Child Hunger is a Health Problem
While every American is morally offended by the existence of childhood hunger, pediatricians and public health professionals see the tragic effects of this unnecessary condition graphically imprinted on the bodies and minds of children;

- Hungry children are sick more often, and more likely to have to be hospitalized (the costs of which are passed along to the business community as insurance and tax burdens);
- Hungry children suffer growth impairment that precludes their reaching their full physical potential,
- Hungry children incur developmental impairments that limit their physical, intellectual and emotional development.

Child Hunger is an Educational Problem

- Hungry children ages 0-3 years cannot learn as much, as fast, or as well because chronic undernutrition harms their cognitive development during this critical period of rapid brain growth, actually changing the fundamental neurological architecture of the brain and central nervous system,
- Hungry children do more poorly in school and have lower academic achievement because they are not well prepared for school and cannot concentrate,
- Hungry children have more social and behavioral problems because they feel bad, have less energy for complex social interactions, and cannot adapt as effectively to environmental stresses.

Child Hunger is a Workforce and Job Readiness Problem

- Workers who experienced hunger as children are not as well prepared physically, mentally, emotionally or socially to perform effectively in the contemporary workforce,
- Workers who experienced hunger as children create a workforce pool that is less competitive, with lower levels of educational and technical skills, and seriously constrained human capital.

“The healthy development of all children benefits all of society by providing a solid foundation for economic productivity, responsible citizenship, and strong communities.”

Jack P. Shonkoff, MD, Director
Center on the Developing Child Harvard University

Source: Child Food Insecurity: The Economic Impact on our Nation, Feeding America 2009.