Food for Children go hungry as

Children are the largest group of the U.S. population living in poverty, recently surpassing the elderly.

One of every four preschoolers and one of every five school-age children are living below the poverty level in the U.S., according to a report issued by the Congressional Budget Office.

The number of children on public assistance is only a portion of the children living in poverty and this poverty level is at its highest since 1965, according to the Children's Defense Fund, a Washington lobby.

"The amount of dollars saved as a result of cutting child nutritional programs is a spit in the ocean compared to the rest of the budget," Zeller said.

Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, agreed these programs are not major portions of the nation's budget.

"These are comparatively low budget items, and it's going to cost far more in health care if we don't provide good nutrition for our children," Glenn said.

"The present administration is insisting on cutting on child nutri-

Local social agencies and non-profit organizations are left with the burden of feeding the hungry, due to budget cuts in social programs since 1979, Zeller said.

"It's the responsibility of the public sector to provide for those people who cannot feed themselves," she said.

While federal funding has been cut, the poor in Franklin County has risen, said Khari Enaharo, director of the Columbus Human Services Department.

"There was no mechanism by the state or local government to pick up from the loss of revenue from the federal government," Enaharo said.

Public and private donations are being used to enhance present programs.

"It's bringing out the best in all of us to attempt to meet the needs with less resources," Enaharo said.

Feeding the hungry is the third largest program funded through the Columbus Department of Human Services, following housing and day care, Enaharo said.

Food banks and pantries do their best to make up the difference after federal budget cuts, but their food packages cannot meet the nutritional requirements that federal food programs can, Zeller said.

Getting people to admit a hunger problem exists right here in Franklin County is difficult, Zeller said.

"In Franklin County 22 percent of all children live in poverty — the same as the national level," Zeller said.

"The ironic thing is that hunger in America is disguised," Habash said.

"How do you expect a child to learn in school on an empty stomach?" Habash said.

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Ann Zeller, associate director of the Ohio Hunger Task Force

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A 20 percent reduction in aid to dependent children since 1979, an increase in female heads of households, and the increased unemployment rate have caused the child poverty levels to rise, Ann Zeller, associate director of the Ohio Hunger Task Force said.

Zeller is concerned that the amount of money the federal government allocates to school lunch programs will not be enough to feed the growing number of poor children.

"The child nutrition programs are going to lose out in the budget battle to social security and defense money," Zeller said.

School lunch programs will be cut by $5.5 million under the Reagan Administration budget proposals and $6.8 million will be cut from child nutritional programs, she said.

"The result is that the poor child will not get fed," Zeller said.

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Getting people to admit a hunger problem exists right here in Franklin County is difficult. ---

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food program aid is cut
POVERTY RATE AMONG CHILDREN, AGES 0–17

This graph depicts the national poverty rate among children from birth to age 17. Rates are slightly underestimated because of exclusion of older unrelated children in a family.
Pastor will go to Uganda to assist hunger victims

Political turmoil of the past two decades has kept Uganda from producing crops that could feed its starving neighbors, said Jack Frost, a career missionary who will be going to Uganda in November.

At least 12 African nations have experienced famine from the drought, but Uganda was not as affected as some others, such as Ethiopia and Sudan, Frost said.

The economic structure of Uganda was already deteriorating when Idi Amin came into power in 1971 and made things worse with his military dictatorship, Frost said.

A 1977 graduate of OSU's School of Architecture, Frost went on to graduate from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1981. He has been a pastor at the Nell Avenue Baptist Church since 1981.

Frost was involved with distributing government surplus foods from his church. He also helped organize an annual Columbus walk-a-thon, known as the "Crop Walk," that benefits hunger relief programs.

Frost said he will go to Uganda to work with other missionaries to meet the needs of the hunger crisis and to help find good sources of water.

"They've got tremendous potential in Uganda, and hopefully something good will come that will have a lasting result," he said.

Southern Baptist feeding centers are distributing grain in Ethiopia, ensuring foreign aid is getting to the people, Frost said.

"A lot of aid gets dumped into these countries, but how much gets into the hands of people is not always known," Frost said.

All the missionaries in Africa work together, regardless of their denomination, to develop continuing relief projects, Frost said.

"We want to help people throughout the world learn to supply their own food," Frost said.

He will spend four years in Uganda and then return to the U.S. for one year to share his experiences with fellow missionaries and churches.

He will then return to Uganda to continue his work.

"You never reach a point when you say you've done all you can do," he said.

"The hurting spots of the world can be helped."
Uganda may be Africa's breadbasket

OSU program aiding Africa

One cannot talk about hunger without looking to struggling nations in Eastern Africa.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture calculates that Africa needs 69 percent of all food aid needed in the world this year, said Carl Zulauf, assistant professor in agriculture economics.

