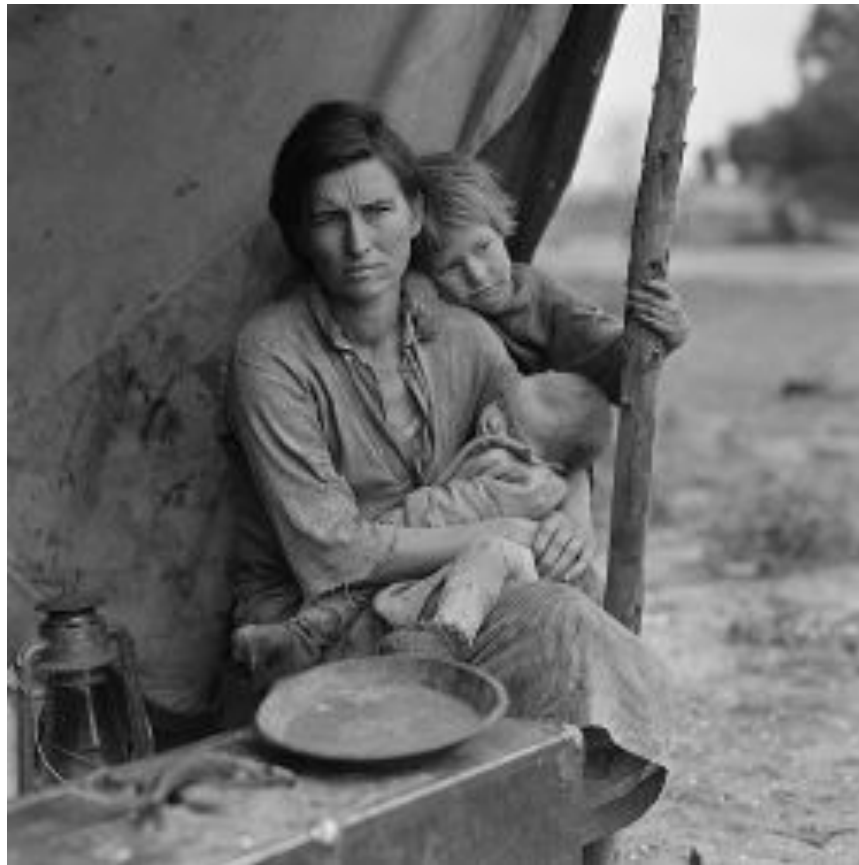


Food Justice: Ending hunger in our communities

# + Food Justice: Can we end hunger in our communities?

- What does hunger look like in our communities?
- Hunger is the symptom, poverty is the cause.
- Two ways of addressing the problem.
- The Big Garden.
  - What we do
  - How you can help

# + Food Justice: What does hunger look like?



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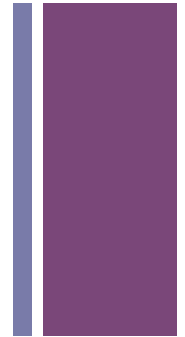
# + Food Justice: What does hunger look like?





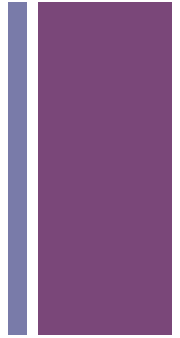
## Food Justice: What does that mean?

- **Food insecurity:** Reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.
- **Food Deserts:** low-income communities without ready access to healthy and affordable food
- **Food Justice:** this one is tricky, no commonly accepted definition:
  - Access to adequate fresh, healthy food
  - Food free of dangerous chemicals
  - Fair wages for food system workers
  - Food grown in ways that respect the environment
  - Food that is culturally-appropriate



