

Idaho Summit on Hunger and Food Insecurity: *“Stopping Hunger Before it Begins”*

A Final Report on the 2010 Idaho Hunger Summit

**Summit on
Hunger and
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Before it Begins”***



October 19, 2010

Executive Summary

Background. In October of 2006, the first-ever statewide *Summit on Hunger and Food Insecurity* was held in Boise. It was the first time our faith leaders, charitable emergency food providers, state and local government, health providers, advocacy groups, business and industry, and community members gathered together to learn of hunger and food insecurity in Idaho and to craft solutions appropriate to Idaho. Over 260 people from 23 Idaho counties, 37 Idaho cities, two tribes, and six neighboring states traveled to Boise to talk about hunger in Idaho and craft ‘next steps’ for Idaho. The second Summit on Hunger and Food Insecurity was in October of 2008, again with excellent attendance and “next steps” identified. Because our summits are structured to identify ‘next steps,’ we have made great strides in hunger relief programs and policy—removal of the vehicle rule and asset test for food stamps; strengthening of Idaho’s grocery tax credit; engagement in reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act and WIC; creation of a statewide hunger relief task force to name a few concrete conference outcomes.

2010 Conference Theme and Keynote Speaker. USDA Deputy Secretary **Kathleen Merrigan** was the 2010 keynote speaker. **Sasha Abramsky**, author of *Breadline USA*, was the luncheon speaker. In addition to two keynote speakers, there were five workshop tracks addressing:

- 1) **Childhood Hunger**—“*Food that’s in when School is Out*” (Crystal FitzSimons/Food Research Action Center);
- 2) **Local Community Food Systems**—“*Farmers’ Markets Organize*” (Diane Eggert/NY Farmers’ Market Federation);
- 3) **Senior Hunger**—“*Putting Healthy Food and Relationships within Reach*” (Lorraine Driscoll, AARP/Washington DC);
- 4) **Hunger Free Communities**—“*Continuum of Community Response*” (Peter Lawson/Oregon Food Bank);
- 5) **Anti-hunger Policy and Advocacy**—“*Finding Your Voice*” (Shannon Robins, Feeding America)

Purpose of the Summit on Hunger and Food Insecurity in Idaho. As Idaho’s third gathering, the purpose of this summit is to:

- 1) **bring together** leaders from business, government, agriculture, non-profit agencies, schools, faith communities, and Idahoans who have experienced hunger;
- 2) **celebrate successes** from the 2008 Idaho Summit on Hunger;
- 3) **educate and raise awareness** of hunger and food insecurity in Idaho;
- 4) **present best practices** in anti-hunger programs and policies;
- 5) **learn how to make a difference in your community**; and
- 6) **identify ‘next steps’** in program and policy solutions for Idaho

Conference Attendance. The audience included over 250 Idahoans from 43 Idaho cities, 25 Idaho counties, the Nez Perce Tribe, five guest states, and represented business, government, non-profit agencies, schools, faith communities, advocates, emergency food providers, and Idahoans who have experienced hunger.

“Next Step” Priorities for Hunger Relief in Idaho. Five workshop tracks were offered to Summit participants to address the needs of specific populations and to develop the next steps necessary to develop successful long-term solutions for hunger in Idaho.

The Overall Top [5] Idaho Hunger Relief Priorities:

1. **Increase participation in the Summer Meal Program** for food insecure Idaho children through increased awareness, improved transportation options and involvement of diverse leadership
2. **Create a comprehensive awareness/media campaign for nutrition education and benefit assistance programs**
3. **Implement a cap on predatory lending**
4. **Develop an Idaho Food Stamp Outreach Plan**
5. **Create an Idaho Farmers' Market Association**

The **five workshop tracks** identified individual priorities as follows:

Childhood Hunger Workshop:

1. Increase participation in the Summer Meal Program through increased awareness, improved transportation options and involvement of diverse leadership
2. Establish a statewide hunger/food access coalition to increase transportation opportunities for rural and low-income Idahoans
3. Establish a summer meals task force to increase program awareness and connect partners to develop outreach resources

Senior Hunger Workshop:

1. Develop a SNAP/food stamp outreach plan
2. Check into the commodities/CSFP program
3. Identify alternatives to traditional SNAP expenditures

Local Community Food Systems—Farmers' Markets Workshop:

1. Create a farmers' market association in Idaho with survey assessment by December 1, 2010 and corporate by-laws by June 1, 2011
2. Have a representative of the farmers' market association on State Food Safety Committee and specific farmers' market food safety guidelines by October of 2012
3. To create a common "brand" for statewide marketing for next 2011 season

Hunger Free Communities Workshop:

1. Create a comprehensive (multi) media campaign for nutrition education, and benefit assistance programs to reduce the stigma of participation
2. Create an application for food stamps that can be accessed and submitted online
3. Encourage education programs for program recipients

Anti-Hunger Advocacy:

1. Place a cap on predatory lending in Idaho
2. Develop a statewide plan for Food Stamp/SNAP Outreach
3. Eliminate sales tax on groceries

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Introduction

As an introduction to the 2010 Summit on Hunger and Food Insecurity in Idaho and the Final Report, an explanation of the definitions of hunger and food insecurity are provided as well as the information about the workshop structure and manner of selecting “next steps” in hunger relief for Idaho. Idaho has 11.6% food insecurity which ranks Idaho as 36th in the nation (*Household Food Security in the United States, 2009/ERR-108*, ERS/USDA, November 2010).

