Closing The Meal Gap.
A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.

Proverbs 22:9
Catholic Charities in Terre Haute was established as a ministry of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in 1973 to help people in need by providing a variety of services. The primary mission of the agency is to serve the poor, the homeless, the elderly, the neglected children and the needy.

Responding to Community Needs
For nearly 40 years, Catholic Charities in Terre Haute has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in the Wabash Valley providing food, clothing, shelter, and after-school programming. By 1980, Catholic Charities had established several programs including:

- Christmas House
- Bethany House Emergency Shelter
- Simeon House (former congregate living facility)
- Birthright Pregnancy Resource
- Ryves Youth Center

Feeding the Poor
Feeding the poor has always been a priority of this ministry. That’s why in 1980 the Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank was established by John E. Etling and Rev. Donald Schmidlin as part of the national food bank network, Feeding America (formerly America’s Second Harvest) serving both individuals and organizations regardless of religious affiliation.

The Foodbank’s mission is simple: to feed the hungry.
The Foodbank serves those in Clay, Greene, Knox, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo counties through a network of emergency food distribution member agencies and engages the region in the fight to end hunger.
One in six Hoosiers, including one in four children, more than 43,000 people, living in west central Indiana are food insecure – meaning they have limited or uncertain access to sufficient nutritious and safe food in a socially acceptable manner. Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank serves more than 32,000 of those individuals through a network of 89 member agencies and 11 mobile pantries. Last year alone, the Foodbank solicited, certified and collected, monitored and channeled 2.6 million pounds of food (the equivalent of 2 million meals) to these charitable member agencies who are feeding hungry people.

**Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank serves over 32,000 of the 43,000 people who are food insecure in west central Indiana.**

**Helping Other Like-Minded Organizations**

- The Foodbank is the single largest source of food for emergency food programs in the seven-county service area
- *Hunger in America 2010* reports that on average, the Foodbank provides:
  -51% of the food distributed by local pantries
  -36% of the food distributed by local kitchens
  -38% of the food distributed by local shelters
- The Foodbank partners with local community groups and faith-based organizations to operate 11 mobile pantries each month providing food to approximately 1100 families living in rural, underserved areas.

**Serving Families and Children**

- The Foodbank operates a monthly Bread & Produce Market providing highly perishable bread and produce directly to approximately 100 families each month.
- Last year, the Foodbank grew the BackPack program from the Ryves Youth Center location to include distributions at schools in Parke, Vermillion, and Sullivan counties. Through this program, children receive a bag of child-friendly food on Friday afternoons to help feed them through the weekend.
If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and no food for the day, and you say to them, “Goodbye and good luck! Keep warm and well fed,” but do not meet their bodily needs, what good is that?

James 2:15-16
Increasing Demand

As reported in *Hunger in America 2010*, 78% of food pantries served by Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank experienced an increase in the number of clients since 2006. In addition, food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters in our service area reported that they were in greatest need of dairy products such as milk, yogurt, and cheese, as well as proteins like meat, poultry, fish, and eggs. These perishable products are expensive for the agencies to purchase and because of quality and safety issues they cannot be obtained through food drives.

To meet this demand, the Foodbank significantly increased (39%) the amount of food distributed, including perishable products, from 1,276,971 pounds in 2006 to nearly 1.8 million pounds in 2009. But, the need is even greater - 45% of the pantries reported having to turn away clients because of a lack of food. *Even more of a concern is the fact that 45% of the recipients of food are children under the age of 18 and seniors age 65 and over.*

"Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank is the basis for the food that we distribute. We would not have a pantry without the Foodbank."

Sr. Joseph Fillenwarth, Providence Food Pantry - West Terre Haute

Simply stated, the extended downturn in our economy has put stress on individuals and families. An increased number of people have faced a loss of jobs, foreclosure and more.
Total Need: 7,250,933 meals

Meals provided by the Foodbank: 2,000,000 meals

Gap Exceeds: 5 Million Meals!

Closing the Meal Gap

To address these critical issues, the Foodbank directors and the Advisory Council developed a strategic plan with the long-term goals of significantly increasing food distribution by an additional 615,000 to 1 million meals per year (the equivalent of an additional 800,000 to 1.3 million pounds per year). Warehousing and distributing 2.6 million pounds of food in 2010 put a tremendous strain on the limited capacity at the current location triggering logistical problems throughout the distribution channel as we quickly disbursed this food to member agencies. The Foodbank must expand its current warehouse and refrigeration capacities to achieve our goal of lessening the meal gap within our service area.
“Without the Foodbank, we would not have a food pantry. It’s really helped out a lot. We’ve gone from serving 35 people per month to nearly 150.”
Catholic Charities will expand the Foodbank to respond to the gap in meals that exists in our service area by addressing the lack of facility capacity at 1356 Locust Street in Terre Haute. Because the current facility is landlocked, it will not accommodate adequate expansion. Therefore, Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank must either build a new facility or purchase a current facility that will meet the required specifications for growth. After concluding a planning process and significant study on multiple options, the Catholic Charities Advisory Council has settled on the following solution:

**Basic Need:**

**Purchase Existing Facility** $1,500,000  
This amount will cover the purchase of a logistics facility and provide 30,000 square ft. of warehouse and office space … more than tripling the current capacity of the Foodbank. The total also will include the expense to add the necessary refrigeration capacity designed to meet the storage and throughput of perishable foods.

**Visionary Need:**

**Endowment** $1,000,000  
While the facility is in excellent condition, these funds will create an annual yield to help cover additional maintenance expenses that will be necessary to sustain the operations in the new facility.

**Total Campaign Needs** $2,500,000

*In addition to the Basic and Visionary Needs, we will need to raise an additional $200,000 per year for each of the next 5 years for Ongoing Program Support.*
Closing the Meal Gap will Provide Help and Create Hope

The purchase of a larger facility will provide much-needed additional storage space enabling us to close the Meal Gap by:

- Providing more children with food each week through the BackPack program
- Reach more food insecure people with the Mobile Food Pantry
- Participating in larger purchasing programs
- Expanding delivery service to pantries

Through your compassion and generosity, the Foodbank will be able to collect, sort, store, and channel enough food to serve the additional 11,000 people who are currently food insecure; as well as provide hope of a better academic future for children to succeed in school as a result of receiving adequate nutritional food.

Your gift will provide help and create hope in the lives of countless neighbors in our community – and will enable us to reach more individuals and families with our mission to feed the hungry.
“Food insecurity is a public health problem with serious consequences for children, including greater likelihood of depression, anxiety, poor academic performance, birth defects, and behavior problems.”

Anne Bridgman

If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then our light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

Isaiah 58:10