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Response to “Study Finds Use of Food Pantries Soaring in Mass.”

Boston Globe February 23, 2010

This article paints a true picture of the number of people who are suffering from hunger in this country. The article mainly focuses on Massachusetts, where the use of food pantries has drastically increased over the past few years. Since the recession, the need for help has risen twenty-three percent. It is heartbreaking to read that although the food pantries produce a large amount of food, it is still not enough due to the high demand of people in need. These people are not just using food pantries, but they are also utilizing food stamps and other programs.

After reading this article, it makes me want to help and do something more. It is great that we have food pantries that can produce as much food as they do, but it is not enough to keep up with the negative effects of the recession. This issue needs to be recognized among more Americans. People are aware of the recession and the effects it has on families, but hunger does not seem like a major issue. There are numerous concerns in the United States, but hunger does not seem like a priority.

Another distressing fact is that nearly half of the people surveyed must choose every week between food and other necessities, such as utilities, housing, and medical bills. There has been an obvious drastic increase in the number of people who are struggling to survive. Something more must be done for these people. Clearly food pantries are not cutting it; therefore, we need to start working on the root of the problem. Our government spends too much time focusing on immediate solutions rather than taking time to fix the problem so it does not recur in the future.