

The Truth and The Facts: Food Inequality on Long Island

A Photovoice slideshow on
food in daily life and
community

“Photovoice is a method by which people can identify, represent, and enhance their community through a specific photographic technique.”

Wang and Burris, 1997

The Mastics and Shirley



Sub Total	\$26.05
Food Tax	\$0.00
General Exc	\$0.00
Non Prescrip	\$0.00
Sales Tax	\$1.29
Total	\$27.34
Tip	



Empty Boxes

These are boxes from the pantry that served 75 families seconds ago. I lost my job, the kids have disabilities...got sick with portal vein thrombosis, LIPA had a power surge and I lost 2 refrigerators in one month....don't judge this can happen to anyone, no status is saved.



Looking for Sales

This helps with the Food Stamp budget. I look for sales because Food Stamps don't cover the cost of food within a month's supply. My son goes through a gallon of milk within a week. And the local store has it on sale usually every other week. If not on sale, no milk.



Dollar Store

This is a \$27 shopping spree that will last for four days to one week. Can't purchase more food until my husband's next bi-weekly check. And I can't afford to buy anywhere else, stretch those dollars....No name products, unhealthy choices, limited meals, children's snacks not my first choice.



Food Line

I go to the pantry truck on Thursday afternoons to help stretch the food budget. Many people are in need in the area. As the weather gets warmer, the line gets longer.



Mold on my Ceiling

The mold is growing on the ceiling at my house. The roofer wants \$6,000 to fix my roof and I don't have it. My entire family has asthma brought on by the mold. I have to decide do I pay for food or save money to get my roof fixed?



Bag Lunch

It's much cheaper to bring lunches to works...due to finances. Times at work people will go for fast food or order in. If I participate then something else "suffers." It may only be \$5 but it will make a big difference during the month.



Buying healthy is

...

getting harder on our pocket books...





Stove

Sometimes meals are prepared days ahead and made into smaller portions and are able to be a meal for one at several different times. A lot of family holiday occasion meals made here. Times of bonding, laughter and even tears. Sometimes a good home cooked meal can be the best medicine.



Manager's Special

Being mindful of 'special' or 'manager's special' means reduced price. Usually close to last date of sale. If I buy it, freeze it, I have options of what to prepare with a variety of meals. It gives me the ability to provide 'normal' so no one feels deprived.



SQUATTERS

Squatters living in this house, they party all night, do drugs and fight. Twice the cops came and threw them out but they came back. I live in fear because it's behind my house and I use the machete and bat to protect my family from these squatters.

Food Fight





Passover

This is my friend. She's also struggling. She was kind enough to invite my family over to join her family at the Passover table. I thought it was nice because she barely had food for herself and she said "Why don't you guys come over for Passover?"



FORECLOSURE

A house that has been foreclosed for a while, probably an eviction happened based on the sign on the door. It touched me because it took me back to my two year ordeal with the bank and my not being able to pay them for my mortgage. They put me through hell. These homes represent lives, children, generations. What was accomplished by throwing people out. Now they need all services - food, shelter, money.



Closed Down Chicken Place

This was a local fast food chicken place that closed down. It's said it will become a bank. Do we really need another bank when I don't have any money to put in it? I could use another 99 cent store which is convenient for me.



I saw this elderly couple when I was leaving the store. ... And while I saw them shopping, I saw them going back and forth and picking up one thing and putting it back and then going to the next type of exactly the same thing. And when I took this picture, it just really hit me—the pocketbook. It is hitting you there when you are trying to find healthy food, that's where it hits us.

The Truth and the Facts

The truth is what we're really living and the facts are what they think we're living. A family of five can't live on what you think we can live on.

