



# Just Harvest News

A PUBLICATION OF THE JUST HARVEST EDUCATION FUND

## State Budget Stalemate Leaves Poor Behind Just Harvest Members Call for Action



On July 16, Just Harvest members joined with community partners and traveled to Harrisburg to propose a solution to the state budget crisis. This trip was in response to planned budget cuts to human services, such as disability programs, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and child care for the families of 5,400 children. Just Harvest and our allies are deeply concerned about how these cuts will harm Pennsylvania’s low-income families.

Other local partners- Pgh. Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG), Action Housing, the Housing Alliance and other community development groups also participated.

Just Harvest members spoke with members of the General Assembly from Allegheny County and proposed a limited, temporary increase in the personal income tax (PIT) to provide funding for these vital social programs, as proposed in Gov. Rendell’s budget. Several members privately supported such an increase, but said they could not vote for an increase in income taxes if they wished to remain in office. The legislators and their staffers mentioned alternatives to raising the PIT, such as using the Rainy Day Fund, adding a tax on smokeless tobacco, and closing some corporate loopholes, which would allow funding to continue for these important programs. This feedback will help Just Harvest plan our next steps for a humane state budget and our quest for economic justice.

A press conference/rally in Garfield attended by almost 100 people and a targeted phone bank the next week added to the pressure on the legislators.

**Aggie Brose**, of Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and PCRG (Pgh Community Reinvestment Group) calls for increasing state revenues to pay for state programs that serve people and strengthen our communities. Over 100 people attended the press conference/rally on July 23 in Garfield. They called for legislators to get off their duffs and find the money. Photo: Paula Martinac



## State Advocates Cheer as PA Welfare Department Expands Food Stamp Eligibility

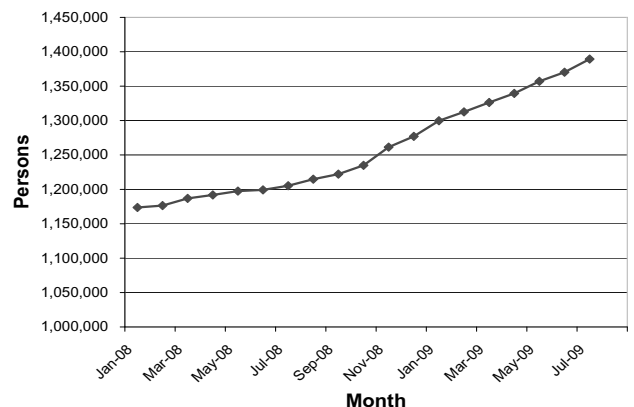
A family of four on food stamps got an average of \$80 extra beginning last April, thanks to the federal economic stimulus package. Now, for the first time in 30 years, Pennsylvania has raised the income guidelines for the program. A family of four can now be eligible for food stamps if their gross income is \$33,924. (Previously, the eligibility guideline was \$27,564 for a family of 4.)

“This is great,” said **Brian Gilmore**, VISTA volunteer and part of Just Harvest’s food stamp team. “We’ve seen some people who were just over the line of eligibility. It made us so sad, because they were in so much need, but the income guidelines kept them from being eligible. The new guidelines won’t solve hunger,” he continued, “but it will make a big difference in the lives of many families.”

Just Harvest is trying to re-contact all the families we talked to, who may be between the old and new guidelines to inform them about the new rules.

In July we completed 120 food stamp applications. We did 82 in June.

People on Food Stamps in Pennsylvania 2008-09



## Perspective



by  
Raj Patel

### **G-Force – A Crash Course in the G20**

If you're curious about what to expect from the G-20 summit, history's a good guide. The deliberations of the group of the twenty most powerful economies in Pittsburgh will follow in the footsteps of a long and unsavory tradition.

