

MEDIA ADVISORY

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REPORT TO EXPOSE 185,000 NEBRASKANS FACE FOOD SECURITY DILEMMA ON NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

Nebraska farmers and ranchers are responsible for feeding over 7,095,000 people annually. Yet, in a state that provides so much food for our fellow Americans and others worldwide, we are plagued with a significant amount of food insecurity among our own residents. Food insecurity is defined as limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or as limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways. During the period of 2000-2002 10.7% or approximately 185,000 Nebraskans were considered food insecure.

On June 3, 2004 at 9:00 am at Co-SINC Community Garden Project located at 3645 Sumner Street, Lincoln Nebraska, Nebraska Appleseed will release “A Portrait of Hunger in Nebraska” the first report in a three part series on food security in Nebraska. The Food Security Series includes:

Part I. Portrait of Hunger in Nebraska. A quantitative and qualitative analysis of hunger across Nebraska. Hunger is not only a threat to food security, but also a direct attack on the ability of families to be self-sufficient. Statistical data will lay the foundation for an extensive understanding of the problem. Individuals, community members, service providers, advocates, and governmental and political figures will offer their insights into the problem of hunger, and offer strategic approaches to eradicate hunger in Nebraska.

Part II. Food for Kids. Childhood hunger is one of the most violent injustices in our country. This report will focus on Nebraska’s children, the food insecurity and hunger they face, and options that communities have to alleviate their hunger. Local teacher perspective will be given on the hunger that low-income children face during the summer. Quantitative and qualitative data will be used. Release date is July 11, 2004 at Grace Abbott Park in Grand Island.

Part III. Food for Nebraska. An examination of options available to the State of Nebraska to improve residents’ access to high quality, nutritious food. Specific policy recommendations and economic analysis will be provided. Release date is August 20, 2004 at a local grocery store in Thurston County.

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