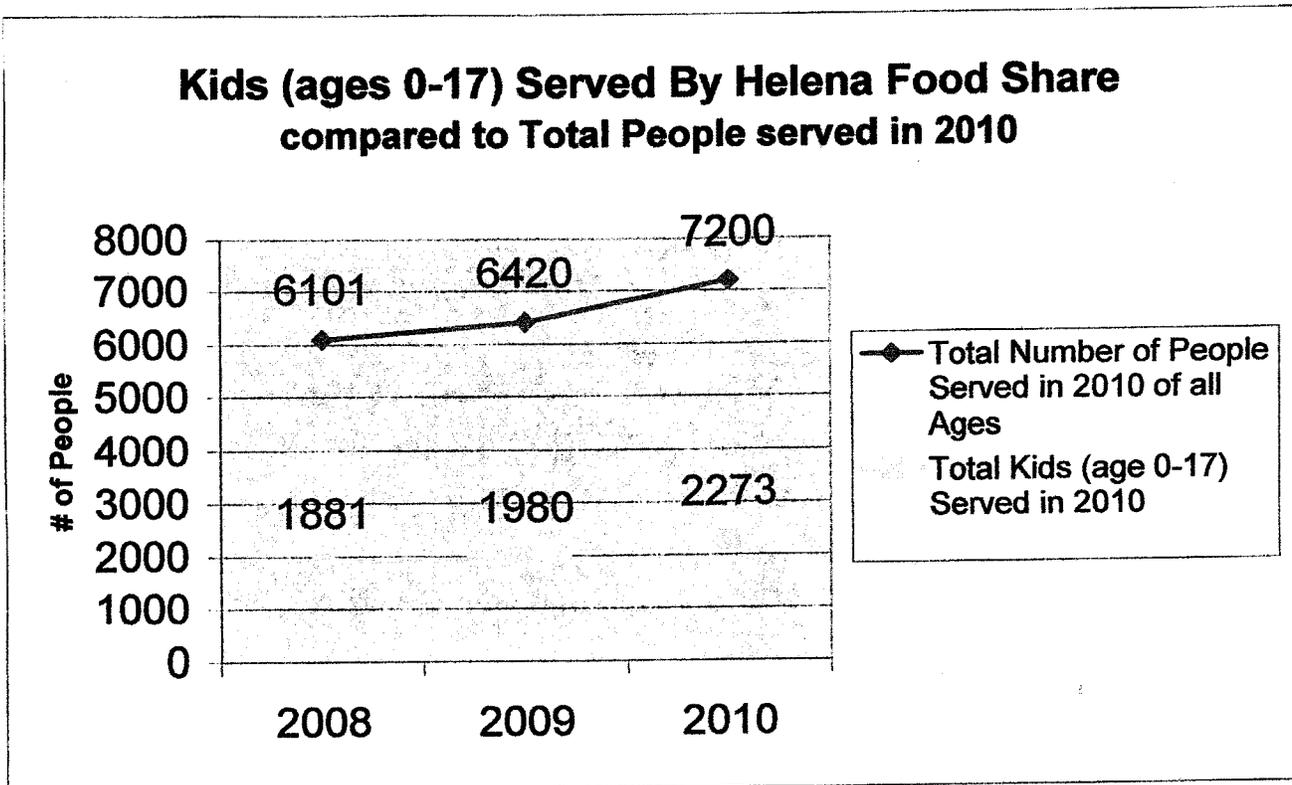


## NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED BY HELENA FOOD SHARE 2008-2010



- ~ Over 30% of the people receiving food from Helena Food Share are children between the ages of 0 and 17.
- ~ The number of people receiving food from Helena Food Share has increased 18% since 2008.
- ~ The number of children served by Helena Food Share has increase by at least 21% since 2008.
- ~ A careful study that develops a sustainable system for food is needed to stop the growing needs of children for emergency food.



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## HELENA FOOD SHARE TALKING POINTS

### House Joint Resolution #8      3/4/2011

- (GRAPH HANDOUT) The graph shows the total number of people served (blue line) and, of that number, the number of children 0-17 yrs served (pink line) in 2008, 2009, and 2010. Increases are seen in each category.
    - Over 30% of the individuals receiving food from Helena Food Share are children between the ages of 0 and 17. The increase in the numbers of children served is alarming.
    - The total number of people receiving food from Helena Food Share has increase by 18% since 2008
    - The number of children served by Helena Food Share has increased by at least 21% since 2008.
  - The vast majority of households served by Helena Food Share and similar pantries across the state are NOT abusing the service; they are using the service to meet nutritional needs in their households.
  - In Calendar Year 2010:
    - 41% (2,159 HHs) received food assistance 1-4 times during the year. These households are only using the pantry to meet emergencies.
    - 13% (678 HHs) are using the pantry sporadically (5-8 times) to help them get through difficult months.
    - The households included in these counts are not the same households each year!
- In 2010, 86% (1,855 households) requested assistance ONLY in emergency situations --**
- In the last 5 years (since 2006) 2,765 of the families served by Helena Food Share returned for more assistance at least once in the following years. **Over half of these counted households (1,046) came to Helena Food Share for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 2010!!**
  - A 2008 study showed that 13.6% (1,844) of children in Lewis & Clark County live in households at 100% of poverty. Living at 200% of poverty, the level at which most families can get by, we have 5,014 children in those households in 2008. You can see in this graph how the need for food assistance has grown since those 2008 numbers were collected.
  - Studies have repeatedly shown that children without good nutrition during their growing years have an increased risk of obesity and diabetes, perform poorly in school, and have less chance of escaping the cycle of poverty.
  - A careful study that develops a sustainable system for food is needed to stop the growth in need for children to access emergency food. Please approve and fund the Study Resolution on Ending Childhood Hunger In Montana