In the beginning, in 1975, was the G-6 – a group of powerful countries convened by France to plot a course for the global economy. The countries in the club had a couple of things in common. First, they were all, in various ways, imperial powers – Britain, France, Italy, Japan, West Germany and the US. The sun had set on the German and Japanese empires, but still lingered over those of the other countries. Over the next two decades, Canada and Russia would join the party to form the G-8

The priorities of this group were shaped by the second thing they all had in common – a shared vision of how the planet's economics and politics should be arranged. All of the countries subscribed to 'the Washington Consensus', a manifesto for bringing the private sector into every crevice of social life, privatizing everything from health care to food to water, and providing business opportunities for the world's largest corporations, at the expense of the world's poorest people.

Times have changed, though, and the world's most powerful countries are no longer exclusively to be found in the Northern Hemisphere. The G-20 reflects the new global realities. The world's two most populous countries – India and China – are now members, as are Brazil, South Africa and a small clutch of other countries in what used to be called the Third World.

The representatives of the world's poor have now been invited to the party, but the policies being discussed are still the same, geared toward benefiting the rich over the poor. On the agenda at this G-20 summit, for instance, is a stock-taking exercise to assess what has been done to combat the financial crisis. The US has written a very big check to keep the finance industry in business, and although there will be some grumbling from Europe that Wall Street is under-regulated, the summit will likely end amid the patter of backs being slapped in mutual self-congratulation.

Missing from the talks, though, are any concerns about hunger, poverty or unemployment. Although a recent survey showed more people on Earth concerned about food prices than banking, the agenda will continue to be set by the powerful.

So the Group of Six is now the Group of Twenty, and the club of people with power has more members, but so does the club of the disenfranchised. Yet the fact remains that the powerful only get away with their machinations because the majority of people allow them to. On the streets in Pittsburgh will be a wave of protests revoking that permission, reminding governments exactly who's in charge, and what the real priorities of the world's people are.

**Raj Patel** is an internationally-known journalist and activist. He will be the guest speaker at Just Harvest's 21st Annual Harvest Celebration Dinner, Wednesday, October 21. His latest book, **Stuffed and Served: The Hidden Battle for the World Food System**, is available at the East End Food Co-op, 7516 Meade Street, Point Breeze.

**A broad group of concerned people will make their voices heard during the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh in late September. Check out the activities at [www.thomasmertoncenter.org](http://www.thomasmertoncenter.org).**

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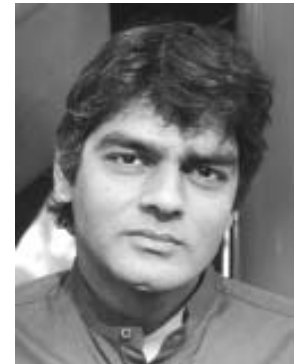
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**Just Harvest News** is published by the **Just Harvest Education Fund** four times each year and is sent to all members. We hope you will join **Just Harvest** by sending in membership dues: \$25, or \$5 for low-income.

*A copy of Just Harvest's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*



**Just Harvest  
A Center for Action  
Against Hunger**

#### **Our Mission Statement**

Just Harvest is a membership organization which promotes economic justice and works to influence public policy and to educate, empower, and mobilize the citizens of our community toward the elimination of hunger and poverty.

# National News

## Legislation to Help Hungry Children is in the Hopper in Congress

There is no one bill in Congress for child nutrition reauthorization, but we continue to work with our partners across the country, building a strong campaign for child nutrition legislation. Individual Congress members are picking their priorities and introducing bills. Our goals: improve and expand program access and participation; improve the nutrition of the meals and snacks served; minimize unnecessary paperwork; and provide the federal investments necessary to accomplish these goals.

The health care crisis in Congress has pushed this reauthorization back to probably October. Some of the programs will have to receive temporary reauthorization if they're not completed by September 30.

Current bills are:

**AFTERSchool Meals Act of 2009 (S. 990)** Expands the Afterschool Meal Program to allow children from all states to benefit from a nutritious meal after school. Presently only ten states (including Pennsylvania) participate.

