Hunger Crossword Puzzle
A lesson exploring the basics of hunger and the programs in place to help
Age: Elementary & Middle School

Overview
This crossword puzzle is intended to teach students about some of the basics of hunger and the resources that are available to help people that are in need. Many young people will not know the vocabulary used in this puzzle. Therefore, it will be helpful to spend a few minutes reviewing the words and their definitions. Please also take this time to explain a little about what your organization is doing for Souper Bowl of Caring and the local resources that are available to help people in need in your community.

Aims & Objectives
The students will:
• Be able to define and explain the basics of hunger
• Be able to define and explain some of the programs and services in place to help the hungry

Materials Needed
• Make copies of the Hunger Crossword Puzzle Worksheet

Answer Key
1. Working Poor
2. Food Insecurity
3. Food Security
4. Charity
5. Food Pantry
6. Soup Kitchen
7. Food Bank
8. Souper Bowl
9. Hunger
Instructions

1. As a group review the vocabulary and read provided examples.
2. Pass out Hunger Crossword Puzzle Worksheet.
3. Allow students time to complete the activity.
4. Review answers.
Vocabulary Review

CHARITY – the act of giving something to individuals or families in need.

*By participating in Souper Bowl of Caring your group is doing an act of charity.*

FOOD BANK - a place where food is offered to non-profit agencies for distribution.

*Food banks do not actually distribute food to people or families directly. Food banks are large warehouses that distribute food (at an extremely low price) to other agencies that serve the needy.*

FOOD PANTRY - a charitable program that gives periodic bags of food to the hungry.

*Food pantries are one of the types of agencies that distributes food directly to individuals or families in need. Food pantries might receive a portion of their food from the local food bank.*

FOOD INSECURITY – the limited or uncertain availability of safe, nutritious food.

*There are over 35 million people in the United States living in households that are food insecure. This may seem like an overwhelming number, but many things are being done to try and help.*

FOOD SECURITY – access to enough food to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

*The Souper Bowl of Caring donations are given to organizations that try to help households become food secure.*

HUNGER – the uneasy or painful sensation caused by involuntary lack of food which may over time result in malnutrition.

*Hunger is the unfortunate consequence of not having enough nutritional food to eat. This is also the issue that Souper Bowl of Caring is trying to help address.*

SOUPER BOWL – a youth movement that has generated over $41 million worth of food and money for people in need since it began in 1990.

*Your group is joining thousands of young people across the nation who are raising food and money to help people in their own communities.*

SOUP KITCHEN – a charitable program that provides free meals to hungry people.

*Soup kitchens are another type of agency that serves people in need directly. Soup kitchens offer a free meal, as opposed to offering a box or more of groceries.*

WORKING POOR – people that are employed but whose wages from work are not enough to raise them above the federal poverty line.

*Many people who are working full-time jobs have difficulty making enough money to make ends meet. By the time they pay rent, utilities, car payments, medical expenses, etc. there is not enough money left for food. The agencies mentioned above help people during these times.*
Using the clues below fill in the crossword puzzle.

**Across**

2. The limited or uncertain availability of safe, nutritious food. (2 words)
6. A charitable program that provides free meals to hungry people. (2 words)
8. A youth movement that has raised over $41 million for people in need since it began in 1990. (2 words)
9. The uneasy or painful sensation caused by involuntary lack of food which may over time result in malnutrition.

**Down**

1. People that are employed but whose wages from work are not enough to raise them above the federal poverty line. (2 words)
3. Access to enough food to maintain a healthy lifestyle. (2 words)
4. The act of giving something to individuals or families in need.
5. A charitable program that gives periodic bags of food to the hungry. (2 words)
7. A place where food is offered to nonprofit agencies for distribution. (2 words)