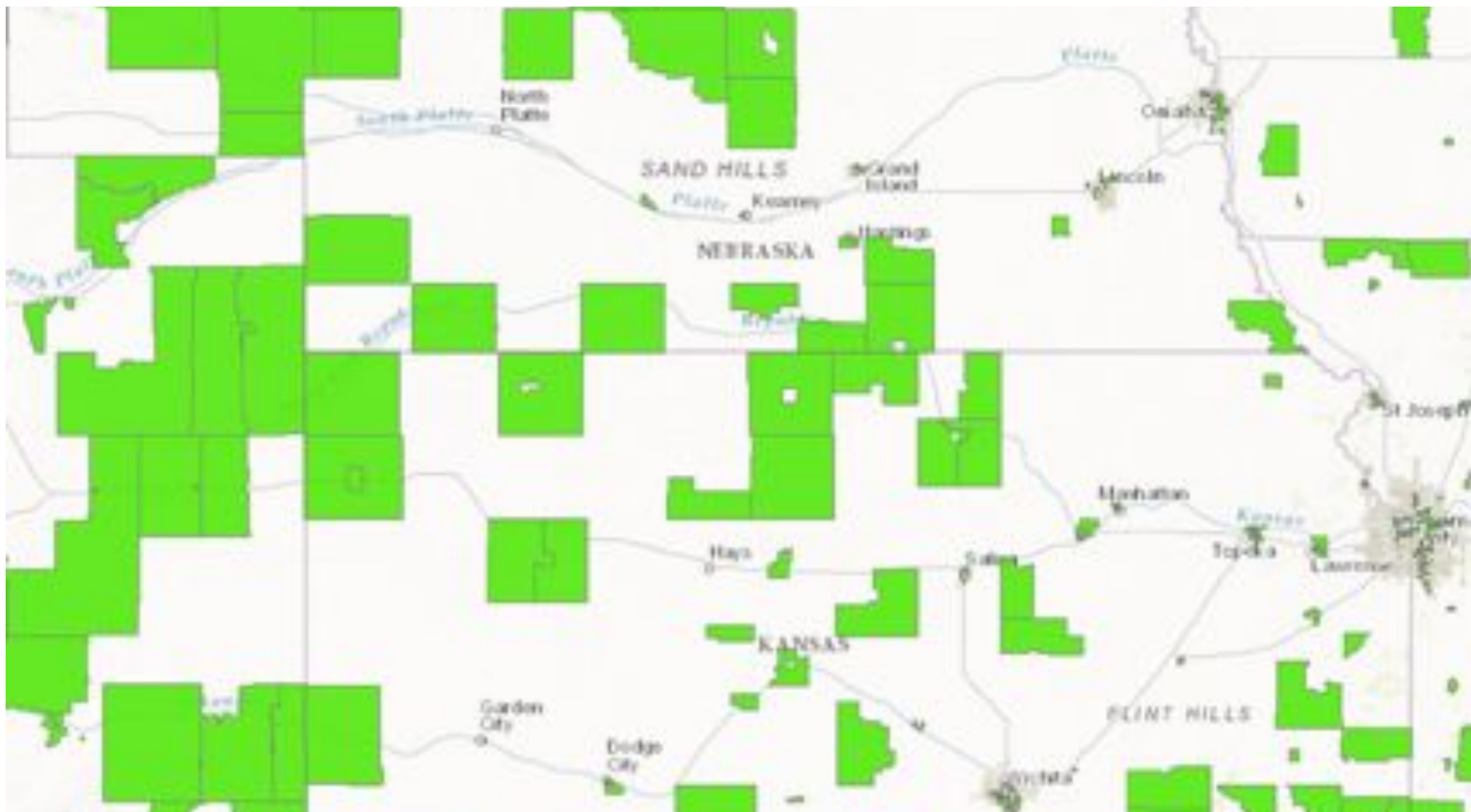
## + What does food insecurity look like in your community?

- In Nebraska the latest figures show that 19.7% of children (92,000) under 18 are food insecure, the rate for adults is 13%
- In Kansas 21.3% of children (154,000) are food insecure, the rate for adults is 14.2%
- You can find food insecurity statistics for your county by going to:  
<http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2013/overall>





## + Food Deserts: Where are they in Kansas and Nebraska?



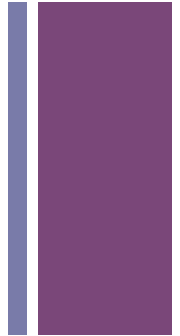


- + What kind of food is available in a food desert?



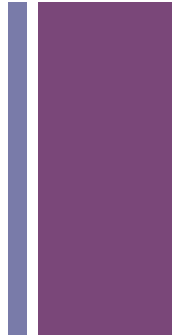
## + So what do we do about it?

- 2 ways to respond:
  - Mission (direct service)
  - Justice (advocacy)
- Mission: You give them something to eat!
  - Food pantries, homeless shelters,
  - Vitally important
  - Directly address the immediate problem
  - Easy for people to understand and support