**Hunger Free Schools Act of 2009 (S. 1343).** Expands access by allowing schools with a high proportion of low-income children to serve free meals to all students and be reimbursed based on socioeconomic data rather than individual applications; requires schools to utilize data from Medicaid and other low-income programs to determine a child's eligibility.

**School Breakfast Expansion Grants: The Student Breakfast and Education Improvement Act (S. 1480/H.R. 3277)** Provides grants to expand school breakfast programs in schools with high percentages of low-income students. It encourages implementation of universal (free) classroom breakfast and would provide important financial support to schools seeking to improve the quality and convenience of their breakfast service in order to reach more students in high-need districts. It encourages creative programming, including serving breakfast during the school day or incorporating local food into the breakfasts and lessons, (including field trips to local farms). Encourages a universal free breakfast program, to increase the quantity of local and fresh food available.

**ACTION: Tell your Representative and Senators to cosponsor these bills. Senator Casey is a sponsor of S. 1343, and S. 581. None of our local House members are co-sponsoring any of the House bills.**

**Military Family Nutrition Protection Act of 2009, S.581,** co-sponsored by Sen. Casey Excludes combat pay from household income in calculating a child's eligibility for free or reduced price meals under the school lunch program and requires states to exclude combat pay from family income in making eligibility determinations under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for women, infants, and children (WIC).

**Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act of 2009 (S. 934/ H.R. 1324)** Regulates the sale of foods sold in schools outside of the federal school nutrition programs ("competitive foods"). Updates the definition of nutritional foods for such foods, to correspond with current nutrition science.



## Some Jobless Lose Food Stamps Because Of \$25 Stimulus Check

When President Obama increased unemployment benefits as part of his economic stimulus, he also made some Americans ineligible for hundreds of dollars a month in food stamps (now called SNAP- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Under the plan, laid-off workers getting unemployment checks get an additional \$25 per week. It sounds good, but this extra money has pushed many people over the food stamp limit, making them ineligible for benefits that can exceed this \$25 bonus.

And for those hurt by the change, there's no way around it. People have no option not to accept the \$25 per week.

Because unemployment benefits and food stamp eligibility both vary from state to state, it's impossible to say how many people are hurting. But government officials claim that it's a small number of people compared with the number who are benefiting from the increase in unemployment benefits.

We don't know if Congress members knew that this stimulus payment would hurt some people. After all, the stimulus checks were intended to ease the effects of the recession not cancel out benefits from other programs. **Stacy Dean** from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities thinks they probably did know, but were in a rush to pass the stimulus and get the money out the door—and they weren't thinking too much about the implications. Also, changes in states' computers to segregate this \$25 from other (countable) income would have been expensive.

Congress could have declared that the \$25 stimulus payments would not affect food stamp eligibility. But they didn't.

Food stamp eligibility is based on a strict gross income guideline, depending on family size for most people under 60 or not disabled.

The stimulus law was intended not just as a jolt to the economy but also to ease the burden. Besides unemployment benefits, the stimulus law also increased food stamp benefits and the income guidelines for eligibility which probably softened the blow, somewhat.

Officials in Washington say they know about this problem but changing things requires changing the law. States could do this one by one, or Congress could do it.

### FOOD STAMPS GETS NEW NAME

Extensive debate throughout the country has resulted in a new national name for the food stamp program: SNAP or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Pennsylvania is one of the 27 states which have adopted this new name. Seventeen states are changing to or using alternate names, three still call it the Food Stamp Program, and a few are still undecided. We wonder how long it will take for this new name to be recognized by the general populace.

# State News



## State Budget Deadlock Drags On

Pennsylvania's state fiscal year is now 6 weeks old, and as of press time we have no budget. Last year ended with a \$3.2 billion shortfall. A temporary "bridge" plan of \$11 billion was adopted August 5, permitting most (but not all) of the state employees to be paid and the state to maintain mandated services and fulfill their basic health and safety responsibilities.

