

Case Study for Session 2 » Hunger at Our Doorstep



CASE STUDY #2

Brenda and her children

Brenda is a single mother living with two children, ages 5 and 2, and is a member of your congregation. She works part-time at a megastore for \$7.25 an hour. Her abusive and unemployed ex-husband moved out last month, leaving her with no money, no family health insurance, no child support, and a pile of overdue bills. She has no relatives in the area. She has been evicted from her apartment because she can't pay the rent and has to move — but has nowhere to go. She has an old car — but no gas. She missed work all last week because she had to stay home with her sick 2-year old, and her daughter has been complaining of a toothache. She has ten dollars and only a little food in the house. Winter is coming, and the children have outgrown their winter jackets.

1. Make a list of the family's needs. Which are emergency needs? Which are long-term?
2. How does the community lose when the problems of families like Brenda's are not addressed? How does the community benefit when they are?
3. Put yourself in Brenda's place. Imagine her lying awake in bed at night, praying. Write down a prayer you think she might be saying.