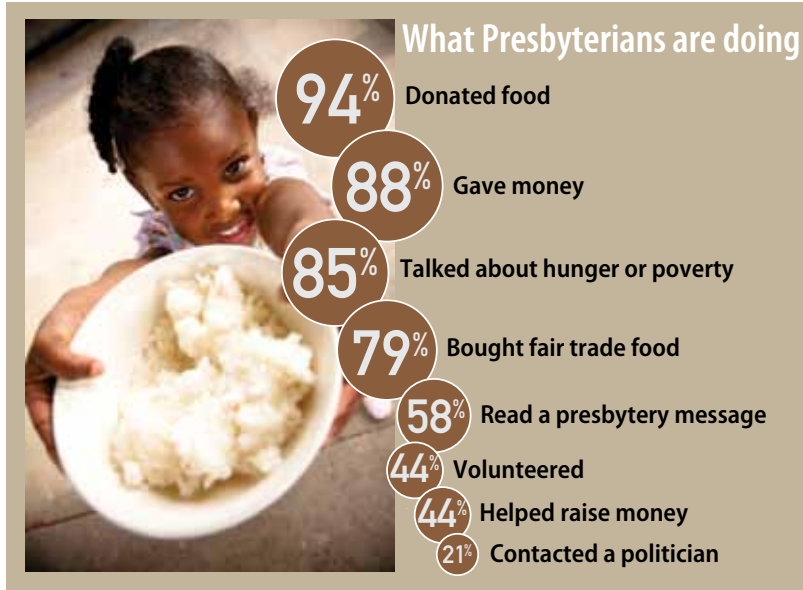


# Taking action to alleviate hunger



## What the research shows

Almost all Presbyterians address hunger concerns in a variety of ways at least occasionally, and many do so with some regularity. All members had participated in one or more of the eight activities listed here in the previous year, with a median of five types of activities. Furthermore, 54 percent had been involved once a month or more often in at least one of the activities, with a median of one type of activity at that frequency.

To be sure, participation in some activities on the list requires little time or commitment. While it may take only a few minutes to donate canned goods or write a check for a hunger ministry, that nine in 10 Presbyterians had done so in the prior year remains impressive. What other cause can claim such widespread—almost universal—support?

Nevertheless, hunger remains a serious problem, despite the ongoing efforts of Presbyterians and many others. According to data released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture last November, one in seven households in the United States experienced some food insecurity in 2009. So there is much more work to be done.

For ideas on how to become more involved, explore the Presbyterian Hunger Program’s website: [www.pcusa.org/hunger](http://www.pcusa.org/hunger)

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What are individual Presbyterians doing to address the many facets of hunger? A lot. In a 2009 survey, majorities of members reported that in the previous year they had done the following at least once:

- **Given food to a food pantry, soup kitchen or other emergency food assistance program** in their community (94 percent, including 28 percent who had done so at least monthly)
- **Given money to a food pantry, soup kitchen** or similar program (88 percent, including 20 percent who had done so at least monthly)
- **Talked about hunger or poverty** with a friend or family member (85 percent; 16 percent at least monthly)
- **Bought fair trade food or coffee** produced outside the United States (79 percent; 31 percent)
- **Read hunger-related communications** from their presbytery (58 percent; 6 percent)

Many—but fewer than half—had also:

- **Volunteered at a food pantry, soup kitchen** or similar program (44 percent, including 8 percent who had done so monthly or more often)
- **Participated in an activity to raise money** to fight hunger or poverty (44 percent; 4 percent)
- **Contacted a politician to express an opinion** on a hunger or poverty issue (21 percent; 2 percent)

» **Other findings** [www.pcusa.org/research](http://www.pcusa.org/research)