



UU V.O.I.C.E.

April 2011

(Volunteer! Our Individual Caring Empowers)

Hunger, Budget Cuts, and Real Religion

(3/30/11) New York Times' columnist Mark Bittman reported on current "Congressional budget proposals that would make huge cuts in programs for the poor and hungry" such as the WIC program, which supports women, infants, and children in need. Although these allegedly deficit-reducing cuts represent a tiny fraction of federal discretionary spending, says Bittman, their impact would be great, "quite literally causing more people to starve to death, go to bed hungry or live more miserably than they are doing now." These people, he continues, didn't get us into this fiscal mess, and "starving them isn't going to get us out of it."

It seems to me, too, that private and "faith-based" programs should not and cannot be expected to make up for governmental policies and laws that are, in my view, misguided, ineffective, and immoral. Concerned citizens in a democracy *and in our community* CAN do something about this. In many communities, the need for efforts such as the Second Harvest Food Bank's programs is NOT going away any time soon. Hopefully our UU community will continue to be robust in our efforts to assist with these critical resources.

Bittman quotes the Rev. David Beckmann of *Bread for the World*: "You can't have real religion, unless you work for justice for hungry and poor people."

Do you agree? If so, read on – and join us, please. **It is better to give!**

Wayne Meyer, chair SJC

P.S. Column online., Google Bittman Why We're Fasting.

Service times three...

regular opportunities to volunteer.

Three times each month UUs support the work of Second Harvest Food Bank.

Available and willing individuals can tailgate on the **second Tuesday or last Friday**; or can help at our monthly warehouse gig on the **third Monday**. We are especially interested in finding regular volunteers, but we value occasional helpers just as much.

Let us know you are coming; Sign up sheets on the Sanctuary wall.

Warehouse support 10am-Noon Second Harvest Warehouse (next to Water Bowl) **April 18**

Contact: Nikki Winkle (nicolewinkle@yahoo.com) or Tania Said (said.tania@gmail.com)

Tailgate When & Where 8:30-11:30am McCulloch Park, enter at the south end, off Martin Luther King Blvd. **April 14, 29**

Contact Amy Genova: akgenova@gmail.com

Reflections on a BENEFIT Concert

Tim Grimm Concert sponsored by the SJC

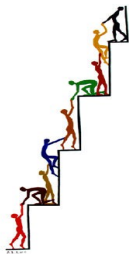
A check for \$780 is being sent from the UU Church of Muncie to Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana (\$710 in total ticket sales plus a \$70 donation from Tim Grimm). I believe concert attendance was improved by the benefit factor. But the benefits do not end there.

Leitia McHugh from Second Harvest (some of us have worked with her at McCulloch Park tailgates) was on hand that night to share a few thoughts on our work together. She expressed sincere thanks not just for our financial support but for all our volunteer labor. She estimated that distributing food to 900+ families at the last tailgate would have taken three times as long without volunteers. She reminded us of the need for still more volunteers. And at the end of the evening she gathered up a handful of copies of the March UU VOICE that were distributed on the chairs, telling me that Second Harvest could probably make good use of them (and especially the heartfelt testimonial by Meg Calkins).

Have no doubt about it: our various efforts, worthy ends in themselves, have been and will be noticed and appreciated – by all sorts of people.

Wayne Meyer





"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."
~Anne Frank

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."

~William James

Taste of Justice —NEW for SPRING—**CHAI TEA** is available @ our Sunday booth along with fair trade coffee and chocolate. Sales will continue on the **2nd Sunday of each month**; as the summer approaches our sales team will assess the coffee desires of our fellowship and order accordingly. Express your thoughtfulness



Dates to give by:

Sweet Potatoes

As a member of the board of Second Harvest Food Bank, I study the big picture reports of hunger in East Central Indiana and the many ways the agency is working to reduce the dismal statistics. The reports include the number of pounds of food Second Harvest distributes. The data is impressive but abstract.

Last month I got a more concrete sense of what those pounds mean when I spent a morning in Second Harvest's warehouse as one of the Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force volunteers sacking sweet potatoes. Some of the volunteers were elementary school kids on spring break, along with their mothers and younger siblings. Even the youngest had jobs to do stacking empty potato boxes (when they weren't making forts out of them). It felt good to know the bags I was filling would go to families whose shelves were bare. It felt good to know that those sweet potatoes would soon be on someone's table.

Another good feeling I took away that day was the sense of community with my UU family as we lifted and sorted those sweet potatoes together, knowing that in just a few days, other volunteers would be putting them into the hands of our hungry neighbors.

Sue Errington

UU SJC Members—contact us w/Social Justice events!

Wayne Meyer—Chair Bea Sousa
Bill Frederick Tammy Burt
Kim Hurley— UU V.O.I.C.E. Editor

April 14 (Thursday) -Second Harvest Tailgate Giveaway McCulloch Park, 8:30-11:30am

APRIL 18 (Monday) - Second Harvest Warehouse volunteer gig, 10am—12pm

April 29 (Friday) Second Harvest Tailgate Giveaway McCulloch Park, 8:30-11:30am (WE NEED UU!)

Percentage of households reporting indicators of adult food insecurity, by food security status, 2009



Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the December 2009 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