Gov. Rendell has demanded that lawmakers stay in Harrisburg to finish creating a balanced budget. But talks between him and the Republicans are deadlocked – mired in a deeply partisan and ideological morass. The debate centers on revenue needs and taxes, in a crisis economy where every sector is hurting. Raising revenues is critical to stave off extensive cuts in key programs. The Republicans, bolstered by a vocal and angry minority, disagree.

Meanwhile, child care and other human service programs across the Commonwealth are starting to lay people off and curtail their services, while other programs which help people are on hold. Republicans have rejected a broad-based increase in the Personal Income Tax; several other less comprehensive measures are being considered. Observers feel that the current \$18 million for food banks (State Food Purchase Program) is not threatened, although advocates had called for a large increase.

One of the worst of these proposals is a change in how corporations calculate their taxes which would provide a windfall for a few large companies but do nothing to help most of the corporations in the state.

By the time you read this we hope the officials in Harrisburg will have decided to put away their toys and save the citizens of Pennsylvania.

**ACTION:** Call your PA Senator and Representative and tell them to pass a complete, fair budget now, to protect our services.



This poster, displayed at the July 23 press conference/rally in Garfield protesting the budget cuts, gives a graphic portrayal of the people who suffer from these budget cuts. Standing left to right: **Craig Stevens** (Parental Stress Center), **Lucy Spruill** (UCP-United Cerebral Palsy), **Gwen Williams** (PSC) and **Stephanie Badstibner**, ACTION Housing. Photo: Paula Martinac.

## Babies and Moms Due for More Healthy Foods



**C**arol Janesko, Outreach Coordinator for Allegheny County WIC, came out to talk with JH staff about the new food packages going into effect in October. "We're really thrilled," she said, "and the moms are also. Finally they'll be able to buy fruits and vegetables, canned beans, whole grain and rice products."

"The package of foods they are allowed to buy hasn't changed in 35 years," Carol said, "and neither has the value of the package – about \$35. But at least these packages are more nutritious."

Other major changes include not allowing full-fat milk for children over 2, and children over 6 months will not get juice but they can buy jarred fruits and vegetables.

WIC is a nutrition/health program for pregnant and nursing moms and children up to 6 years old who are financially eligible and at nutritional risk. The participant gets vouchers for specific food items up to a total of \$35 a month. The health considerations previously centered on public health issues like anemia and low protein. Now, the packages focus more on overweight and dietary fiber. The income guidelines for a family of three are \$33,874 per year, or \$2,823 per month, or \$652 per week. Call WIC, 1-800-WIC-WINS to apply.

## NEARLY \$5 MILLION LEFT ON THE TABLE BY SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania is leaving almost \$5 million on the table in unused summer food program funds because of low participation, says a new report by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). This is not a good sign for families with children in this state.

According to FRAC's latest *Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation* report, Pennsylvania ranks 13th highest among the states in Summer Food participation. If statewide participation reached FRAC's target of 40% of all children in the free and reduced price school lunch program, Pennsylvania would be serving 75,000 more low-income children and receive \$4.9 million more in federal child nutrition funding.

**Shauna Ponton**, Child Nutrition Advocate at Just Harvest observes that as the economy continues to decline, many families depend on the Summer Food Program to help stretch their food dollars.

"We are doing a good job reaching hungry children in the summer, but we can do better," she said. "We need to plan for better outreach in those areas where we know there are children, and work closely with sponsors around the Commonwealth to ensure that every child has access to food during the long summer months."

According to the report, summer nutrition programs in Pennsylvania reached 121,937 children in July 2008. That's only 24.8% of the children who receive free and reduced price school lunches during the school year.

In order to get this extra money, Pennsylvania needs to step up to the plate and work harder to reach those children in need.

You can see the full report at FRAC's website [www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org).