What Do Hunger and Food Insecurity Mean in the United States and in Idaho?

What Is Food Security?

Food security for a household means access by all members at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food security includes at a minimum:

- The ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods.
- Assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways (that is, without resorting to emergency food supplies and pantries, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies).

What is Food Insecurity?

Food insecurity is limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

(Definitions are from Life Sciences Research Office, S.A. Andersen, ed., “Core Indicators of Nutritional State for Difficult to Sample Populations,” *The Journal of Nutrition* 120:1557S-1600S, 1990.)

USDA's revised labels describe ranges of food security

| General categories (old and new labels are the same) | Detailed categories | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| | Old label | New label | Description of conditions in the household |
| Food security | Food security | High food security | No reported indications of food-access problems or limitations |
| | | Marginal food security | One or two reported indications—typically of anxiety over food sufficiency or shortage of food in the house. Little or no indication of changes in diets or food intake |
| Food insecurity | Food insecurity without hunger | Low food security | Reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet. Little or no indication of reduced food intake |
| | Food insecurity with hunger | Very low food security | Reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake |

How Many Households Are Interviewed in the National Food Security Surveys? USDA's food security statistics are based on a national food security survey conducted as an annual supplement to the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a nationally representative survey conducted by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPS provides data for the Nation's monthly unemployment statistics and annual income and poverty statistics.

In December of each year, after completing the labor force interview, about 50,000 households respond to the food security questions and to questions about food spending and about the use of Federal and community food assistance programs. The households interviewed in the CPS are selected to be representative of all civilian households at state and national levels.

Format of the 2010 Summit on Hunger and Food Insecurity in Idaho.

The Summit was organized into five workshop tracks addressing Childhood Hunger, Senior Hunger, Hunger Free Communities, Farmers' Markets, and Anti-Hunger Policy and Advocacy. Each aspect of hunger in our state has a number of unique characteristics but a majority of similarities.

Each workshop was structured into four sections during the day: 1) the hunger issue overview; 2) issue solutions; 3) best practices and model solutions; and 4) identification of "next steps" for Idaho. Each workshop track discussed the current status of hunger in Idaho and included widely recognized experts in their field to present some of the unique challenges in each focus area. Presentations challenged workshop participants to describe what it means to be hungry in Idaho, identify who is hungry in Idaho and some of the causes of hunger in Idaho. Presenters also provided information and examples of how these same issues have been addressed in other areas of the nation.

Participants in the fourth and final sections broke into smaller roundtable groups to discuss the morning's information and to begin to identify "next steps." Each group then identified the top three solutions from their brainstorming and presented those to the larger group when the track participants came back together. The participants of each workshop track were then asked to select their top three priority choices.

Each workshop track brought their three top choices back to the Summit Closing Presentation and after a brief presentation of the individual track choices, the top five "next steps" were identified. On the successive pages, you will find more information on each workshop track, the issues and action steps identified by each workshop subgroup and the priorities identified by each track. You will also find the overall priorities identified by all summit attendees and the "next steps".

What are the “Next Steps” in Hunger Relief for Idaho?

The attendees of the 2010 Idaho Summit on Hunger and Food Insecurity wrapped up the day by reconvening as a single, united group and discussed the next steps. The votes from each of the individual workgroups were tallied and the top 5 priorities for attendees were:

- **Increase participation in the Summer Meal Program** for food insecure Idaho children through increased awareness, improved transportation options and involvement of diverse leadership
- **Create a comprehensive awareness/media campaign for nutrition education and benefit assistance programs**
- **Implement a cap on predatory lending**
- **Develop an Idaho Food Stamp Outreach Plan**
- **Create an Idaho Farmers' Market Association**

Additional information, presentation downloads and other Summit documents can be found at www.idahohungersummit.org.

Childhood Hunger Track—*Food That's in When School is Out*

When school lets out, millions of low-income children lose access to the school breakfasts, lunches and afterschool snacks they receive during the regular school year. The federal child nutrition programs provide critical funding for meals and snacks in afterschool programs and during the summer. The federally-subsidized meals and snacks attract children to out-of-school-time programs, where they can be active, engaged and safe while their parents are at work. The food also helps keep hunger at bay so children can fully participate in the activities going on at the program.

Providing healthy meals and snacks is particularly important given the rapidly increasing prevalence of childhood obesity in the U.S. Since 1980 the number of young people who are overweight has more than tripled. By providing healthy food, nutrition programs can play a critical role in preventing obesity and improving overall health.

