

Low-income U.S. workers are struggling. Rent, child care, transportation and utilities are fixed expenses, so food is one place struggling families will cut corners. Ideally, families would have the incomes they need to make ends meet – for food and the fixed expenses. But until wages keep pace with the costs of basic needs, additional help is needed for low-income families to bridge the gap.

The United States has programs, in the form of the tax credits, that help to bridge the gap by putting money back into the hands of low-income workers. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), for example, helps people pay the rent or fix the car or replace a broken refrigerator or cover a high winter heat bill, rather than take food off the table to pay the bills.

That's why **Bread for the World's 2010 Offering of Letters will urge Congress, as it debates tax policies this year, to protect and strengthen key tax credits that are targeted to help low-income working families make ends meet.**

Struggling working families need the funds these important tax credits provide to help meet their expenses and keep food on their tables.

205 W Monroe
Suite 311
Chicago, IL 60606



Nearly 1 in 4 children in the United States live in households that struggle to put food on the table.

Offering of Letters Workshop:

Bridging the Gap for Struggling Families

**Saturday, March 13, 2010
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Light breakfast and registration at 8:30 a.m.

Parkway United Church of Christ
2841 N Ballas Road
St. Louis, MO 63131



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www.bread.org

What is an Offering of Letters?

Each year, Bread for the World invites individuals, churches and groups across the country to write letters to their members of Congress on specific legislation that is important to hungry people. Nearly a quarter million letters are written, which sends a powerful message to our political leaders and moves us closer to the goal of ending hunger in our time.

Sometimes we worry that we need to be an expert on hunger, “plugged in” to politics or a contemporary theologian to be an effective advocate for ending hunger. But all we really need is a desire to use our voices to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. Regardless of your background, you have skills to bring and share.

During the workshop you can expect to learn not only how to hold an Offering of Letters in your community, campus or church but also how to teach others to do the same in their settings. Bread will provide you with everything you need—we hope you’ll come!

2010 Workshop Schedule

- Registration and breakfast
- Welcome, Prayer & Introductions
- Speaker—Peggy Schaefer
- 2010 Offering of Letters: *Bridging the Gap*
- Break
- Breakout Sessions
 - Track 1– How to Plan Your First Offering of Letters
 - Track 2– How to Expand Your Offering of Letters
- Closing



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Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation’s decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities in which we live.

St. Louis Offering of Letters Workshop

Saturday March 13, 2010
8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

To register, e-mail Gayle Lyles at flyles@sbcglobal.net or fill out and mail this form to:

Gayle Lyles
1319 Brandywine Ln
St. Peters, MO 63376-6510
636-441-6068

Online registration available at www.bread.org/stl2010

This is a FREE event. A light breakfast will be provided. Please register in advance so we can get an accurate count for breakfast.

- I'll be there
 I will be bringing _____ friend(s)

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

E-mail

Church/Campus/Group

Questions? Contact the Chicago Office
Phone: 800-447-0239
E-mail: breadchicago@bread.org
www.bread.org