

For immediate release
News from the University of Southern Indiana

New York food rescue service officer at USI

The City Harvest administrator will talk about hunger and food insecurity at the University of Southern Indiana at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24 in Mitchell Auditorium of the Health Professions Center. John Krakowski will discuss Hunger, Food Insecurity, and the Emergency Food System and in a second presentation, he will discuss disaster planning.

Food insecurity is a new term introduced in the last two decades. It refers to the lack of access to enough food to fully meet basic needs at all times due to lack of financial resources. A food insecure family often reduces the quality of food the family eats, feeds children unbalanced diets, or adults skip meals so children can eat. Food insecurity is food hardship due to limited household resources. Food insecure households cannot achieve the fundamental element of well-being. They are the American households most likely to be hungry, undernourished, and in poor health.

City Harvest is the nation's oldest food rescue organization, dedicated to feeding hungry people in New York City.

City Harvest picks up excess food from places such as restaurants, grocers, manufacturers and wholesalers, and greenmarkets, and delivers the food to soup kitchens, food pantries, day care and senior citizen centers, homeless shelters, and other places that serve those in need. Staff includes drivers, nutritionists, dispatchers, food safety experts, and administrative and support staff. In fiscal year 2006, City Harvest will rescue over 19 million pounds of excess, nutritious food.

City Harvest cannot accept food that has been served, or food deemed unsafe by the City Harvest drivers and food safety staff. They collect good, unused, wholesome food that would otherwise be wasted. With the exception of non-perishable food, City Harvest does not collect food from individuals.

Krakowski is the external liaison on issues related to the mission of the New York City Harvest. He is the internal consultant on food and nutrition issues and a member of the executive team. He served as staff contact at the Office of Emergency Management Disaster Center during World Trade Center Recovery and was deployed to the Montgomery, Alabama Joint Field Office during Hurricane Katrina recovery.

Faculty members in the Food and Nutrition Department of the College of Nursing and Health Professions and Mead Johnson Nutritionals are sponsoring the presentation. The event is free and open to the public.