



**FINDING ANSWERS  
FOR HUNGER  
AND POVERTY**

## **Brief Background on WHY (World Hunger Year)**

WHY is a leading advocate for innovative, community-based solutions to hunger and poverty. WHY challenges society to confront these problems by advancing models that create self-reliance, economic justice, and equal access to nutritious and affordable food.

### **The Facts**

35 Million Americans, including 14 million children are hungry

25 million Americans relied on soup kitchens, food pantries, and food banks for food for themselves and their families in 2005. That includes 9 million children and 3 million seniors.

854 million people in the world are hungry.

Founded in 1975 by Harry Chapin and current executive director Bill Ayres, WHY is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit that envisions a world without hunger and poverty. WHY believes solutions to hunger and poverty can be found on the grassroots level through programs and policies that promote self-reliance, economic justice, and community food security. WHY is helping thousands of America's hungry connect to food and social services in their neighborhoods by providing immediate assistance via our National Hunger Hotline (1-866-3-HUNGRY), and supporting the work of more than 8,750 community-based organizations that are helping millions of poor and hungry Americans move out of poverty, more specifically helping them tap into their own power to be self-reliant through job training, life skills, urban farming, after school programs, affordable housing, entrepreneurial businesses, and much more. WHY's online Food Security Learning Center is a hub of information and action on the good food movement including farmworker programs, community supported agriculture, transforming the emergency food system, farm to cafeteria, family farms, rural poverty, farmers' markets, community gardens, and more. WHY is a certified NGO working internationally at the United Nations to promote effective programs and policies that help the world's hungry and poor through micro lending, sustainable farming, and access to clean water. WHY's KIDS Can Make A Difference program offers an original classroom curriculum to teach children about the problems of hunger and poverty and inspire them to action through community service. Operating in more than 4,000 classrooms throughout the world and reaching more than 100,000 children, KIDS is an effective tool for making a difference in the world.

WHY's Artists Against Hunger & Poverty program works with performers to raise awareness and funds for grassroots organizations throughout the United States. We have built and activated a roster of artists including Bruce Springsteen, Michael McDonald, DMC, Aerosmith, Lupe Fiasco, and corporations like Hard Rock Café International and Ticketmaster to fight hunger and poverty. WHY's supporting Hungerthon radio stations include: WCBS880AM, 1010 WINS, WPLJ, WFAN, Fresh102.7, and Sirius Satellite Radio.

WHY sees itself as a bridge connecting the traditional anti-hunger movement and the community food security movement. WHY works to transform the charitable model of emergency food distribution by incorporating a long-term vision that implements solutions and practices of community food security into the work of anti-hunger organizations. To achieve that vision, WHY encourages communication between organizations, connections with funding and the media, and grassroots activism on issues affecting the food system. In addition to individual donors, corporations, family foundations, and artists, WHY receives federal funding from USDA in the form of a grant from Cooperative State Research Education and Extension, and a contract from the Food and Nutrition Service.

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[www.whyhunger.org](http://www.whyhunger.org)