# Local News

## Nutritious Breakfast in School Feeds More Kids

Last winter we reported that in the 2008-09 school year the Pittsburgh School District began offering a free breakfast to all the children in the schools. And the participation numbers skyrocketed. Participation increased 38% over last year! Food Service Director **Michael Peck** attributes this increase to Universal Free Meals, as well as to increasing hot breakfast from 2 times to 4 times per week, improved menu options including whole grain items and reduced sugar cereals. The bottom line: more children are eating a nutritious meal in school in the morning, although still only 36% of the enrolled students participate.

In another boost for hungry school children, PA Education Secretary **Gerald L. Zahorchak** announced a policy directive in March allowing schools to count as instructional time, the time children are served breakfast in their homeroom or other classroom. The state has "Breakfast Brigaders" working with interested schools to help them implement the Breakfast in the Classroom program.

**David Lloyd**, Food Service Director at Harrisburg City School District, is a Breakfast Brigader because he sees, first hand, the benefits that have occurred in his school district.

"Teachers are finding the students to be more attentive, better behaved and ready to learn after they have had breakfast," Lloyd said. "Tardiness has decreased as well as absenteeism. ... there are fewer visits to the nurse before lunch due to hunger related headaches and stomach aches."



## Local Food Policy Council to Tackle Production, Access



*Harvest Valley Farm sells lots of nutritious, local food at Market Square. Because of construction, The Farmers Market is moving to Gateway Plaza between Gateway II and the Hilton.*

As we see the demise of grocery stores in urban areas, small farms being gobbled up by urban sprawl, and access to affordable healthy food declining, citizens across the country are demanding that local policy makers address these issues. Calling on their elected officials to view food and agriculture as a critical part of planning, food policy councils are making a difference. Here, a new Pittsburgh Area Food Policy council has been meeting for several months and drawing up some goals.

The group has conferred with councils in Portland Oregon, Chicago and Athens, Ohio, and defined five areas to look at locally: food production, access, distribution, health & nutrition education, and sustainable planning and development.

So far the council is developing a charter and looking into ways that city zoning can encourage community gardening/ farming on a greater scale, convincing the city to provide permanent locations for farmers markets, and making food stamps redeemable at farmers markets.

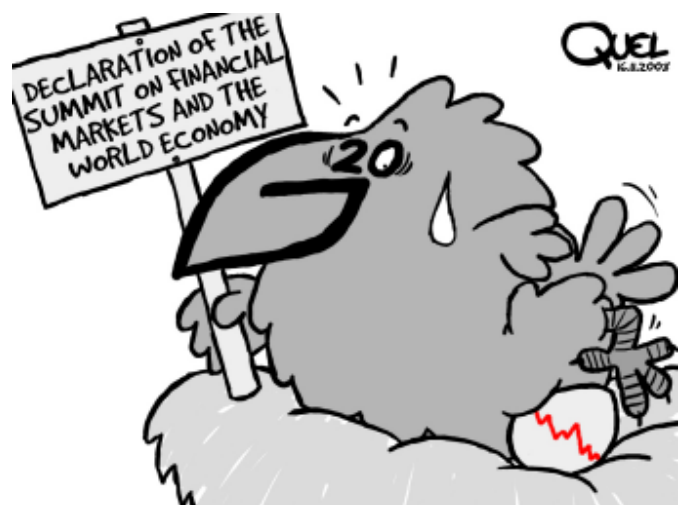
In addition to Just Harvest, Pittsburgh participants include people from Allegheny Greenworks, Penn State Cooperative Extension, the East End Food Coop, PASA, Grow Pittsburgh, Steel City Soils, East Liberty Development, the Greater Pgh Community Food Bank, **Sen. Jim Ferlo**, and representatives from City Council and **Mayor Ravenstahl's** office.