Inadequate nutrition has adverse effects on our children:

- **Physical Health:** Insufficient nutrition puts children at risk for illness and weakens their immune system. The immature immune systems of young children, ages 0 – 5, make them especially vulnerable to nutritional deprivation and as a result, the ability to learn, grow, and fight infections is adversely affected.
- **Behavior and Mental Health:** The lack of adequate nutrition affects the cognitive and behavioral development of children. Child development is the manner in which children attain skills in memory, cognition, language, motor ability, social interaction, behavior and perception. Research has shown that food insecurity was associated with grade repetition, absenteeism, tardiness, anxiety, aggression, poor mathematics scores, psychosocial dysfunction and difficulty with social interaction among 6 to 12 year old children. Food insecurity has also been shown to be associated with suicide and depressive disorders among 15 to 16 year old children after controlling for income and other factors.
- **Child Development:** Food insecurity puts children in jeopardy of developmental risk. Developmental risk is an uninterrupted existence of vulnerabilities that is characterized with the slow or unusual development of children in areas such as speaking, behavior, and movement, which increases the likelihood of later problems with attention, learning, and social interaction.
- **School Readiness and Achievement:** Children from food insecure households are likely to be behind in their academic development compared to other children which ultimately makes it difficult for them to reach the same level of development as their fellow food secure peers.
- **Obesity in childhood:** For many households, the lack of money can contribute to both hunger and obesity. This apparent paradox is driven in part by the economics of buying food. Households without money to buy enough food often have to rely on cheaper, high calorie foods to cope with limited money for food and stave off hunger. Families try to maximize caloric intake for each dollar spent, which can lead to over consumption of calories and a less healthful diet. Although obesity is increasing in all income and racial/ethnic groups, those in the lowest income groups have increased the most. Food insecurity also has a psychological effect on a person's relationship with food. People who are food insecure learn to overeat when food is available to compensate for times when there may not be enough food.

Presenter

Crystal Weedall FitzSimons directs the Food Research Action Center (FRAC) work on the child nutrition programs that serve school-age children—the School Breakfast and Lunch Programs, the Summer Food Service Program, and the Afterschool Nutrition Programs. She analyzes policy to advocate for legislative and regulatory improvements to increase low-income children’s access to the nutrition programs. She helps develop legislative strategy and direct field efforts to achieve program improvements. She provides technical assistance, conducts training, and develops materials for national, state, and local organizations. She frequently speaks at national afterschool conferences and meetings.

She is the author or co-author of numerous publications including *Hunger Doesn’t Take A Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report (2008)*, *Making the Most of Child Nutrition Funding: A Guide for Afterschool Education and Safety Grantees*, *A How-To Guide for Summer Food Sponsors on Purchasing High Quality Summer Meals*, and *Fresh from the Farm: Using Local Foods in the Afterschool and Summer Programs*.

Her previous work experience includes Stand For Children as the Regional Outreach Director for the Midwest and Northeast; the Center for Community Change as a policy analyst on transportation issues; and Housing Comes First, Missouri's statewide low-income housing coalition, as Director of Tenant Organizing. She holds a B.A. in Philosophy and Sociology from Carroll College and a M.S.W. from Washington University.

After three sessions of discussing the challenges and issues of childhood hunger, learning about listening to statistics, and learning about the key characteristics of hunger and food insecurity in children and best practices, the workshop attendees broke into smaller groups in the afternoon and each subgroup identified the following issues and next steps.

Presentation documents from this track can be found at www.idahohungersummit.org

Top 3 Priorities Selected by the Childhood Hunger Workgroup

1. Increase participation in the Summer Meal Program through increased awareness, improved transportation options and involvement of diverse leadership
2. Establish a statewide hunger/food access coalition to increase transportation opportunities for rural and low-income Idahoans
3. Establish a summer meals task force to increase program awareness and connect partners to develop outreach resources

Sub-group 1

1. *Increase Summer Meal sites*
2. *Mandate opportunity for all students for school breakfast and lunch*
3. *Expand backpack program*
4. *Expand after school snack program*
5. *Provide nutrition education for all income levels and ages*
6. *Create program for other school breaks (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break, in-service teacher trainings, emergency closures)*
7. *Increase awareness of all meal programs, including adults*
8. *Increase partnerships and activities at summer feeding and snack programs*
9. *Streamline all program eligibilities at 40% free and reduced*
10. *Eliminate the reduced price category for school meal programs*

Sub-group 2

1. *Increase awareness and community-wide understanding of programs (summer feeding, backpack program, after school, WIC) through mechanisms such as PSAs, community meetings, school administration education, social marketing campaigns*
2. *Federal legislation to ensure federal funding for the backpack program*
3. *Encourage direct certification and enrollment across school nutrition programs*
4. *Lower eligibility requirements for school nutrition programs*
5. *Encourage adoption of ‘complete streets policies’ that make it easier and safer to access meal sites*
6. *Meals available to public at summer feeding sites on sliding scale for eligibility*

Sub-group 3

1. *Establish a statewide hunger access transportation coalition by October 2012 to plan and allocate resources to increase travel opportunities for rural and low-income Idahoans*
2. *Establish a summer meals task force to increase awareness and connect partners to develop outreach resources by January 2011*

Sub-group 4

1. *Engage diverse/minority leaders in future hunger summits through outreach*
2. *Use the “next generation” to outreach to the community and “market the end consumer”*

