



Hunger Persists Throughout Virginia

While Virginia has one of the highest median household incomes in the United States, it can be hard to imagine the hunger lurking in our neighborhoods. But from the urban centers to the rural countryside, the mountains to the coast, more than 658,000 people in Virginia lack reliable access to enough affordable, nutritious food. The statistics are startling:

- Approximately 1 in 6 children in Virginia face hunger, which can impact their physical health, academic performance, and overall well-being.
- About 10% of Virginia's population lives below the poverty line, which translates to roughly 850,000 individuals struggling to make ends meet.
- Nearly 10% of seniors in Virginia are food insecure, often having to choose between paying for food and other essentials like medication and housing.

These facts from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey and [Feeding America](#) highlight the ongoing struggle many Virginians face regarding hunger and poverty, emphasizing the importance of supporting [ELCA World Hunger](#) which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

In addition to supporting hunger prevention efforts in 62 countries around the globe, ELCA World Hunger supports efforts here in Virginia through the [Domestic Hunger Grant Program](#). Past recipients include the Micah Center in Fredericksburg, Plenty! in Floyd, the Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry, and ForKids Inc. in Norfolk.

We are asking every congregation in the VA Synod to hold a special offering recognizing the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger in 2024 - perhaps on September 8 on "God's Hand's. Our Work." Sunday or October 16, World Food Day. We also ask everyone to pray daily for those working to end hunger and poverty and to consider becoming recurring donors to ELCA World Hunger.

Your gift today will help ELCA World Hunger continue to make an impact on eradicating poverty and ending hunger across the globe and right here in Virginia. Take a picture of the QR code below to make your gift.

