



Partnership in Food, Hunger, & Nutrition

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Partnership Purpose

- **To explore the academic training, research, outreach & service-learning activities needed for students & faculty from a variety of disciplines to address food, hunger & nutrition**
- **To develop comprehensive, meaningful solutions to food insecurity for Rhode Island's diverse, low-income population**

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Background

- **11% of all US households lack the necessary resources to access nutritionally adequate & safe foods**
- **Close to 44,000 RI residents rely on food pantries, soup kitchens, & shelters to feed themselves and their families every month**

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Background

- **Hunger, food insecurity, & poor nutrition outcomes are integrally linked with poverty as well as the complex cultural political, social, medical, & environmental factors that shape food availability and intake**

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What was it?



- Interdisciplinary multi-college group of faculty & students who collectively explored the phenomenon, causes & consequences of food insecurity, hunger & malnutrition within RI

- Image

<http://advance.uri.edu/quadangles/spr2005/images/fooddrive.jpg>

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Food, Hunger and Nutrition Partnership

- Analyzes the issues of poverty and hunger which cut across a range of disciplines
- Collaborates for the development of new, integrated approaches and solutions to the problem of hunger

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FHN Partners within the University

- **University of Rhode Island**
 - **College of Arts & Sciences**
 - **College of Environment & Life Science**
 - **College of Nursing**
 - **College of Human Sciences & Services**
 - **URI Costal Fellowship Program**
 - **College of Pharmacy**
 - **GIS**

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FHN Partners in the Community

- **Crossroads Rhode Island: Homeless Outreach**
- **The Rhode Island Free Clinic: Population without Health Insurance**
- **Rhode Island Food Bank:**
- **The Feinstein Foundation**
- **Rhode Island Campus Compact**

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The FHN Partnerships Work

- **Developing meaningful solutions to food insecurity for Rhode Island's low-income populations**
 - **Including older adults**
 - **Children**
 - **The homeless**
 - **The working poor**
 - **And immigrants**

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Focus

- Education
- Community Outreach
- Research
 - Image
<http://www.earthlygarden.com/wp-content/uploads/tomato.jpg>



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Community Engagement

- A critically important feature of the FHN Partnership mission is to construct and sustain a state-wide framework that unites FHN resources and expertise with the experiences and expertise of community-based partners who are also focused on the complexities of poverty, food insecurity, food policy and nutrition

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Education

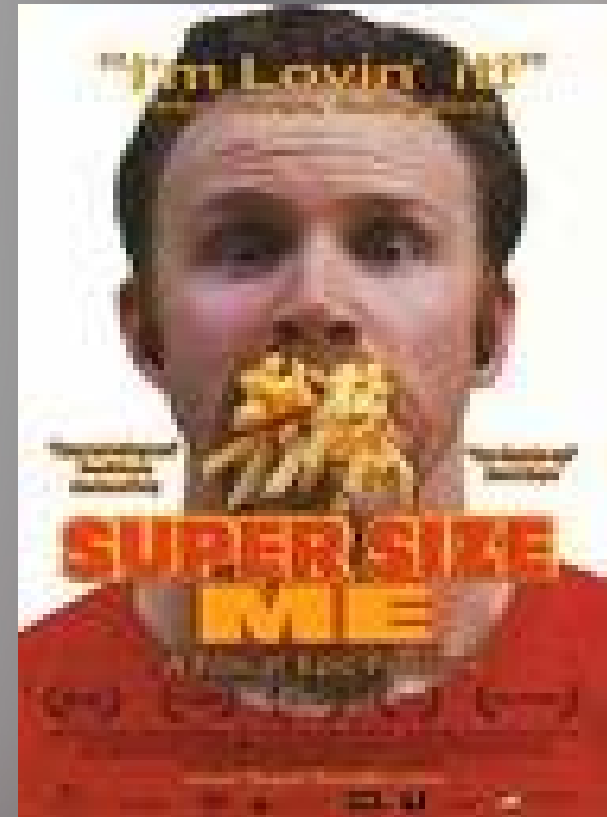
- **Interdisciplinary class at URI on hunger and Poverty (included community based service learning) 35 students**
- **URI 101: 300 students in 13 classes & one PCD high school class; conducted service-learning experiences on or off campus related to food access**