Sub-group 5

1. *Work with Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to create an outreach plan for SNAP/food stamps so that the private sector can seek matching federal funds.*
2. *Create a coalition of key umbrella sponsors to administer CACFP and simplified summer feeding*
3. *Recruit more umbrella sponsors for underserved areas of Idaho*
4. *Pass summer food/feeding mandate in Idaho*
5. *Explore barriers to transportation in rural areas for summer feeding*
6. *Increase participation in school breakfast program*
7. *Provide food for school holidays*
8. *Find funding so adults can eat at summer feeding sites*
9. *Create partnerships with grocery stores to promote nutrition education*

Facilitator: Barbara Abo, University of Idaho

Senior Hunger Track—*Putting Healthy Food and Relationships within Reach*

As a nation, we have a special responsibility to vulnerable populations such as the elderly. Older Americans have built the economy and national infrastructure from which we now benefit. Raised during the Great Depression, they went on to defend our freedom in the Second World War and won the cold war. America's older citizens have rightly been called the "greatest generation." It is morally reprehensible that the people that built this country should suffer hunger in a land of plenty, which they helped to create. Food insecurity among this vulnerable population is especially troublesome because they have unique nutritional needs and may require special diets for medical conditions to remain living independently.

Presenter

Lorraine Driscoll. As Senior Advisor with AARP's Office of Volunteer and Civic Engagement, Lorraine focuses on partnerships, research and programs that expand opportunities for boomers and older persons to help solve challenges in communities. In 18 years with AARP, she also has directed advocacy efforts, led policy research and provided grassroots organizing training.

Lorraine has been involved in the development of the *Create the Good* AARP toolkits. *Create the Good* continues founder Dr. Andrus' legacy by providing tools and resources so that people can make their own communities better whether they have an hour or just a few minutes a day.

After three sessions of discussing the challenges and opportunities of aging and nutrition, listening to statistics on senior hunger, and learning about the key characteristics of hunger and food insecurity in the elderly, and best practices in programs and policies, the workshop attendees broke into smaller groups in the afternoon and each subgroup identified the following issues and "next steps."

Presentation documents from this track can be found at www.idahohungersummit.org

Top 3 Priorities Selected by the Senior Hunger Workgroup

1. Develop a SNAP/food stamp outreach plan
2. Check into the USDA Commodities Supplemental Food Program/CSFP program
3. Identify alternatives to traditional SNAP/food stamp expenditures

Sub-group 1

1. *Develop a SNAP/Food Stamp Outreach Plan*
2. *Place Food Stamp Outreach brochures in stores*
3. *Look into the USDA Commodities Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) for seniors in Idaho*
4. *Evaluate what will work for Food Stamp/SNAP for seniors*
5. *Identify alternative to traditional ways and places for seniors to use their Food Stamp/SNAP benefits*

Sub-group 2

1. *Get the Idaho Foodbank to support senior centers in Idaho*
2. *Develop a SNAP/Food Stamp Outreach Plan*
3. *Evaluate and design options for seniors who lack mobility—ability to utilize SNAP/Food Stamps where food is prepared and accessible such as congregate meal sites and Meals on Wheels.*
4. *Utilize Campus Kitchens (college food) to provide surplus, unserved, foods to senior meals sites and other food distributions*

Sub-group 3

1. *Eliminate stigma of the Food Stamp/SNAP program with another program name by canvassing seniors*
2. *Make it easier to access the Food Stamp/SNAP program—process; forms; outreach; transportation*
3. *Create an environment of care versus 'welfare' through opportunities for seniors to give back and develop relationship*

Sub-group 4

1. *Engage baby boomer seniors in volunteering and helping older seniors*
2. *Utilize community gardens to promote senior skills and knowledge and intergenerational relationships*
3. *Nutritional education programs specific to seniors and their needs*
4. *Establish centers where food is cheaper (co-ops)and accessible like Angel Food non-profit*

Facilitator: Mary Curren, Northwest Nazarene University

Local Food Systems Track— Idaho Farmers’ Markets Organize!

In communities across the nation, advocates and organizations are working hard to develop solutions to local food system problems and create innovative models that meet community needs. They are providing nutritious food to the hungry, creating community-based food business, organizing food policy councils, developing community gardens in cities, and linking consumers with local farmers through farmers’ markets, along with many other initiatives. These efforts are necessarily diverse; they represent local solutions to larger problems. They often share common goals, such as making nutritious food more accessible, revitalizing and empowering communities, and supporting local and sustainable food production and distribution.

Presenter

Diane Eggert is the Executive Director of the Farmers’ Market Federation of New York. Under her leadership, the organization has developed a variety of programs and services to support and advance the farmers’ market industry in New York State, including a commercial general liability insurance program for markets and participating vendors, market manager training programs, new market development in partnership with community organizations, and market promotional programs. The Federation also partners with the state department of agriculture and the state office of temporary and disability assistance to offer a statewide farmers’ market wireless EBT program to allow New York’s farmers markets access to the food stamp program.