## + So what do we do about it?

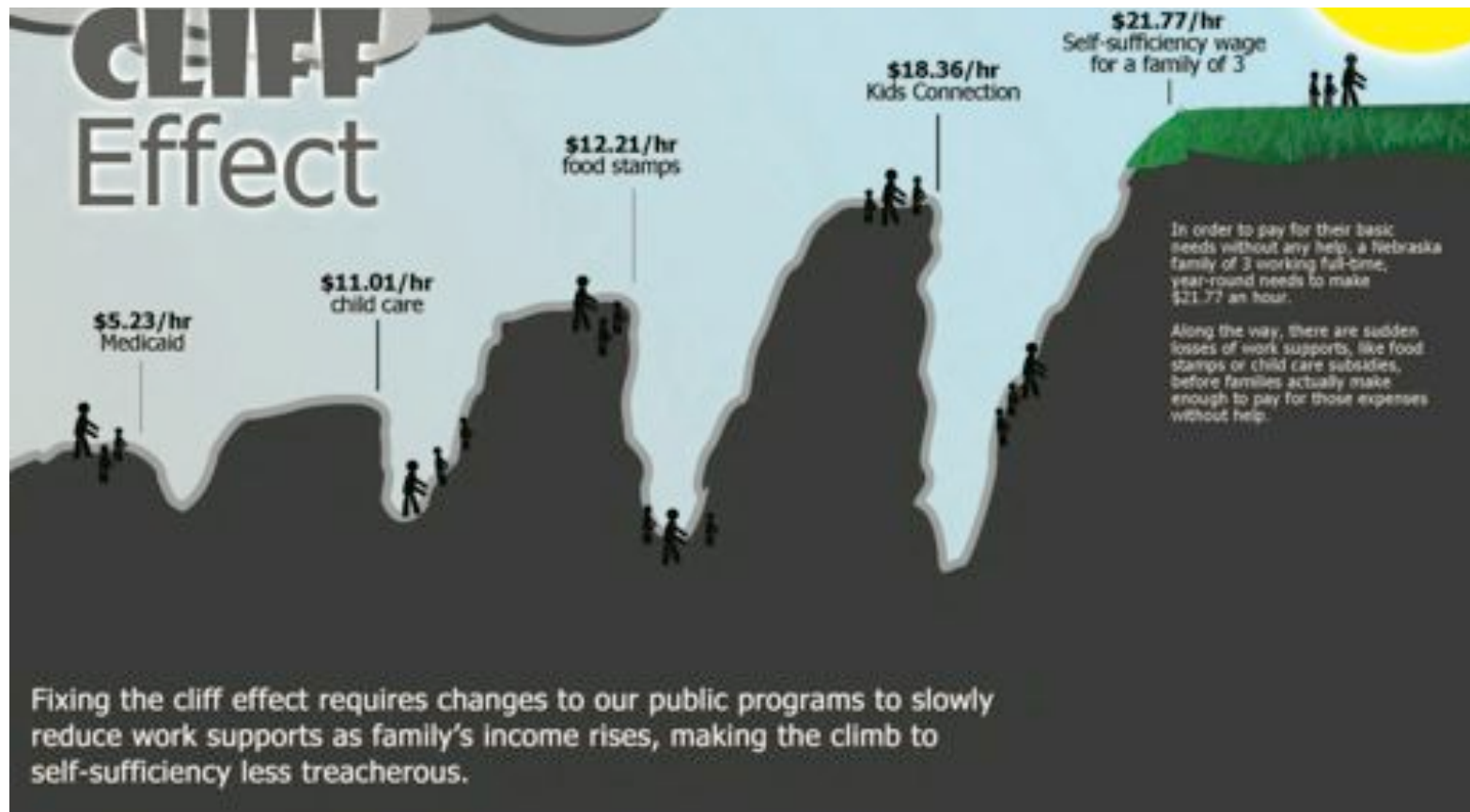
- Justice (Advocacy)
  - Attempts to address the underlying issues
  - Voices for Children, Bread for the World
  - Just as important as Mission or direct service
  - More complicated
  - Addresses multiple related issues
  - Usually harder to get support
- The problem of hunger won't be solved without both.



# + Food Insecurity is the symptom. Poverty is the cause.

- Addressing food insecurity by itself is only dealing with part of the problem.
- Hunger is a symptom of poverty.
- To solve the problem of hunger, we have to wrestle with the issue of poverty in our communities.
- In 2016 the federal poverty line for a family of three was \$20,090.
- Yearly income at minimum wage of \$7.25/hour working 40 hours/week is \$15,080. In NE the minimum wage of \$9.00/hour is \$18,720. Not enough to get above the poverty line in either state.

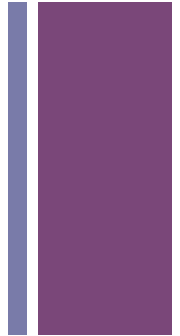
+ What about public assistance programs? Can't those make up the difference?





## + Food justice: how do we respond?

- Private charities and nonprofits cannot do it alone. The need is too great. We do not have the capacity.
- Without S.N.A.P. benefits people will go hungry.
- When someone tells you that if SNAP benefits are cut then charities will pick up the slack, they are either misinformed or disingenuous.