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Education

- **Movie night discussions**
 - **Supersize Me**
 - **30 Days on Minimum Wage**
 - **2006 World Food Day Video-conference**
- **Hugh Joseph introduced faculty to food assessments**
 - **Image attrition.org**



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Outreach

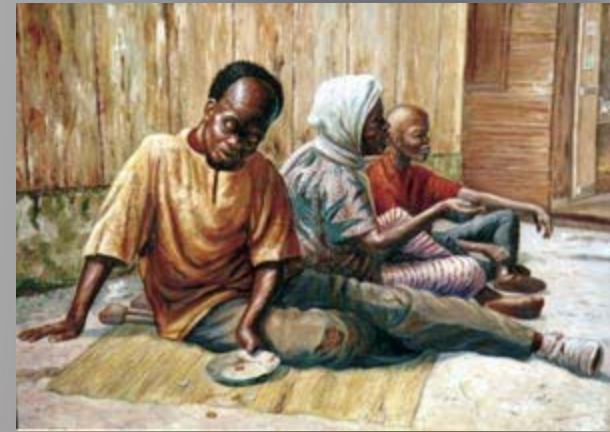
- **Mapping Food Access Forum at URI**
- **Joint mapping project presented at meeting of GIS professionals**
- **Partnership faculty, staff and students presented to the Basic Needs Network**
- **Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program**
- **Monograph: Food is a Basic Right**

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Outreach

- URI's Feinstein Providence Campus Gallery features exhibit and performance to show the Faces of Hunger



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Outreach

- **Formation and facilitation of community group to undertake DOH research/education related to food access, obesity and consumption of fruits and vegetable purchases**
- **Development of the Food Resource Locator URI GET FOOD**
http://www.uri.edu/fhn/outreach_3.htm

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Outreach

- Faculty and students provided research and data management expertise to assist local food pantries in compiling data about clients they serve and eligibility for federal & charity programs
- Nutrition education classes for low-income clients at the Providence Free Clinic

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Outreach

- Summer Lunch in Rhode Island
- The Native American Project:
RI Indian Counsel and
Southern RI conservationist
assessment of local food system
and food security
 - Phyllis Monroe Waite of
Mashantucket Pequot/Eastern
Pequot/Narragansett Indian
Tribal 1929 in Wakefield, Rhode
Island, Tribal Elder



*"Native Tradition of the circle teaches us that
the end is only the beginning and when
communication is equal, there is peace."*

—Phyllis Monroe Waite, October 2004

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Research

- **Train students and faculty research team to conduct comprehensive windshield surveys for 5 rural towns in RI**
- **Complete an up-to-date demographic characterization of all RI towns**
- **Developed consumer survey related to issues of food access in 5 rural towns**
- **Interviewed over 250 consumers on shopping practices and related issues**

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Research

- Price survey of 26 grocery store outlets and food markets in RI
- 24 hour Food Survey of Hunger and Food Insecurity with the Homeless Population in the state with 125 in the sample
 - Findings: minimal recommended servings for vegetables, fruit, and dairy were not met by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the sample
 - BMI survey of Homeless findings: 77% of the sample are over weight or obese and at high risk for disease

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Research

- **Second Harvest Survey:**
 - **Comprehensive study to provide statistically valid data on the national and local charitable responses to hunger and the people served by private hunger-relief agencies**
- **Making Ends Meet:**
 - **Qualitative study of low income women with young children. To learn more about families with limited resources in RI, and to gain understanding on how they balance demands in relation to food acquisition and access**

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FHN Concern for Food Security

- Access by people at all times to sufficient food for an active and health life
- At minimum, the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods and an assured ability to acquire them in socially acceptable ways

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What needs to be done?



- **Policy change:**
 - **Food security programs such as the Food Stamp program**
 - **Supportive Housing**
 - **Continued Education**
 - **Jobs**

■ Image http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/community_events/2007/march/foodbank2007_orig.jpg

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Questions?

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