

- ◆ In 2008, there were 2.3 million food shelf visits statewide, and food shelf usage continues to climb. 54 million pounds of food were distributed to Minnesota families by food shelves.
- ◆ Food shelf usage in the state has not declined since 1999. It is estimated that Minnesota food shelves are serving double the number of people they served in 1999.
- ◆ 992,750 Minnesotans live in households struggling to put food on the table.
- ◆ Hunger touches people of every age: 56 percent of food shelf visitors are families with children and 20 percent are seniors.
- ◆ More than 50 percent of adult food shelf visitors are employed, and in the Twin Cities suburbs alone, the working poor make up 60 percent of the people who use food shelves. 2/3 of food shelf visitors make less than \$1,000 a month, not enough income to cover their basic needs.
- ◆ Hunger hurts every day: of those who use Minnesota's food shelves, 47 percent of adults and 14 percent of children skip meals to stretch their family budget.
- ◆ Nearly 3/4 of food shelf visitors live in unaffordable housing, half spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing, and 1/4 spend between 30-50 percent of their income on housing.
- ◆ Since 2000, the number of Minnesota children living in extreme poverty has doubled - Minnesota's children are growing poorer faster than the nation's children overall.
- ◆ There are more than 300 food shelves in Minnesota, serving every county in the state.

A program of the  
greater minneapolis | council of churches

rev. 1/09

Sources: The State of Hunger in Minnesota (2005): Hunger Solutions Minnesota/Wilder Research; Survey of Food Shelves (2006): Hunger Partners; Quarterly food shelf reports, (2008); State of the States (2007): Food Research and Action Center; Children's Defense Fund Minnesota, (9/07)

***Hunger: the physical and mental condition that comes from not eating enough food due to insufficient economic, family or community resources. Hunger exists in families when members take turns eating or eat smaller meals to make food last longer.***