

Case Study for Session 4 » Hunger at Our Doorstep

PHOTO: SHARON CEKADA



CASE STUDY #4

The Xiong Family

The Xiong family are recent Hmong immigrants living in a city in central Wisconsin. They were sponsored by a church in another community, where they settled initially, but they moved here to be with other members of their extended family. Their four children quickly learned English in school, but the language has been a struggle for the mother and father, who also worry that the family will lose its traditional religion and customs. When the father was unemployed for several months, they made use of a food pantry near their neighborhood, but the boxes of groceries they were given were unfamiliar and culturally foreign to them. Back in Laos, the Xiong family farmed, but where they live now they do not even have a garden plot. They would like to raise vegetables to sell at the weekly farmer's market in town, but have no idea where to begin.

1. What factors contribute to the Xiongs' food insecurity? What obstacles to receiving assistance do they confront?
2. What could be done to help the Xiongs become more self-sufficient? Who in the community could provide additional resources and opportunities?
3. What could a congregation do to help the Xiongs and others in similar situations? How could a congregation address those factors in the larger context that affect their food security?
4. What would be the benefits to the community of helping families like the Xiongs?