## In Memoriam

### Mary Anne Kelly

In the early 1990's, Just Harvest and our allies won a major anti-hunger initiative from Allegheny County. One component of that initiative was to better coordinate work on hunger issues that stretched across several County departments. What eventually became the County's Bureau of Hunger and Housing was then one point person on hunger: **Mary Anne Kelly**. Just Harvest was deeply saddened by news of Mary Anne's death on July 16 at the age of 56. When Mary Anne left County government to become executive director of Southwestern PA Partnership for Aging in 1994, we described her in these pages as "one of the most committed and accessible officials we've encountered." Elderly and poor people in our community benefited greatly from her years of compassionate service and advocacy.

## Join G-20 Protests & Activities



Visit [www.thomasmertoncenter.org](http://www.thomasmertoncenter.org) to follow the plans.

# In the Community

## Comings and Goings

Just Harvest was happy to welcome two summer additions to our team, **Allison Gaffen** and **Allison Diehl**. Both Pitt Law School students, the Allison's did legal research regarding the Food Stamp/SNAP program that will help us bolster our advocacy efforts and reduce barriers to accessing the benefits. They have provided evidence for our suspicion that the PA Welfare Department requires too many verification documents, thereby rejecting people who are eligible.



Allison Gaffen



Allison Diehl

We're also sad to say good-bye to summer intern **Paul Shetler Fast**, who did an excellent job of redesigning our website, creating a media contact and press database, and getting our Food Stamp Barriers report ready to be published. You'll be able to check out his work soon at [www.justharvest.org](http://www.justharvest.org). After leaving Just Harvest, Paul is taking a well-deserved vacation to visit his brother in India before returning to graduate school.



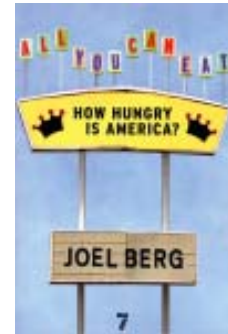
Paul Shetler Fast

Two of our part-time food stamp specialists have moved on to new and exciting positions. **Lou Hanson**, who came to us as a Pitt School of Social Work intern, and stayed to help Just Harvest do food stamp applications, has accepted a full-time position at the Allegheny Children's Initiative. **Sara Bennett**, who remains a part of Just Harvest as a board member, also took a full-time position with Hilltop Community Alliance on the southside slopes. We wish the best of luck to both of them in their new positions.

**Ken Munz**, our Board Treasurer has joined the food stamp staff on a part-time temporary basis to help us meet the increasing needs. He has experience working with homeless groups in San Francisco and in information technology.

Finally, Just Harvest welcomes two new AmeriCorps VISTAs, who will spend a year working full-time with us. **Noah Whelan**, our new Organizing and Outreach assistant, comes to us as a recent graduate from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Creative Nonfiction. His enthusiasm for making a difference is immediately apparent, and he grew up in the anti-hunger movement (his father, Tim Whelan, headed the Central PA Food Bank.)

**Maria Muzzie**, our Access to Public Benefits Organizer, brings to Just Harvest a diverse history of activism and community organizing. She has worked with Clean Water Action, the AFL-CIO, and on campaigns for city councilman **Bruce Kraus** and **Barack Obama**. She hopes to use her interest in writing and journalism to get Just Harvest's message out to the community.



## Anti-Hunger Activist, Joel Berg, to Speak Again in Pittsburgh

**Joel Berg**, Executive Director of New York Coalition Against Hunger and author of **All You Can Eat....How Hungry is America?** returns to Pittsburgh by popular demand, to tell us about why 36.2 million Americans live in households that can't afford food. And what we can do about it. His solutions are comprehensive, his delivery joyful. Berg will speak about "Why we have hunger in the US and How can we end it?" on **Thursday Sept. 17** at CMU in Porter 100 Gregg Hall at 4:30 pm. The lecture and book-signing are free.

