



NEWS	FRONT PAGE	THE CITI	OPINIONS & VIEWS	SPORTS	SUBSCRIBE NOW
------	------------	----------	------------------	--------	---------------

» Michigan: Where democracy used to live » Fallout from my Tea Party 'Taliban' comment... What is the lessc

You Are Here: Home » Fresh Ideas » Child hunger demands an immediate response

# Child hunger demands an immediate response

Posted by: [The Michigan Citizen](#) Posted date: [March 08, 2013](#) In: [Fresh Ideas](#) | comment : 0

By [DeWayne Wells](#)  
[Special to the Michigan Citizen](#)

Poverty and continued economic instability are threatening the success of a generation of our region's children. In Michigan, child poverty has reached 23.2 percent, having trended upward over the past nine years. Hunger, a direct consequence of poverty, has also risen. One in four children in southeast Michigan are at risk of not having enough nutritious food on a regular basis. All signs indicate the situation for children in Michigan is not likely to improve in the near term, meaning child hunger will remain a serious problem for several years to come.

Decades of research shows hunger has immediate effects on young children and also puts their futures at risk. Insufficient nutrition leaves children vulnerable to illness and weakens their immune systems. Children who don't eat enough are more likely to experience irritability, fatigue and difficulty concentrating, and are more likely to fall behind and stay behind in their academic development compared to their better-nourished peers. Even short spells of malnutrition can have detrimental, long-term effects on the cognitive development of children during the critical early childhood years.

We hear it every day from teachers, parents, school principals and social workers: Too many children are not getting enough to eat. Children come to school hungry and spend holiday breaks and summers wondering when they will get their next meal. Efforts like the National School Lunch Programs and the Summer Food Service Program help, but they are not enough.

In the face of this crisis, Gleaners has been aggressively pursuing solutions to make a larger impact on child hunger. In our last fiscal year alone, through programs like BackPack, Smart Bites and school-based mobile pantries, Gleaners reached 261,000 children with food and nutrition education — three times more than in the previous year. During the summer months alone, when children are most vulnerable to hunger, Gleaners delivered 6 million meals to children — a two million meal increase over the previous summer.

Gleaners is also partnering with local and national organizations on long-term solutions to child hunger. We are part of Michigan No Kid Hungry, an initiative of Share Our Strength (a national child hunger organization), the United Way for Southeastern Michigan and the office of Gov. Rick Snyder. Gleaners is reaching low-income families with children through Cooking Matters, a program of Share our Strength that Gleaners administers locally. Cooking Matters equips families with knowledge and skills to shop for and prepare healthful foods on limited budgets. The program has been shown to lead to sustainable lifestyle changes that can make a positive impact on health and household budgets.

As long as our region's children remain vulnerable, we will continue to prioritize reaching them with food and nutrition education. For example, to mark the 20th anniversary of our Women's Power Breakfast this April, Gleaners has a goal to raise 2 million meals — or \$680,000 — to fund our child food distribution programs between now and the end of the school year. You can learn more about this effort at [www.womenspowerbreakfast.org](http://www.womenspowerbreakfast.org).

**City of Detroit**  
**Office of Emergency Manager**  
**Kevyn D. Orr**

**Financial and Operating Plan**  
**May 12, 2013**

**Occupy DOE 2.0. April 4-7**

**Occupy DOE 2.0.**  
**THE BATTLE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**EMERGENCY MANAGER ORDERS**

## Top Stories of the Week

[EM Roberts says he's leaving, but not going far](#)



"I'm leaving, but I won't be far....I'm leaving, but I won't be gone....I'm leaving, but I'll still be here." DPS Emergency ... ∞

[Urban renewal displaces residents](#)



Recent evictions in the downtown and midtown area send the message to some that the new Detroit does not include ... ∞

[Lady barber cuts it up](#)



Julie Colquitt, owner of Just Cuttin' Up, always knew she would be a barber. The 47-year-old received her first ... ∞

Child hunger and poverty are problems that can't wait. We must act now to make sure today's children get the nourishment they need to be healthy and thrive now and in the future.

*DeWayne Wells is president of Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan. He is also a member of the Detroit Food Policy Council.*

2 0 2 2


**Tweet** Like Share Share

CLIP 0

< Previous

Next >





### About The Author



**The Michigan Citizen**

Number of Entries : 1336

### Related posts

			
Community-based school opens in Detroit	Turn vacant land into small farmsteads	EMEAC celebrates women and people of color in leadership at community event	'New Work' and community production: Eyes on Detroit

### Leave a Comment

You must be [logged in](#) to post a comment.

### Twitter

about 10 minutes ago i said, Duggan stays on. Election commission votes 2-1 in favor of leaving Mike Duggan on the ballot. Council President Charles Pugh votes no.

about a day ago i said, Photos: Minister Louis Farrakhan in Detroit May 17 <http://t.co/Jk4GbyDsJg>

about 2 days ago i said, Barrow says Duggan was not a Detroit resident according to City Charter.

about 2 days ago i said, Tom Barrow has asked City Clerk Janice Winfrey to disqualify Mike Duggan and remove his name from the mayoral ballot.

about 2 days ago i said, Cockrel: When hiring for the City of Detroit, which may file bankruptcy, it's like asking if they want to be a crew member of the Titanic.

### Facebook



**Michigan Citizen**

Like You like this.

You and 1,966 others like Michigan Citizen.



### The Citizen interviews mayoral candidates:

Tom Barrow

Krystal Crittendon

Mike Duggan

Lisa Howze



### Recent Posts



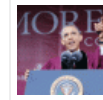
Michigan: Where democracy used to live  
May 23, 2013



Fallout from my Tea Party 'Taliban' comment... What is the lesson here?  
May 23, 2013



Student loan crisis is coming to a head  
May 23, 2013



Obama tells Morehouse grads, 'lead by example'  
May 23, 2013

Tale of two cities: Is social media re-segregating Detroit?  
May 23, 2013

### Journey for Education Justice



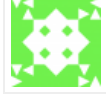
### State Takeover of Detroit Library

 Your Email	<b>Subscribe</b>
---	------------------

### Most Popular

- 'Bing is corrupt, we want him gone'
- Flower Power: Don't kill the Dandelion, eat it and let it grow
- Job training contractor calls foul play on DESC
- Angela Davis defines what freedom really means
- Big food and local/global grabbing

### Comments

- 
 al: If Mr. Ross 's salary is 3% of the school budget he should be accounta ...
- 
 al: Dear Sir We lost a of our intelligent clout when city workers, teach ...
- 
 Tom Barrow: Yes..but the lawlessness is so rampant that the Mayor's office will si ...
- 
 A.Derdelakos: Why not request an investigation by the City's new office of Inspector ...
- 
 The Michigan Citizen: Davis will appear Oct. 24, 7-10 p.m. at Fellowship Chapel, 7700 W. Out ...