

National Black Church Initiative

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For immediate release
PRESS RELEASE

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National Black Church Initiative Pledges to Feed an Additional 100,000 Families in 2010 Due to the Economic Crisis

\$6 million is needed to achieve this goal.

Washington, DC – The [National Black Church Initiative](#) (NBCI), a coalition of 34,000 churches across the United States, is pledging to feed an additional 100,000 families in 2010. This new commitment comes as a result of the Bread for the World's 2010 Hunger Report, which shows that 49.1 million Americans struggle to put food on the table on a daily basis. This surge in hunger has been caused by the economic downturn and it is NBCI's belief that no economic recovery will be stable without first supporting families and children in the greatest need.

The study came back with some shocking numbers about hunger and poverty in America:

Food Insecurity and Hunger

- 49.1 million people in the United States were food insecure in 2008—up from 36.2 million in 2007.
- 14.6 percent of U.S. households were food insecure in 2008—up from 11.1 percent in 2007.
- 5.7 percent of U.S. households in 2008 experienced “very low food security,” a term the government has been using the last few years in place of “food insecurity with hunger”—up from 4.1 percent in 2007.
- 16.7 million U.S. children were food insecure in 2008—up from 12.4 million in 2007.
- 22.5 percent of U.S. children were food insecure in 2008—up from 16.9 percent in 2007.

Poverty, Unemployment, and Clean Energy

- 39.8 million people in the United States were living in poverty in 2008—up from 37.3 million in 2007.
- 13.2 percent of the U.S. population was living in poverty in 2008—up from 12.5 percent in 2007.
- 14.1 million U.S. children were living in poverty in 2008—up from 13.3 million in 2007.
- 19 percent of U.S. children were living in poverty in 2008—up from 18 percent in 2007.
- As of November 2009, 5.7 million U.S. workers were unemployed (10.2 percent)—a rise of 8.2 million since the start of the recession in December 2007.
- Since December 2007, employment in construction has fallen by 1.6 million.
- Since December 2007, employment in manufacturing has fallen by 2.1 million.
- Most of the job growth in the clean energy sector would be in construction and manufacturing (45 percent of all job losses during the recession).

NBCI will form a national task force, consisting of food advocates and local and national social service experts. This task force will make an appeal to the corporate community to raise the \$6 million needed for the purchasing and the distribution of food to needy families. The objective here is to temporarily curtail hunger and to help families get a leg up on this economic crisis, especially those family whose house is about to be foreclosed or those who are unemployed.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI, said, “This is an enormous project, but the church has no other choice. When Jesus asked Peter if he loved him Christ left specific instructions to feed his sheep. The church, at its core, must provide the fundamentals of life and preach good health practices. We will bring together hundreds of partners across this country to carry out this specific initiative. We hope to raise the \$6 million through our corporate partners throughout the country”

NBCI has five faith commands around the country in Atlanta (Southeast), New York (Northeast), Chicago (Midwest), Oakland (West) and Dallas (Southwest). Each of the faith commands will do an analysis of hunger in their region that is broken down by cities, counties and families. Once the numbers have been gathered we will share them with affinity groups in each of the geographic areas. NBCI will meet with these affinity groups, and instruct them on its forthcoming initiative to feed an additional hundred thousand families on top of what its local churches around the country already do. NBCI plans to give each family at least two weeks worth of food. NBCI will also work with Bread for the World to identify vulnerable areas based upon ZIP codes, and perform a comparative analysis in order to make sure that we are providing food to areas with the greatest need. NBCI plans to partner with a large corporate food provider, who will be able to supply the food products for families at a cheaper rate because of their ability to buy in bulk.

NBCI will coordinate the delivery of the food to families in the specified geographic areas by working very closely with affinity food organizations and county and local governments. NBCI will ensure that the food delivered goes to the families who are in the greatest need. NBCI’s local

church network in each faith command will pick up the food at a designated warehouse with their church van and deliver it to specific addresses that have been vetted by the local church and food organizations in those cities and counties.

This project falls within the continuous work NBCI is doing under its Health Emergency Declaration (HED). HED is a seven year plan that will dramatically decrease the health disparity gap in the African American community, and teach strong preventive health practices to that community. Chief among the issues being covered is the issue of nutrition. This project will incorporate HED's nutritional arm that provides education and food to needy families. HED works to stop families from adopting "survival" eating habits that are bad for them in the long run. NBCI strongly believes that by combining education and nutrition a stronger and healthier family will emerge once this crisis has come to an end.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 16,000 African-American and Latino member churches works to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare. In addition to our member churches, we have 18,000 sister churches. NBCI is a faith-based health organization dedicated to providing critical wellness information and preventive health screening to all of its members. The African-American community ranks first in eleven different health risk categories. NBCI's purpose is to partner with national health officials to provide health education, reduce racial health disparities, and increase access to quality healthcare.