

There was a time when the popular notion about the way to solve hunger was just to have "more food and less people." Our generation has come to a better understanding that assuring food for all is a complex issue, and our awareness of that complexity continues to grow as we face the inescapable interdependence of our small world. World food security is compounded by politics, economics, culture, gender, bioethics, weather, the ozone layer, deforestation, GATT talks, monetary policies, demographics. One in ten Americans depends on food stamps, one in ten children worldwide suffers from malnutrition. There are bread lines in the former Soviet republics, famines in Africa, floods in Asia, debt in Latin America . . . a seemingly endless litany of human and natural disasters.

How do we cope? Where do we find hope?

First, it's important to remember that in these last years of the 20th Century, with the Cold War behind us, we have an historic opportunity to create and perfect the structures on which ultimate hunger elimination can rest -- based on interdependence of nations, peace with justice, earth stewardship and human rights, including the right to food.

Second, we remember we are not alone. For more than a decade we have had a unique and universal opportunity through World Food Day to put our energies and resources together. All around the world this Day is a source of people power which is being used by individuals, communities and nations to help make a difference.

After a year as momentous as 1991 it is easy to lose sight of thousands of people quietly going about this work of helping feed their neighbors, confronting policymakers about unacceptable conditions, studying and equipping themselves to be better citizens, sharing of their substance so that others might know a better life, penetrating the complexity with the simple but profound truth that working together works! YOU -- each of you -- who contributes to the ongoing World Food Day story is what World Food Day is all about . . . and we thank you.



Patricia Young
National Coordinator