- + The Big Garden: Growing justice one garden at a time.



# + The Big Garden: Growing Justice one garden at a time.



- We partner with schools, churches and nonprofits to build community gardens. Over 165 gardens in 12 years
- Teach over 900 kids per week how to grow, cook and preserve their own food through our “Grow Your Own” summer program.
- Lead mission trips for youth that focus on food justice
- In 2015 we grew over 88 tons of fresh produce across our garden network
- Offer a gardening workshop series open to the public
- Offer free Farmers Market tours to low income women & children.
- [www.biggarden.org](http://www.biggarden.org)

# + The Big Garden Campus: A place to grow!



- 2 acres, 2 greenhouses, a barn an education center and lots of space to grow fresh food
- Taught on-site workshops and classes to over 300 people just this summer
- Goal is to become an urban agriculture demonstration hub.



# + The Big Garden: Growing Justice one garden at a time



- We work in high-poverty public schools to teach gardening and nutrition classes
- Teach urban agriculture classes year round at three high-poverty middle schools
- We reach over 1200 children, youth and adults each year with our programming
- But we could do much more!



## + The Big Garden: Growing Justice one garden at a time.



- We have a waiting list of four sites that want our summer programming for next year
- That's approximately 200 more kids we could reach
- One site is Girls Inc. where we would be teaching low income girls of color
- We would need to hire 2 more summer garden educators to meet this demand

# + Quiz



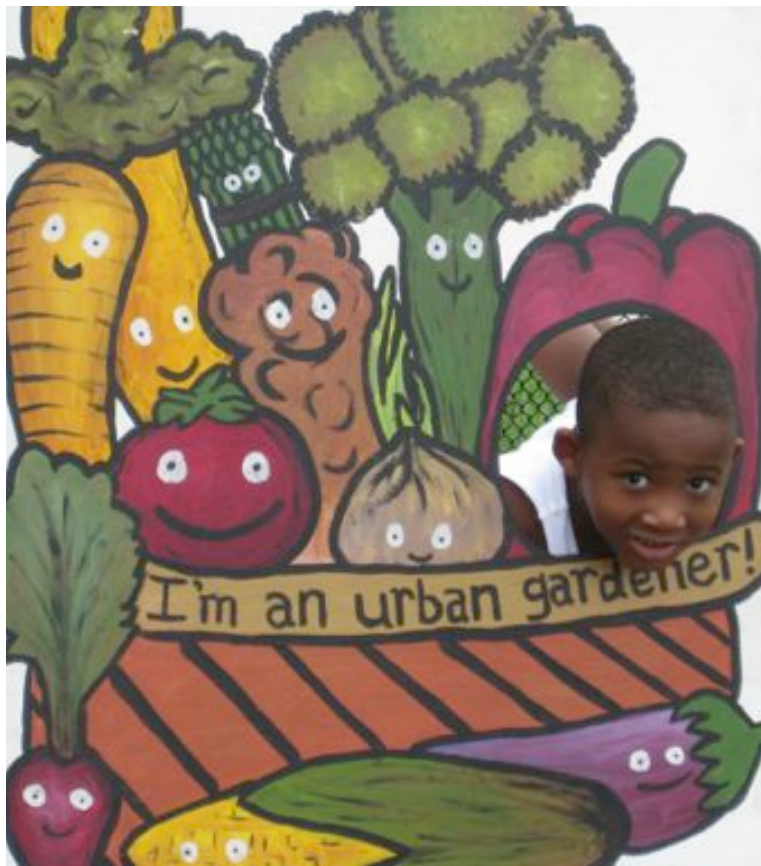
- What percentage of kids are food insecure in NE?
  - A. 15.6%
  - B. 28.1%
  - C. 19.7%
  - D. 9.7%
  
- C. 19.7%

# + Quiz



- What percentage of adult Kansans are food insecure?
  - A. 22.4%
  - B. 14.2%
  - C. 9.1%
  - D. 18.8%
  
- B. 14.2%

# + Quiz



- What kinds of food are you least likely to be able to purchase in a food desert?
  - A. Pop
  - B. Twinkies
  - C. Beef Jerky
  - D. Tomatoes
  
- D. Tomatoes



## + Quiz

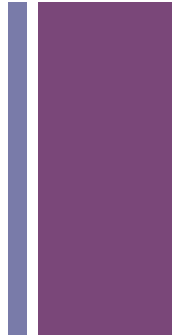


- How much does someone working 40 hrs/week at the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 make in a year?
  - A. \$10,800
  - B. \$15,080
  - C. \$18,720
  - D. \$21,200
  
- B. \$15,080















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