Students will explore hunger in America
For the 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance, students will explore the complex issue of hunger within the local community. Working in coordination with Feeding America or a representative from a local food bank, soup kitchen or community pantry, students will organize a community service project that begins on 9/11 Day and continues for a period determined by students and teachers.

**Learn! Questions to investigate before getting started**

In a nation as wealthy as America, why do some people go hungry? How many children wake up hungry every day? What are the statistics about hunger in your local community? What about among students at your school? Are certain groups more affected than others? Which local organizations currently help those experiencing, or are at risk of, hunger? What are the types of federal, state and local programs that are most successful and why? What strategies don’t work? Which ones do?

- **Read some personal stories** about hunger in America at Feeding America, [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org).
- **Ask students to brainstorm** ways to help raise awareness about the issue of hunger and to support the efforts of community organizations to help those most in need locally.

**Plan! Helpful hints to prepare for your 9/11 Day Project**

Explain to students that the best way to serve their community is to first understand what is needed. To find out this information, have them engage a community member working directly with those experiencing hunger in the local community. Contact a local food bank, soup kitchen or community pantry and arrange for a representative to visit your school to speak with students about their own work and how the students can help fight hunger in the community.

- **Have students** work in small teams to research the organization sending a representative to speak to the class. Ask students to generate a list of questions they would like to ask the visiting representative, with a particular focus on the needs of the population they serve and ways to help.
- **Select a date** for the visit and secure necessary permissions from the school.
- **On the day of the visit**, have students take turns asking their questions and encourage them to take notes.
Do! Ready, Set, Go!

Drawing on the insights of the visiting expert, have students work in small groups to brainstorm service projects that would support the efforts of the food bank, soup kitchen or community pantry. Gather the class and invite each group to share their ideas. Some great projects could include a canned food drive, bake sale, charity walk or student artwork auction.

- **Make a thank you card** to send to the representative who visited your class. Be sure to include specific mention of topics your students found interesting as well as a brief outline of your action plan to help fight hunger in the community.

- **Let your community know** about your project and what residents can do to help make it a success by submitting a notice to the school newsletter, sending letters home and placing posters in the school hallways.

- On the day of the event, have as many people as possible participate and be sure to take lots of photos to share!

**Share your good deed on Twitter, #911Day and #911DayTeacher, and other social media channels.** Let the world know what your class did to pay tribute on 9/11 Day by sharing your good deed and photos on Twitter or Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat or other social media channels, using the tag #911Day. The 9/11 Day organization may even feature them on its website throughout the week of 9/11.

Keep It Going! Ideas to continue your 9/11 Day Project or inspire others to get started

Have students write a newspaper-style article about the class project and what they learned about hunger in their community. Encourage students to include statistics about hunger, a direct quote or two from students or community members who participated in the project and a statement about the impact of the project.

- **Invite representatives** from other organizations addressing hunger to speak to the class.

- **If possible, develop an additional student project** to pursue before the end of the school year. Encourage students to take on additional responsibility and ownership of this project.

- **Write letters to government representatives** encouraging them to visit a food bank and learn more about the needs of those experiencing hunger. Not sure what to say? Feeding America has sample letters to use.

- **Organize a day of service** around Thanksgiving at a nearby food bank or soup kitchen.

- **Start a school club** focused on addressing hunger in the community.

Visit [feedingamerica.org](https://feedingamerica.org) for more ideas.