After three sessions of discussing the challenges and opportunities of local community food systems, the workshop participants identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to establishing, funding, and sustaining a statewide farmers’ market association in Idaho. The workshop attendees broke into smaller groups in the afternoon and each subgroup identified the following issues and “next steps.”

Presentation documents from this track can be found at www.idahohungersummit.org

Top 4 “next steps” for Farmers’ Market Workshop

1. Create a farmers’ market association in Idaho with survey assessment by December 1, 2010 and corporate by-laws by June 1, 2011
2. Have a representative of the farmers’ market association on State Food Safety Committee and specific farmers’ market food safety guidelines by October of 2012
3. Create a common “brand” for statewide marketing for next 2011 season

Sub-group 1—Forming and Sustaining an Idaho Farmers’ Market Association

1. *Farmers’ Market Association will act as “umbrella” for Idaho markets*
2. *Provide liability insurance for markets*
3. *Develop one unified voice for ag policy and to strengthen markets across state*
4. *Build/create new farmers “incubate”*
5. *Pursue grant writing opportunities*
6. *Establish a networking/communication system such as a list serve for farmers’ markets*
7. *Poll other markets to determine level of support for the association by December 1, 2010*
8. *Organize a task force of 7-8 people in place by December 15, 2010 as interim until a board of directors is established*
9. *Contact other market associations and commissions to research how they set up their programs, funding, by-laws, membership, mission*

10. *Secure funds to file with IRS, accountant, possibility administrative salary*
11. *Ratify by-laws and file incorporation with Secretary of State by June 1*
12. *Incorporate farmers' market association presentations into Idaho State Department of Agriculture *

Sub-group 2—Food Safety

1. *Have a representative of the Farmers' Market Association on Idaho's State Food Safety regulatory agency by October 2012*
2. *Encourage uniform statewide enforcement of food safety regulations specific to farmers' market guidelines*
3. *Collect best practices in food safety at farmers' markets and disseminate*
4. *Consumer food safety awareness campaign*

Sub-group 3—Education of the Public

1. *Consumer Education:*
Recipe cards for item being sold
Quick survey for kids
Market stand that travels to schools
Price per serving
Cooking classes for whole foods
Canning workshops
Information sent out with Medicaid and other benefit programs
University of Idaho Extension Education
2. *Product Education:*
Samples – certification/permit
Education on each crop or product
3. *Market “branding”*
Bumper stickers/billboards
Transportation stops
Brochure flyer with SNAP/Food Stamps
Promotional coupons
Hospitals/insurances
Health fairs—ISU health screening
Flyers showing value of farmers' food products
Photos, source, press releases
2-1-1 Idaho CareLine
Website
Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) scholarships to farmers' markets
Identify a visible spokesperson for the association

Facilitator: Julie Bu, Boise State University

Hunger Free Communities Track—Continuum of Community Response

Despite the success of the nation's nutrition assistance programs and the hard work of state and local governments and countless organizations dedicated to eliminating hunger in their communities, hunger and food insecurity persist. The US Department of Agriculture study, *Household Food Security in the United States, 2009* (released November 2010), reports that nationally 14.7% (17.4 million households) were food insecure and 11.6% in Idaho. At some point during 2009, these households experienced difficulty providing enough food for all their members due to a lack of resources. Although Idahoans are a generous people and despite our abundance and charitable spirit, too many in our state are not adequately nourished. Instead, some children rely on a free school lunch as their only meal of the day. Many older people eat too little to maintain their health and many working parents skip meals so that their children can eat. Hungry families can be found in every county in Idaho, and the ill effects of hunger touch everyone in some way.

The Hunger Free Communities track sought to identify new strategies to support creation of "Hunger Free Communities" and encourage research, planning and hunger relief activities that include but are not limited to: food distribution, community outreach, improved access to food, and development of new resources.

Presenter:

Peter Lawson has been the Branch Coordinator/Manager for Southeast Oregon Regional Food Bank, a program of Oregon Food Bank, since 2006. During this time, Peter has engaged stakeholders, developed collaborative connections, and helped to create innovative local/regional ventures. He has worked diligently to improve capacity while increasing both food access and distribution to multiple allied agencies throughout some of Oregon's most impoverished rural areas.

Through his ongoing work, Peter has been instrumental in expanding the dialogue about food insecurity across much of Eastern Oregon and parts of Southwest Idaho. Adopting a philosophy that most challenges can be overcome with a balance of communication, collaboration, and education, it is Peter's firm belief that hunger takes a community based solution in order to address increasing financial and political constraints.

Peter is the current Chair of the Treasure Valley Community College Board of Education and a Board Member for the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. He also served as an advisory member to the Oregon Hunger Task Force, and is on the Advocacy Committee of the Oregon Food Bank Network.

Peter is a graduate of the University of Oregon and has completed the Ford Family Foundation's Leadership Training Institute. In 2008, he was awarded Oregon Food Bank's "Fresh Approach" employee recognition and was nominated for Oregon Food Bank's 2010 Employee of the Year Award.

