

# *THIS IS HUNGER* - Program Script

SPEAKER	AUDIO
Bill (unemployed UAW worker)	I was one of these people who thought I'd work my 30 years and retire and live happily ever after. People don't realize, you know, what you've got until it's gone.
Marilyn (retired senior)	My life now as a senior citizen is probably harder than any of our other lives, with the working, the raising of children. We're pretty much isolated here.
Dylan (teenager)	My mom's been working 20 something years in the school system. She had a job; everything was fine.
Whitney (senior)	When I was in my 40s and 50s, I had no idea that this would happen. I thought when I turned 65, I would be living a good life.
Mark (veteran)	I always thought I could have a job and be able to progress in my job to be able to provide for my family. I could list the different skill sets that I had in the military, but a lot of those skill sets don't translate into civilian life.
Blanca (teenager)	My childhood was a very beautiful childhood. My mom was used to always getting us what we wanted. It wasn't the best, best house ever, but it still was ours.
Bill	You know how they can be hungry in America? Because they've lost their jobs, they've depleted their retirement savings that they've had, they've lost their homes.

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SPEAKER

AUDIO

For all my life, since I was 17 years old, I've served my country, been responsible, reliable, dependable, accountable. I went to work every day, did what I was supposed to do.

Now I'm faced here worried about feeding my family. We shouldn't have to do that. It makes me feel sometimes like a garbage can out there just waiting to be picked up and dumped, it really does. All this stress, all this pressure.

Mark

I'm a nerd. I collect toys. I've always been a kid at heart. I fell in love with working with kids and helping kids. I wanted to become a teacher. But it's a small, rural town. It's actually falling apart. People aren't moving in, they're moving out. The community is just getting smaller and smaller. And a lot of my problem is, I'm such a family person, I don't want to move away from my mother and my dad.

Marilyn

I feel like I'm not fixing meals that are nourishing...it is not the thing to do, I know, but if you have to have your meds to keep you alive you're going to pay for them and try to do the best you can with what food you can get. It makes a person feel depressed. The senior meals are a blessing.

Dylan

You know, I like to eat, I'm like anybody else but we're not generally able to afford healthy foods that some people can. When you go and you're used to having food to eat, and then there's nothing there... We've got canned food in there that's probably older than me that we've had to open up and eat.

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SPEAKER

AUDIO

Going to bed hungry gives you that feeling that you gotta get up and eat. It keeps you from sleeping, really it does. It's not a good feeling at all. My mother has nights when she can't sleep either. Just of the thought that she doesn't have a job and she thinks she can't provide. And she can't live with herself. It's not something anybody would want to go through.

Whitney

In 1957, at the age of nine, we moved, the first time, from one plantation to another. When I was a child, we had more food, more meats than I have now.

I changed the way I eat because I don't have the money to buy what I used to buy. Now not being able to feed myself the way I would like to. I cook to fill me up, not so much as healthy. I always tried to eat healthy, and I'm on cholesterol medicines now.

Blanca

We had a two bedroom house in Country Club Gardens. We couldn't keep up with the payments. My mom, she bought us food instead of paying the mortgage.

It was very hard at first, like, I don't want to take care my sisters, but, my mom was getting sick and I couldn't work. She got [food] stamps. But, with three kids it doesn't last the whole month. Kids eat a lot. We're like, okay, don't eat as much, we have to make the food last.

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SPEAKER

AUDIO

Bill

Don't ever think this can't happen to you or your family. I mean I had a great UAW job making \$100,000 a year almost with over time. It's gone, it's gone. And all the other things that were attached to it are gone - healthcare, life insurance. Now I'm stuck here trying to figure out what I'm going to do.

I used to help people out delivering food assistance. I never lived above my means. We used to go out to dinner a lot you know, as a family. My wife cooks meals now that will probably last a few days longer. I mean I never thought it'd be like that. It's a scary world we live in today. It really is.

Mark

I never really had to rely on the system to support me that much because I always felt that was wrong. I felt that there's people more deserving of that than me.

I decided to apply for food stamps because of my family. I have a wife and a son and I'm not able with my job to support them. I don't want to have to be doing the food stamp program, but it's for those families that aren't able to make it on their income. We were skipping meals so we could feed our baby.

Marilyn

I have high blood pressure and you have to be careful for that. But salads and fresh vegetables, we just don't consume unless they are out of a can.

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SPEAKER

AUDIO

I bought a little carton of tomatoes out here to the store not long ago which was \$2.89 which is just a few tomatoes in one of them little plastic things. I cut them very small. And used very few at a time just like almost enough to give you a taste.

Bill  
(Audio Only)

You don't have an understanding until you're there. But you know what, what happened to me can happen to anybody.

Whitney  
(Audio Only)

It seems like to me, once you get a certain age, you're tossed aside. I never would have thought America would be like this.

Dylan  
(Audio Only)

It affects your appearance, it affects how you act, it affects how you work at school. It makes you feel like you're not normal. It really does. It's not something somebody should have to live with in their life and there are kids right now younger than me having to go through it.

Marilyn  
(Audio Only)

Whoever can help with these programs, please do so, because there's a whole bunch out there, a whole lot of people there that I'm sure are hungry.

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SPEAKER	AUDIO
Wall Subjects (Audio Only): Molly	...Have you ever heard people talk about, they're standing in line, the grocery line and somebody pulls up the Bridge Card and they've got a fur coat on? Have you ever heard things like that?
Charles	...I always thought I would live a pretty fair life.
Steve	...that comes out to about ninety cents per person per meal. It's less than eighteen dollars a day. Hard to feed your family...
Ann Marie	...having to apply for public assistance is not your finest moment.
Emery	...and here you have people that have lived their whole lives working in the United States of America that have no food.
Judith	...demand the accounting, demand that people be held accountable for their actions.
John	...I kind of wish I could scrape up some type of food to get a decent meal.
Tiffany	...if I had to add anything to this, it would be to get off of government assistance...

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SPEAKER

AUDIO

Bill

You'll never ever be able to control what happens to you. You can think about it all day long. You can plan for it. The only part you can control is how you react. So, get involved, whether it be standing up for what you believe in, demonstrating, advocating, bringing awareness, food pantries, food assistance, healthcare, whatever the case may be, do something.

Blanca

From going to a very comfortable life to a struggling life, it made me think there's lots of injustice in the world.

Change starts by one person so I want to be that change in the world.