



# HUNGER CHAMPIONS

**Dear Patrick,**

Hunger Champions across the country are sounding off on Facebook to answer the question: “Why are you personally involved in hunger?” **Thank you for sharing why fighting hunger is so important to you!**

Here are just a few of your responses:

*I am a Champion because hunger in America is unacceptable.*

—Lisa Sherrill

*I am a Hunger supporter because it is a basic human right.*

—John R. Huff Jr.

*I am a hunger champion because I cannot sit by and wait for someone else to take action.*

—Barbara Brown Southwell

**Check out our [Facebook page](#) to learn more about these and other Champions and why they're fighting to end hunger in America and their local communities—and tell us why you're a Champion!**

Recently, we had a chance to catch up with Patrick to find out why he is a Champion. Here's his story.

## Patrick's Story

*Q: How long have you been involved in hunger relief and awareness efforts? What made you want to get involved?*

A: My wife and I became involved in the fight against hunger in 2000. We lived next to a single mom and 11 children—and almost daily, the children would ask if we could feed them. We did what we could, but couldn't afford to feed them all the time, so we started talking to local grocers about their throwaways and explained what we were trying to accomplish. Because of those children, we established The House that Wisdom Built in 2002—a nonprofit social service organization based on charity, faith, and service. They opened our eyes to a need, and we answered.

*Q: Can you tell us a little bit about what you have been doing lately to fight hunger in your community?*

A: We continue to network with local grocery stores and became involved with the Cleveland Food Bank two and a half years ago. We now serve about 300 families in need a month through donations. We don't operate with a large amount of funds and would like to be able to do more.

*Q: What do you think the most important thing people can do to help support hunger relief programs?*

A: Getting involved—not just donating—is very important. It is unfortunate that many of our politicians include helping the needy in their campaigning platforms, yet they have never actually volunteered in a soup kitchen or have had any actual contact with the needy. If they ever did, they would be forever changed by the reality and severity of the problem.

## Stay Informed On Hunger Legislation!

Part of being an effective Hunger Champion is staying informed on legislation that affects hunger in America. **This**

**year, we face another big battle in Congress—the Farm Bill.**

- **The Farm Bill governs federal farm and food policy**, including SNAP, TEFAP, and other nutrition programs.
  - **A strong Farm Bill is critical.** We're counting on you to help us protect vital anti-hunger programs to ensure hungry Americans don't lose access to these important programs.
  - Last year, Champions stepped up to support Child Nutrition Reauthorization, helping ensure passage of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act. **Now we need to do the same for the Farm Bill!**
- Stay tuned to Feeding America for updates on the Farm Bill as they arise. We'll let you know when to get involved!**

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