Workshop attendees spent three sessions discussing the challenges and successes of hunger relief in Idaho. They learned about the statistics of hunger and food insecurity in Idaho, and how individual communities can assess their strengths/weaknesses, conduct community planning, and prioritize 'next steps.' In the final session, workshop attendees broke into smaller groups and identified the following issues and "next steps."

Presentation documents from this track can be found at www.idahohungersummit.org

Top 3 Priorities Selected by the Hunger Free Communities Workgroup

1. Create a comprehensive (multi) media campaign for nutrition education, and benefit assistance programs to reduce the stigma of participation
2. Create an application for food stamps that can be accessed and submitted online

3. Encourage education programs for program recipients

Sub-group 1

1. *Create a statewide media campaign for nutritional education, benefit assistance programs, to reduce the stigma of participation.*
2. *Expand/strengthen neighborhood watch programs that could identify people in need and share information on resources to help.*
3. *Remove profit from basic food items*

Sub-group 2

1. *Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force to develop, host, maintain an online community resource directory*
2. *Create standardized guidelines for development and implementation of Community Score Card and Community Food Planning Model*
3. *Utilize social media – such as Facebook, Twitter*

Sub-group 3

1. *Increase Food Stamp Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBTs) at farmers' markets*
2. *Review/remove foods allowed with food stamps such as soda, candy, chips, etc.*
3. *Weight the nutritional value of food stamp items*
4. *One-Stop-Shop for food stamps and other social benefits*
5. *Expand informational resources within food pantries*
6. *Establish a realistic health component in schools K-12 to educate about healthy eating, food stamp education required, and “grandmother’s university” to teach canning and sustainable home survival.*
7. *Create programs and opportunities for youth to eat and work with seniors*
8. *Neighborhood senior assessment programs to identify needs and ways to connect to resources*
9. *Promote collaboration between the unemployed and farmers*
10. *Tie the Idaho minimum wage to the cost of living*
11. *Expand gleaning opportunities*

Sub-group 4

1. *Direct certification for multiple federal services and optional privacy waiver allowing information sharing between service programs*
2. *Develop local food policy councils and “train the trainers” to conduct the Community Scorecard and Community Food Planning Model.*
3. *Remove the sales tax on food and perhaps replace revenue with tax on services*
4. *Develop and train a network of volunteers to meet the gap created by scarcity of food stamp offices*

Sub-group 5

1. *Encourage education programs for recipients of services*
2. *Increase the number of youth gardens across Idaho by 25%*
3. *All food pantries will distribute and/or assist with the completion of Food Stamp applications*
4. *5% of Idaho counties will complete the Community Score Card and Community Food Planning Model*

Sub-group 6

1. *40% of Idaho counties will conduct at least one hunger-related event in October in honor of Hunger Awareness Month.*
2. *75% of food banks and pantries will distribute 2-1-1 (Idaho CareLine) resource cards inside food boxes*
3. *Create an online application for food stamps that can be accessed and submitted online*

Facilitator: Galen Louis, Idaho State University

Anti-Hunger Policy and Advocacy Track—*Finding Your Voice*

Anti-hunger advocacy can include activities on many levels that draw attention to the issue of hunger and unite us in our efforts to fight hunger. Advocacy activities can include taking action to influence public policy, coordinating efforts in local communities, and educating government officials, the public, and the media on hunger in America. Policy and Advocacy are critical to long term food security solutions.

Presenter

Shannon Robins is the State Legislative Relations Manager and State Association lead contact at Feeding America. Shannon works with Feeding America Members and State Associations to increase state resources and to access federal programs, administered at the state and local level, to support hunger relief efforts in every state. She is leading the new Partner State Association initiative for Feeding America and the Network, creating a more formalized relationship between State Associations and Feeding America and providing enhanced benefits to support their work.

Shannon has worked with and consulted in federal, state, local, and administrative policy and regulations for more than 10 years. She has developed an extensive variety of policy and advocacy seminars, trainings, and workshops for a broad array of audiences. Her trainings and legislative action plans have been adopted in many states, and she has consulted with organizations, such as the Mayo Clinic and the Brain Injury Association, to secure federal grant funds to expand her curriculum across multiple states.

Shannon came to Feeding America from private policy analysis and consulting after completing a Masters degree in Public Policy and a certification in Graduate Programs for Health Administration Policy at the University of Chicago. Prior to relocating to Chicago, Shannon was the Director of Public Policy for a nationally affiliated nonprofit serving people with disabilities and their loved ones statewide. She was instrumental in founding the organization's Public Policy Department, spearheading the advocacy efforts of the organization and several coalitions to lobby many bills into law, including a comprehensive package of bills that dramatically improved the short- and long-term supports available across the state to individuals living with disabilities. A lifelong passion, she continues to provide policy consultation on a limited basis, working to improve access and supports available for people with disabilities. She has extensive experience in community organizing, policy analysis and consulting, and lobbying, specializing in state and administrative public policy and advocacy.

After three sessions of discussing the challenges that hunger in Idaho presents, learning of the myths, challenges and opportunities of advocacy and the critical role that it plays in hunger relief, workshop attendees participated in an interactive "Choose Your Own Adventure," followed by small group work to identify the following issues and "next steps."

