

Hunger Knows No Class

Providence Medical Group
Kansas City, KS



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Family Medical Group

Issue

Food Insecurity has become the unwelcomed guest of many families in the United States. It wears no costume, has no team uniform and walks proudly unmasked through any community it pleases. Why, some ask? The USA is the richest country in the world. We need nothing!

We have all seen the heart-wrenching news stories of starving children in other countries and often send money to help, but the United States? Why?

Most are embarrassed to admit they suddenly don't have enough to go around. Or that many generations must live together to be able to make ends meet. The money does not last until the end of them month, and the food supply does not often make it until the next pay day.

Many have only seen Food Insecurity in underprivileged neighborhood and never dreamed the problem would one day affect them as well.

Many have lost jobs. Many have endured lasting and debilitating effects of COVID and are no longer able to work.

Food Insecurity seems to have made arrangements for a long stay.

Project

Our practice meets quarterly with our payer groups. At one such meeting, we were asked what people seemed to indicate as their highest need.

We had been using Social Determinates of Health forms since 2018 and asking patients to complete them at the time of their visit.

The result was clear. The number one need in our practice community was Food. The second highest need was transportation.

Our Payer group told us they had a relationship with Harvesters and would arrange a way for us to meet with them to strategize.

The project was coming together. We partnered with our Local Community College and the YMCA plus the payer group and with four to five months of planning, we were ready. Then COVID hit. That put a stop to our project.

We restarted in 2021 with volunteers from our payer group, our own employees, YMCA and Community College volunteers.

Results



Average People Served:

Adults 358 per month

Children 338 per month

Senior Citizens 198 per month

Lessons Learned

What did we learn?

We learned how good it felt physically and spiritually to help others.

We learned that hunger often hides in innocent people's lives due to embarrassment.

We learned that not only children are hungry. Moms and Dads, Grandpa's and Grandma's are hungry too.

We learned that healthy school lunches are likely the only thing a child eats that helps his ability to learn that day. We wanted to make sure they had healthy suppers as well.

Most of all we learned that one's social needs can hinder good health; both mental and physical. Lack of healthy food and diet contribute to most every physical condition. We are trying to stop that.

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