPORTING PROBLEM <u>10th &amp; 15th of the month</u>	_____
UNEMPLOYED RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS	_____
UNEMPLOYED/NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS	_____
ON STRIKE-NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AFDC/FOOD STAMPS	_____
DISABLED RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS	_____
DISABLED/NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS	_____
WORKING/RAN SHORT OF FUNDS (WHAT EMERGENCY?)	_____
SHELTER PROBLEM	_____
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY):	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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 Attn. A.H. LaTourette

STATEWIDE BI-MONTHLY REPORTING FORM

Please fill in the following information to the best of your ability. We will be using these statistics to document hunger in New Jersey and also to allocate possible future bulk food donations.

COUNTY: Cape May MONTH: March YEAR: 1985  
 ORG./CHURCH/AGENCY: CHR/Wildwood Mission  
 ADDRESS: 115 W. Davis Ave. TOWN: Wildwood N.J. ZIP: 08260  
 PHONE: 522-0231 CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

# Of People Served Who Are Single Heads Of Household	:	<u>5</u>
Number Of Children In Single Parent H/H'S	:	<u>3</u>
Number Of Adults In Two Parent H/H'S	:	<u>2</u>
Number Of Children In Two Parent H/H'S	:	<u>0</u>
Number Of Senior Citizens	:	<u>0</u>
Number Of Adults W/O Dependent Children (Non-Senior)	:	<u>4</u>
Total Number Of Adults Served	:	<u>9</u>
Total Number Of Children Served	:	<u>3</u>
Total Number Of Individuals Served (Adults & Children)	:	<u>26</u>

REASONS FOR FOOD EMERGENCY NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS

FOOD STAMPS LOST OR STOLEN	<u>0</u>
FOOD STAMPS DELAYED	<u>6</u>
FOOD STAMPS RAN OUT (WHAT TIME OF MONTH) <u>5 months 31st</u>	<u>0</u>
FOOD STAMPS REDUCED	<u>10</u>
WELFARE CHECK STOLEN OR LOST	<u>9</u>
WELFARE TERMINATED	_____
MONTHLY STATUS REPORTING PROBLEM	_____
UNEMPLOYED RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS	_____
UNEMPLOYED/NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS	_____
ON STRIKE-NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AFDC/FOOD STAMPS	_____
DISABLED RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS	_____
DISABLED/NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS	_____
WORKING/RAN SHORT OF FUNDS (WHAT EMERGENCY?)	_____
SHELTER PROBLEM	_____
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY):	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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STATEWIDE BI-MONTHLY REPORTING FORM

Please fill in the following information to the best of your ability. We will be using these statistics to document hunger in New Jersey and also to allocate possible future bulk food donations.

COUNTY: Cape May MONTH: April YEAR: 1985

ORG./CHURCH/AGENCY: CHR/Wildwood Division

ADDRESS: 115 W. Davis Ave. TOWN: Wildwood NJ ZIP: 08260

PHONE: 522-0231 CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

# Of People Served Who Are Single Heads Of Household	: 4
Number Of Children In Single Parent H/H'S	: 7
Number Of Adults In Two Parent H/H'S	: 3
Number Of Children In Two Parent H/H'S	: 0
Number Of Senior Citizens	: 0
Number Of Adults W/O Dependent Children (Non-Senior)	: 2
Total Number Of Adults Served	: 10
Total Number Of Children Served	: 7
Total Number Of Individuals Served (Adults & Children)	: 33

REASONS FOR FOOD EMERGENCY NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS

FOOD STAMPS LOST OR STOLEN	
FOOD STAMPS DELAYED	8
FOOD STAMPS RAN OUT (WHAT TIME OF MONTH) <u>5<sup>th</sup> thru the 30<sup>th</sup></u>	8
FOOD STAMPS REDUCED	4
WELFARE CHECK STOLEN OR LOST	3
WELFARE TERMINATED	10
MONTHLY STATUS REPORTING PROBLEM	
UNEMPLOYED RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS	
UNEMPLOYED/NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS	
ON STRIKE-NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AFDC/FOOD STAMPS	
DISABLED RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS	
DISABLED/NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS	
WORKING/RAN SHORT OF FUNDS (WHAT EMERGENCY?)	
SHELTER PROBLEM	
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY):	
_____	
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