Presentation documents from this track can be found at www.idahohungersummit.org

Top 3 Priorities Selected by the Anti-Hunger Policy and Advocacy Workgroup:

1. Place a cap on predatory lending in Idaho
2. Develop a statewide plan for Food Stamp/SNAP Outreach
3. Eliminate sales tax on groceries

Sub-group 1

1. *Develop statewide, strategic hunger advocacy plan in the next two years*
2. *Adjust state poverty guidelines so that 40% of families in poverty will be eligible for services*

3. *Eliminate tax on groceries*

Sub-group 2

1. *Increase the Food Stamp Asset level*
2. *Implement a cap on predatory lending*
3. *Reframe the budget message in Idaho*

Sub-group 3

1. *Build a coalition of faith-based organizations and others to do SNAP/food stamp outreach*
2. *Secure Idaho Food Bank support of congregate senior meal sites*
3. *Preserve the grocery tax credit at existing level or higher*

Sub-group 4

1. *Establish a stronger coalition by involving heads of government agencies within two years*
2. *Food Stamp asset test removed within the next two years*
3. *Develop a platform for informing legislators and public about the dollar value of supportive programs within their communities*

Facilitator: Joey Peutz, University of Idaho

OVERVIEW OF WORKGROUP RESULTS

| | Child Hunger | Senior Hunger | Local Food Farmers' Markets | Hunger free Community | Advocacy |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Education & Awareness | | | | | |
| Use 'next generation' for program outreach to the community | X | | | | |
| Food Stamp/SNAP Outreach Plan in Idaho | X | X | | X | X |
| Consumer education re: farmers' market products, USDA farmers' market nutrition programs, market locations | | | X | | |
| Utilize social media in program outreach | | | | X | |
| Create farmers' market "branding" | | | X | | |
| Partnerships with grocery stores for nutrition education and Food Stamp brochures | X | X | | | |
| Stigma Reduction | | X | | X | |
| Nutrition education programs specific to seniors | | X | | | |
| Increase awareness of all meal, nutrition education and benefit programs/all ages | X | X | | X | |
| Promote Idaho CareLine (2-1-1) | | | | X | |
| Hunger Awareness Month—40% of Idaho counties will conduct event in October | | | | X | |
| Access/Barriers to Services | | | | | |
| Create Food Stamp application that can be accessed and submitted online | | | | X | |
| Encourage adoption of 'complete streets' policies | X | | | | |
| Establish centers where food is cheaper (co-ops) | | X | | | |
| Change Food Stamp Program name to reduce stigma | | X | | | |
| Increase Food Stamp EBT at farmers' markets | | | | X | |

| | Child Hunger | Senior Hunger | Local Food Farmers' Markets | Hunger free Community | Advocacy |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Evaluate what works for Food Stamps/seniors | | X | | | |
| Food Stamp/SNAP Outreach Plan | X | X | | X | X |
| Identify alternative ways/places for purchases for Food Stamps for seniors | | X | | | |
| Transportation alternatives for seniors | | X | | | |
| Increase participation in Summer Meal Prog. | X | | | | |
| Establish statewide food access coalition to increase transportation opportunities | X | | | | |
| Partnerships & Collaboration | | | | | |
| Establish a Summer Meals Task Force to increase program awareness and connect partners to develop outreach resources | X | | | | |
| Engage baby boomers to volunteer & assist older seniors | | X | | | |
| Create opportunity for youth and seniors to work together and share meals | | | | X | |
| Promote collaboration between farmers and unemployed | | | | X | |
| The Idaho Foodbank support ID senior centers | | X | | | X |
| Engage diverse/minority leaders in Hunger Summit | X | | | | |
| Create umbrella sponsors for CACFP and Summer Meal Programs, particularly in underserved areas | X | | | | |
| Create statewide farmers' market association | | | X | | |
| Expand Neighborhood Watch Programs to identify need & give information re: resources | | | | X | |

| | Child Hunger | Senior Hunger | Local Food Farmers' Markets | Hunger free Community | Advocacy |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Farmers' Market Association representative on State Food Safety Committee | | | X | | |
| Funding | | | | | |
| Commodity Supplemental Food Program in ID | | X | | | |
| Federal legislation to fund backpack program | X | | | | |
| Funding for establishing and sustaining a statewide farmers' market association | | | X | | |
| Create farmers' market 'brand' for marketing | | | X | | |
| Policy/Rule Changes | | | | | |
| Remove asset test for Food Stamps | | | | | X |
| Encourage uniform statewide enforcement of food safety regulations for farmers' markets | | | X | | |
| Encourage 'complete streets' policies | X | | | | |
| Encourage direct certification across programs | X | | | X | |
| Eliminate 'reduced price' category for school meal programs | X | | | | |
| Food Stamp/SNAP Outreach Efforts | X | X | | X | X |
| Limit zero nutrition products allowed for Food Stamp purchases | | | | X | |
| Place a cap on predatory lending in Idaho | | | | | X |
| Streamline program eligibility @ 40% free and reduced | X | | | | |
| Reframe the budget message in Idaho | | | | | X |
| Strengthen school Wellness Policies | | | | | |
| Universal School Lunch and Breakfast | X | | | | |
| Program Development | | | | | |
| Form a statewide farmers' market association | | | X | | |

