

RELEASE: November 16, 2009

New USDA statistics confirm escalating hunger crisis in Texas and Tarrant Area Food Bank service region

Fort Worth, TX (Nov. 16, 2009) – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service (USDA) reported today that **one in six Texas residents** are “food insecure,” meaning that they lack consistent access to adequate amounts of nutritious food.

The new report, *Household Food Security in the United States, 2008*, paints an alarming picture of the pervasiveness of hunger in our nation and state.

In Texas, 1.4 million households are struggling to put nutritious food on the table, compared to 1.26 million households in 2007. Nationwide, 17 million households are food insecure compared to 13 million in 2007, and 16.7 million children are living in food insecure households compared to 12.4 million children in 2007.

“These are alarming numbers,” said Bo Soderbergh, executive director of Tarrant Area Food Bank, “especially considering that the USDA numbers reflect the state of our region in 2008. Since then, the economy has significantly weakened, and there are likely many more people struggling with hunger than this report states,” he said.

Demand at Tarrant Area Food Bank is up approximately 25 percent over this time last year, according to Soderbergh.

The Tarrant Area Food Bank network of 300 partner pantries, soup kitchens and other emergency food aid centers feed some 40,000 families each month.

“National socio-economic indicators, including the escalating unemployment rate and the number of working-poor, lead me to believe that the number of people facing hunger will continue to rise over the coming year,” Soderbergh said.

“**Research on previous economic recessions**,” he added, “indicates that people who fall into the grips of poverty in a time of recession often never recover. Many of those people are likely to be in need of our services now or in the future.”

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Summary, [*Household Food Security in the United States, 2008* – Download PDF](#)

Full Report, [*Household Food Security in the United States, 2008* – Download PDF](#)