

WSC x Repair the World Pittsburgh



Service-Learning Reflection Our Giving Kitchen Pittsburgh

About Our Giving Kitchen Pittsburgh

At **Our Giving Kitchen PGH**, they bring families and friends together to cook for a cause. People of all ages enjoy coming together to cook warm, wholesome meals that will be distributed to those in need.

Our Giving Kitchen was established in 2021 as a response to the Covid pandemic. They bring volunteers together to cook food for those in need. Their programs bring people from all walks of life through their doors creating a sense of inclusion and unity. The goal is to create a community that helps one another and ensures that no one is left hungry or lacking.

Service-Learning Context: Food Justice and Food Security

Helpful Definitions:

Food Justice is communities exercising their right to grow, sell, and eat healthy food. Healthy food is fresh, nutritious, affordable, culturally-appropriate, and grown locally with care for the well-being of the land, workers, and animals.¹

“The Food Justice Movement works to ensure universal access to nutritious, affordable, and culturally-appropriate food for all, while advocating for the well-being and safety of those involved in the food production process. The movement aims to address disparities in food access, particularly for communities of color and low-income communities, by examining the structural roots of our food system. Food Justice addresses questions of land ownership, agricultural practices, distribution of technology and resources, workers’ rights, and the historical injustices communities of color have faced. Food Justice is closely intertwined with environmental justice and sustainability movements.”²

Food Security for a household means access by all members at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life: the availability of nutritional and safe foods and the ability to acquire the food in socially acceptable ways (without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, or other coping strategies).³ **Food Insecurity** is any limitation on that access.

Hunger is an individual-level physiological condition that may result from food insecurity.⁴

¹“What is Food Justice?” Just Food

² “Food Justice.” *Boston University Community Service Center*, <https://www.bu.edu/csc/edref/what-is-food-justice/>.

³ Adapted from Food Security: Measurement. USDA.

⁴ “Definitions of Food Security.” *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service*,

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/definitions-of-food-security/>

Reflection Questions:

1. How do food security issues affect families, communities, countries, and the world?
2. Who should be responsible for addressing hunger and food insecurity? (private, public or civic responsibility)

Text Study

(ט) וּבְקִצְרְכֶם אֶת־קִצִּיר אֲרָצְכֶם לֹא תִכְלֶה פֶּאֶת שְׂדֵךְ לְקִצֹּר וְלִקְטֹט קִצִּירְךָ לֹא תִלְקֹט: (י) וְכַרְמְךָ לֹא תַעֲוִלֵל וּפְרֹט כַרְמְךָ לֹא תִלְקֹט לְעֵנִי וְלִגְר תַּעֲזֹב אֹתָם אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:

Leviticus 19:9-10

(9) When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. (10) You shall not pick your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I the LORD am your God.

Reflection Questions:

1. How might we understand this text in a society where most of us aren't involved in food production?
 - a. How does the work we did today relate to this text?
2. Our commitment to caring for people in need is directly connected to our own well-being. In what ways are we impacted by our neighbors' hunger? How does alleviating their suffering strengthen our own lives and communities?*
3. What other ways - either ancient or modern - do you know of that aim to address the issue of hunger and food security?

* = question adopted from Mazon <https://mazon.org/resources/hunger-jewish-texts/>