



Cents-Ability resources are available to help presbyteries and congregations begin and expand their hunger education and fund-raising programs. These include a poster, labels for offering containers, prayer table tents, and suggestions and program models for

using Cents-Ability in your presbytery or congregation. Visit www.pcusa.org/hunger and click on *resources*.



The **Presbyterian Hunger Program** works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes.

Thousands of Presbyterian Congregations are at the forefront of responding to the reality of hunger in their communities, helping bear the love of Christ while making a tangible difference in their neighbors' lives.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program offers a means for also responding to the crisis of hunger in the United States and around the world in ways that impact the root causes of hunger and poverty. PHP addresses hunger holistically using five tools:

- Direct Food Relief combined with Root Cause Work
- Sustainable Development
- Advocacy
- Intentional and Sustainable Living
- Education

Employing these tools alongside congregations, partners, and local communities, together we can help end hunger.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People are supported by the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

Presbyterian Hunger Program
100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 569-5832 | php@pcusa.org
www.pcusa.org/hunger



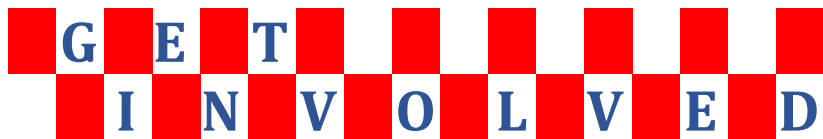
A Strategy for Raising Hunger Awareness

What is CENTS-ABILITY?

Cents-Ability is a small first step in the battle against hunger and poverty. Congregations invite every member—of all ages—to contribute a few cents at every meal. This simple act is an expression of thanksgiving for what we have received. It is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus' command "You give them something to eat." When the members bring their offering to church on the appointed Sunday, all of those coins "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" as they are received and dedicated.

These small acts of faithfulness can add up: One hundred persons in a congregation will contribute \$180 a month at two cents a meal. That's \$2,160 a year. A 30,000 member presbytery has the potential of raising over \$1.6 million dollars at a nickle a meal.

Cents-Ability originated in 1976 as *Two-Cents-A-Meal*, a project begun by Presbyterian Women to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger. Over the years, presbyteries have developed similar programs entitled *Pennies for Hunger*, *Nickle a Meal*, etc. Many of these programs benefit local hunger ministries as well as the national and international projects of the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP).



BEGINNING STEPS FOR A PRESBYTERY

- Assign a committee or task force to plan and promote your Cents-Ability program.
- Develop a plan for distribution of Cents-Ability receipts (e.g. 50% for national and international projects, 25% for congregations to keep for local projects, 25% for the presbytery's hunger action program. A small percentage of the funds may be designated for administrative expenses).
- Set goals for the first year (e.g. number of congregations participating, amount of funds raised, etc.)
- Present plans and goals to the appropriate presbytery body for approval.

- Develop a promotion plan including mailings, newsletter articles, presentations, and skits at presbytery meetings.
- Send funds for national and international projects directly to the Hunger Fund (H000107).
- Develop procedures for distributing presbytery funds to hunger ministries.

BEGINNING STEPS FOR A CONGREGATION

- Assign an individual or team to plan and promote your Cents-Ability program.
- Identify recipients of the offering (following presbytery plan if one exists — e.g. 25% for local projects, 25% for presbytery projects, 50% for the Hunger Fund).
- Develop goals and plans for session approval.
- Provide labels or collection containers for each household.
- Plan a regular (monthly?) time for receiving the offerings in worship - be sure to involve the whole congregation, especially Distribute funds according to the approved plan. Contributions to the Hunger Fund are sent through the regular receiving channels and designated for H000107.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES FOR PRESBYTERIES

- Schedule a Cents-Ability report at each meeting. Congratulate congregations raising the most money – and the most per capita.
- Serve simple lunches and suppers at presbytery meetings.
- Place Cents-Ability offering boxes on meal tables.
- Plan a hunger-focused worship service.
- Display PHP interpretation/education materials at meetings.
- Plan a presbytery mission trip focusing on hunger and poverty ministries.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL CONGREGATIONS

- Schedule church school classes focusing on hunger.
- Plan "minutes for mission" on Cents-Ability Sundays.
- Find out if your presbytery has a Hunger Action Advocate. Invite the HAA for your special programs.
- Interpret local, national, and international hunger ministries in your newsletter.
- Carefully coordinate Cents-Ability with annual One Great Hour of Sharing planning.