## Special Offer Supports Just Harvest

The Pella Window and Door Windowscaping Centers in the Pittsburgh area is teaming up with Just Harvest to donate 2% of any residential Pella-installed sales that come from Just Harvest friends. The premier name in window and door replacement, Pella offers a complete line of windows and doors to meet any budget and aesthetic appeal including vinyl, fiberglass, and wood. So if you've been thinking about replacing some of your windows, now's your chance!



For your FREE in-home estimate contact 877-456-9105, or visit [www.pellafriends.com/justharvest](http://www.pellafriends.com/justharvest). If you chose to stop by a Pella showroom located in McMurray, Wexford, or Monroeville please make sure to mention that Just Harvest sent you.

## The More Things Change . . .

*A newly published social history of America in the post-Civil War years suggests interesting parallels to our current time. According to author **Barry Werth** in *Banquet at Delmonico's*, a bubble of financial speculation, widespread corruption in the banking sector, and a credit crisis were among the key causes of the Panic of 1873, one of American history's largest economic collapses. The stock market crashed, massive banks failed overnight, and a government bail-out of investors and bondholders followed swiftly. But the bail-out didn't trickle down to most working people, as factories and small businesses closed, unemployment soared, and tens of thousands had to rely on charity bread lines. The tide was eventually turned in large part by government policies that eased the money supply, though conservatives of the time attacked the plan as "inflationary" and "unsound."*

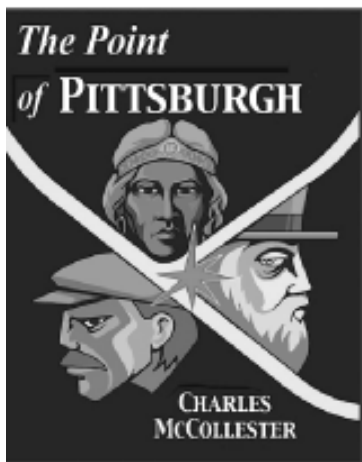
*As **Mark Twain** said, "History doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme."*

## Thank You

Just Harvest Education Fund is grateful to the Three Rivers Community Foundation for a generous grant from its Media Justice Initiative to support our efforts to strengthen media coverage of poverty and economic justice issues. We are thankful to the United Way of Allegheny County for its renewed contract for technical assistance to the Money in Your Pocket Coalition. And special thanks to Carnegie-Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh for their sponsorship of the upcoming Harvest Celebration Dinner. Kudos to Mike Stout, Charlie McCollester, Lynne Squilla and many others for their spring performance of "The Point of Pittsburgh," whose proceeds benefitted Just Harvest and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. (See related article.)

And thanks to our all wonderful supporters: Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park, Sixth Presbyterian Church, Loretta & Robert Barone, Marvin Bellin, Sara Bennett, George Brownell, John & Martha Burkholder, David Caldwell, Rosemary Coffey, Frances Cohen, Robert Foley, Martha Garvey, Benedict & Peggy Gessler, Thomas Gordon, Anne Hawkins, Caroline Fredericka Holdship, Timothy Hrehocik, Laura Jenkins, Michelle Kienholz in honor of Ken Munz, Frank Kirkwood, Jane Kornblith, Caroline & Joseph Kostuch, Irwin Marcus, Mitch & Debbie Levy McKenney, Jon Nelson, Theresa Orlando, Cecilia Pollock, Barbara Recker, Carl Redwood Jr. & Tawnya Farris-Redwood, Joyce Rothermel & Michael Drohan, Lorraine Sauchin, Thomas Scheid, Harold & Marla Scheinman, Amanda & Joshua Shapira, Marjorie Spenser, Frank & Maureen Stagno, Sr. Betty Sundry, Margaret Ward, Rebecca Watkins, Nancy Welfer, Virginia Wellman, Elizabeth Westerman, Fred Will & Linda Morrison, Gina Wilson, and Timothy Zajac.

## Point of Pittsburgh



This grand historical book tells the story of ordinary Pittsburghers — the men and women who did so much to build this city, the most important key to the industrial development that made the United States a world power. The stories of men and women of all races and nationalities who built and labored in the mills, mines, factories and offices. It's hard to find this story in your history class!

