

**3 CENTS A MEAL MATTERS.....
IT REALLY DOES!!
TAKE A "CENTS-ABILITY" OFFERING**

SMALL AMOUNTS FROM MANY ADD UP



Cents-ability is a strategy for raising awareness – and funds – for the fight against hunger. It is an opportunity to invite every member – young and old – to contribute a few cents at every meal. This simple act is an expression of thanks for what we have each received. It is also a commitment to share our blessings with others. Collectively, it can make a difference.

Some churches promote this activity all year and collect monthly. Others take an annual collection. That is optional, but the reality of hunger needs is not. Your church's offering will help to feed the hungry. It is a simple activity, but many pennies, nickels and dollars add up and collectively help those in need.

The "2 Cents a Meal" concept was originated by Presbyterian women in 1976 and has continued under slightly different names, but the concept has been constant. The funds raised are in addition to "One Great Hour of Sharing" and other PCUSA benevolences, and provide an opportunity for groups, families and individuals to participate and help consistently to lessen world hunger.

***Cents-ability* collections are divided this way:**

¼ is kept by the local church for their local needs.

¼ goes to the Presbytery.

The Mission and Justice Committee bi-annually chooses a charitable organization located within the bounds of Peace River Presbytery, with an inclusive program that helps people with hunger needs. This organization is subject to annual review but usually receives the funds for two years. Organization recipients are rotated around the Presbytery. This year the recipient is Misión Peniel in Immokalee.

½ is sent to the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Peace River designates its portion of funds to the Guatemala Rights Action.

In 2008, 17 churches contributed \$15,500.00 Just think of the results if all 38 churches would contribute. Encourage this simple giving by YOUR church. It is a simple way of sharing, but the results matter!

For more information and promotional suggestions, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/hunger/centsability.htm>.

Article submitted by Gerri Westlund, advisory member of the Mission and Justice Committee.