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## Union Mission Thanksgiving Food Distribution: Fact Sheet

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\* Union Mission provides food to **37 sites** in **19 West Virginia counties** for our Thanksgiving food distribution.

\* Locally, **six churches host distribution services**, staffed by Union Mission representatives and church volunteers.

\* **1,389 families have signed up** to receive food baskets at those six churches. At our sites **outside the Kanawha Valley**, approximately **10,000 families** will receive baskets.

\* Each family has approximately four members, giving us a ballpark of **5,556 individuals fed locally** and **40,000 fed at sites outside the Kanawha Valley**. That puts the **total number of people we expect to feed on Saturday at 45,556**.

\* The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Nov. 16 reported that in 2008, **49 million households in America lacked access to basic nutrition, which was 13 million more families in 2007. It was the highest level of hunger reported since the USDA began tracking the data in 1995.** (The full report is available online at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/features/householdfoodsecurity/>)

\* Additionally, the New York Times reported that, according to USDA data, “a third of struggling households had what the researchers called ‘very low food security,’ meaning that members of the household skipped meals, cut portions or passed on food at some point during the year because they lacked money. The other two-thirds managed to feed themselves by eating cheaper or less varied foods, relying on government aid like food stamps or resorting to food pantries and soup kitchens, which have been seeing heavier and heavier traffic in recent years.” (Source: The New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/18/opinion/18wed2.html>)