| | Child Hunger | Senior Hunger | Local Food Farmers' Markets | Hunger free Community | Advocacy |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Expand Backpack Program | X | | | | |
| Standardize guidelines for Community Scorecard and Community Food Planning | | | | X | |
| Expand out-of-school meal programs | X | | | | |
| Expand gleaning networks | | | | X | |
| Increase participation in School Breakfast Program | X | | | | |
| Increase # of youth gardens by 25% | | | | X | |
| Increase # of Summer Meal Sites | X | | | | |
| Leadership | | | | | |
| Farmers' Market Association (statewide) | | | X | | |
| Food Policy Councils utilizing Community Scorecard and Food Planning Model | | | | X | |
| Establish statewide food access coalition to increase transportation opportunities | X | | | | |
| Universal Poverty Issues | | | | | |
| Remove sales tax on food and replace with tax on services | | | | X | X |
| Living Wage in Idaho | | | | X | |

Opening Keynote



Kathleen A. Merrigan
Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Working alongside Secretary Tom Vilsack, Merrigan oversees the day-to-day operation of USDA’s many programs and spearheads the \$149 billion USDA budget process.

Merrigan brings a wealth of knowledge to USDA from a decades-long career in policy, legislation, and research related to the many missions of USDA. Deputy Secretary Merrigan has managed the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food effort to highlight the critical connection between farmers and consumers and support local and regional food systems that increase economic opportunity in Rural America.

In November 2009, she made history as the first woman to chair the Ministerial Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

Recognizing the history and scope of her work, Time magazine named Dr. Merrigan among the “100 Most Influential People in the World” in 2010.

Before becoming Deputy Secretary, Merrigan served for eight years as Assistant Professor and Director of the Agriculture, Food and Environment graduate program at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University, Boston, Massachusetts.

Under an appointment by President Bill Clinton, Merrigan was Administrator of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service from 1999 to 2001. She served for six years as a senior staff member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, working for Senator Patrick Leahy (VT).

Merrigan has also been engaged in agricultural policy in positions at the FAO, the Henry A. Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture, the Texas Department of Agriculture, and the Massachusetts State Senate.

Merrigan holds a Ph.D. degree in environmental planning and policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of Texas, and a B.A. degree from Williams College. She and her husband Michael Selmi have two children in elementary school.

Luncheon Keynote



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Sasha Abramsky

Author and journalist

Author of *Breadline USA: The Hidden Scandal of American Hunger and How to Fix It*

Sasha Abramsky is a freelance journalist and Senior Fellow at the New York City-based think tank, Demos: Ideas & Action. His work has appeared in *The Nation*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *New York* magazine, *The Village Voice*, and *Rolling Stone*. Originally from England and a graduate of Oxford University, he has since adopted his mother's homeland of America and now lives in Sacramento, California. He has a master's degree from Columbia University's School of Journalism. In 2000, he was awarded a Soros Society, Crime, and Communities Media Fellowship. His third book, *American Furies: Crime, Punishment, and Vengeance in the Age of Mass Imprisonment*, was published by Beacon Press in 2007. His first book, *Hard Time Blues*, was published in 2002; his second book, *Conned*, was published in 2006.

Sasha has been to Idaho twice and has spent time with members of the Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force, Idaho Foodbank staff, and recipients of emergency food. In his summer 2008 visit, he spent a day with Royce Wright, Oasis Food and Worship Center (Caldwell) and met with children and families receiving meals through the USDA Child Nutrition Summer Meals program that Royce and his wife Carol sponsor across the Treasure Valley. This Idaho experience is one that informed his book.

About *Breadline USA*: Trapped in the triangle of the housing market collapse, rising energy costs, and an increasingly dysfunctional health care system, America's working poor are now battling an even more formidable enemy: hunger. *Breadline USA* tells the stories of Americans in all types of communities who struggle to put food on the table come the end of the month when money runs out and the social safety net isn't there to catch them.

Master of Ceremonies

Dr. Jim Weatherby is a Boise State University emeritus professor. In 2007, Boise State established an endowed scholarship in his name for his many contributions to the field of public policy and administration. Weatherby is a political analyst for KTVB (“Idaho’s News Channel 7”) and Idaho Public Television. He is a former executive director of the Association of Idaho Cities and served on the faculty at the University of Idaho and Northwest Nazarene University. He is co-author of *The Urban West: Managing Growth and Decline* and *Governing Idaho: Politics, People, and Power*. Dr. Weatherby serves on the board of directors of the City Club of Boise, the Idaho Tax Foundation, and Sage Community Resources, Inc. His wife, Dana, is the former Director of Legal Education for the Idaho State Bar and Associate Director of the Idaho Law Foundation, Inc. They enjoy their daughter, son, and daughter-in-law who live in Boise.

We cannot thank Dr. Weatherby enough for his instrumental role in the success of the 2010 Summit on Hunger and Food Insecurity in Idaho.