Two multi-media performances, based on the book, produced by **Lynne Squilla**, with video by **Paul Carosi** and music by JH board member **Mike Stout**, in November 2008 and June 2009 benefitted Just Harvest and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

To order the book or the CD of companion songs, go to [www.thepointofpittsburgh.com](http://www.thepointofpittsburgh.com)

## Tax News

### The \$400 Tax Credit for Working People Might Have a Hitch

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("stimulus") passed in February included the Making Work Pay Credit (MWPC), a new refundable tax credit for working people. It's worth up to \$400 for an individual and \$800 for a married couple filing jointly. Employers began withholding less tax from paychecks in April so that workers could have the money in small increments now instead of waiting until they file their 2009 tax return. You did not need to do anything to start getting the credit and it won't be counted as taxable income when you file your tax return. If your employer did not change the withholding on your pay, you will be able to claim the MWPC when you file your 2009 tax return.

This extra tax credit is good news for all workers, but because we're getting the money in advance and everyone's situation is different, some people will end up getting more money than they're entitled to and have to pay some back at tax time. Workers in the following categories may want to change their withholding to avoid owing money to the IRS at tax time: workers with more than one job at a time; joint filers when both spouses work; people who work and receive Social Security, SSI or Veteran's Disability benefits; and workers who are claimed as a dependent by someone else.

If you wish to change your withholding to avoid owing additional tax, talk to your employer about withholding additional taxes by changing your W-4 form. For more information about the MWPC and other tax changes from the ARRA, visit us at [www.justharvest.org](http://www.justharvest.org) or the IRS at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Join us at a

**Poverty Simulation**

**Friday, September 18, 2009 1-4pm**

**at the Pitt Student Union Ballroom**

The Poverty Simulation is an eye-opening, participatory activity, where you will share the lives of low-income families, single parents and elderly individuals who struggle daily to make ends meet by seeking assistance from social safety net programs.

The program is free but RSVP's are necessary. Call us at Just Harvest to sign up, 412-431-8960.

## JUST HARVEST SEEKS A CO-DIRECTOR

**J**oni Rabinowitz, one of our founding co-directors and our current Co-Director for Policy, plans to retire at the end of 2009. We are seeking a highly skilled and committed activist to fill the new position of Co-Director for Policy and Communications. This person will serve as our primary public policy spokesperson and manager of our grassroots organizing and mobilization efforts. She/He will also have substantial responsibility for grassroots fundraising and will share Executive Director roles with our Co-Director for Administration and Finance, Ken Regal, in leading a teamwork-focused staff of professionals, interns and volunteers. The

ideal candidate will combine a passionate commitment to Just Harvest's mission, a proven track record of leadership in the community or non-profit sector, and a blend of the following qualifications:

- Outstanding written and oral skills
- Experience serving vulnerable populations
- Public policy analysis and advocacy skills and experience
- Skill in organization or campaign planning
- Experience with event planning, media relations, staff supervision

- Proven ability to work effectively in a team
- Strong computer skills including proficiency with Microsoft Office
- Interest in public affairs
- Ability to juggle multiple duties and assignments
- Well-organized and ability to follow-through; work with a flexible schedule
- Sense of humor
- Bachelors' degree or higher strongly preferred. Drivers' license and car preferred.

You may find more details about the position and procedures for applying, at our website: [www.justharvest.org](http://www.justharvest.org). No phone calls, please.

**Just Harvest  
21<sup>st</sup> Harvest Celebration Dinner  
Wednesday, October 21, 2009  
Omni William Penn**

**Raj Patel**, internationally acclaimed author, journalist and activist on the global food system, will be the keynote speaker. The East End Food Co-op will receive the Seeds of Justice Award. Stupendous Silent Auction, too. (See article about G-20 by Patel on page 2. See flier enclosed.)



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