

Identifying a New Food Distribution Center for a Supplemental Food Program

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Introduction

The Presidential Scholars Program focuses on the goals of the Healthy People 2010 national initiative to increase quality and years of healthy life and eliminate health disparities. This project addressed the impact of social environment on health by working with the Low Country Food Bank (LCFB) to identify a community in need of its services, and to establish a new distribution center in the area. Our aim was to establish a Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) to distribute monthly free, nutritious, supplemental food, along with food education and nutritious recipes.

In conjunction with the LCFB, we identified James Island as an area in need of services. In order to target the area of greatest need on James Island, we compiled a list of demographic statistics from the 2000 U.S. Census and Feeding America, the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity.

U.S. Hunger Statistics

- 39.8 million people (13.2%) were in poverty
- 3.6 million (9.7%) seniors 65+ years old were in poverty
- 49.1 million Americans (16.3%) lived in food insecure households:
 - 32.4 million adults and 16.7 million children
- 8.1% of households with seniors (2.3 million households) were food insecure
- **Growing need:** among members of Feeding America, 74% of pantries, 65% of kitchens, and 54% of shelters reported an increased number of clients using emergency food program sites since 2006.

James Island Demographic Statistics

- James Island population - 33,871
 - 14.6% (or 4,930) aged 65+
- Per capita income - \$24,133
 - 9.1% off all ages under the poverty level
- 10.1% of 65+ years people under the poverty level
- 3,408 households with the householder 65+ years
 - 10.4% (346) below the poverty level
 - 251 are owned and 105 are rented by the householder



James Island Baptist Church – Our potential food distribution center

The immediate vicinity to **James Island Baptist Church** has **16.5%** of all households having incomes less than \$10,000, and **16.4%** of all people in the vicinity are 65+.

References for all statistics: USDA. Mark Nord, M. Andrews, S. Carlson. *Household Food Security in the United States*, 2008. www.feedingamerica.org

Jl Demographic Map – Income <\$10,000

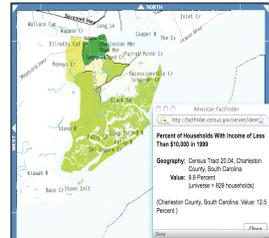


Figure 1 - Map of James Island – Percent of households with income less than \$10,000 in 1999

Jl Demographic Map – Persons Aged 65+



Figure 2 - Map of James Island – Percent of persons 65 years and over (census year 2000)

Charleston Low Country Food Bank (LCFB)

- Founded in 1983
- Mission:

1. Feed the poor and hungry of the 10 coastal counties of South Carolina.
2. Solicit and distribute healthy food and grocery products to nonprofit agencies serving the poor.
3. Educate the public about the problems of and solutions to domestic hunger.



Devon Gray – LCFB Liaison

LCFB – Service Model

Service Model is simple and cost-effective:

1. Collect, inspect, maintain and distribute otherwise wasted food products from manufacturers, food distributors, the government, supermarkets, wholesalers and farmers
2. Redistribute these food products to a grassroots network of over 320 member agencies providing hunger-relief.
3. Member of Feeding America

LCFB Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

- Administered by the South Carolina Department of Social Service
- USDA nutrition program: offers free monthly nutrition information and nutritious foods to eligible participants
- **Who is Eligible?**
 - 60 years of age or older
 - SC resident and income eligible
 - Individual or household income used for eligibility
 - Each household member may be eligible and will need to complete an application form
 - Child under 6 years old, not already in WIC program
 - Women who are pregnant or post-partum for less than a year, not already in the WIC program

Spreading the Word

Informing James Island Community:



- **Sign up day:** potential clients will be able to obtain applications at James Island Baptist Church
- **Fliers:** to be distributed at community sites throughout James Island to inform potential clients about the program and sign-up day