"Africa is the obvious problem spot in the world," Zulauf said.

"What an individual country eats is what it grows," Zulauf said, "and less developed countries are at the low end of the nourishment scale."

Although too late for thousands of famine victims, programs designed to increase crop production are underway through the U.S. State Department, including a program at Ohio State that hopes to make the eastern African country of Uganda a breadbasket for Africa.

This summer, OSU's College of Agriculture is teaching 20 Ugandan agricultural personnel methods that will increase crop production. A total of 84 Ugandans will be trained by the end of a four-year program at Ohio State sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

Short-term training sessions lasting three to six months will update the Ugandans on current farming practices, said Mark Erbaugh, training coordinator for OSU.

Matching Ugandan resources with new technology and developing Ugandan research stations are also part of the program, Erbaugh said.

"Uganda is fairly well-watered and has the potential for being the breadbasket for Eastern Africa," Erbaugh said.

Although a victim of a drought that struck in northern parts of the country along the Sudan Desert, Uganda is the best choice for developing agriculture production, Erbaugh said.

Julius Zake, professor of agronomy at the University of Makerere in Kampala, Uganda, and Nathan Nangoti from the Serere Research Station in Uganda, are now training at Ohio State.

Zake received his Ph.D in agronomy from OSU in 1972 and returned to Uganda to teach at Makerere.

"It was difficult to do research and there was no access to new equipment," Zake said of his return to Uganda under Amin's reign.

There were no U.S. or British embassies while Amin was in power, and the country suffered from a lack of knowledge exchange, Zake said.

Nangoti said he became "rusty" because of the lack of knowledge, but the two men are trying to catch up now.

In addition to the training at Ohio State, John Parsons and John Trierweller, assistant professors in agronomy at OSU, are in Uganda for three months to help repair agricultural research stations.

Rehabilitative measures such as this program are necessary to achieve long-term goals, Erbaugh said.

"Something like the Live-Aid concert is a short-term measure," Erbaugh said, "but the long-term solutions are going to make the difference."

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Stories by Kimber Perfect
Food banks can stop food waste in the U.S. by collecting and distributing food donated by national companies, said Matt Habash, director of Operation Feed Food Bank in Columbus.

"Twenty percent of the food in the U.S. is wasted," Habash said. "Food banking is an excellent way to alter throwing away food."

In 1984, 8.1 million pounds of food were distributed through the Operation Feed Food Bank in Columbus, Habash said.

Food that has been mislabeled or damaged in packaging is donated to Second Harvest, a network of 75 food banks across the country, and then shipped throughout the country at a shared cost by the network.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture government commodities such as cheese, butter and flour are also distributed through Operation Feed Food Bank to 10 Ohio counties, Habash said.

The allotment of food is based on the size of the family, and participants must show that their income is below the poverty level, he said.

Operation Feed Food Bank, 1237 E. 25th Ave., has a community referral system for food pantries in Ohio, he said.

"We try to make people as comfortable with the system as possible and take care of them through 93 different organizations."

"There shouldn't be any reason that anyone in Franklin County should have to go hungry," Habash said.

The federal government also helps out with a program known as Women, Infants and Children. The program provides nutritious foods to pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants, and children under age five, said Gloria Watkins-Cannon, outreach coordinator for the City Health Department.

Women and children of nutritional risks can go to one of 11 clinics in Columbus and have a food packet prescribed to them. A local dairy delivers the food packet to their homes.

The program is a supplement to other food programs and the participant must be at nutritional risk to qualify.

"Virtually everyone who is poor is a nutritional risk and all teenage pregnant women are eligible for the Women, Infants and Children program," Zeller said.

Studies have shown Women, Infants and Children is one of the most cost-efficient of government food programs because it improves the health of women and infants, said Ann Zeller, associate director of the Ohio Hunger Task Force.

Last year the program served 20,000 people. The government has lifted a ceiling from the program and has told health department officials to enroll as many as they can for the program, Watkins-Cannon said.

Watkins-Cannon attributes this to the good track record of the program in preventing future health costs. Part of the plan includes regular check-ups for the client at a health care clinic.

In addition to these programs, several local organizations sponsor programs to assist the hungry.

The Mt. Herman Baptist Church's "Feed the Hungry" program at 1132 Windsor Ave. feeds up to 300 people every Wednesday. Anyone in need can get a full-course meal, Director Bethis, director of the operation said.

More than 10 volunteers from the church are on hand every week to help deliver the hungry.

Mary Scott prepares the meal that is served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"When you raise seven kids you can cook for this many," Scott said. "It's no more work than feeding seven people."

In addition, the church distributes U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities once a month to those who qualify.

The Columbus Division of Parks and Recreation provides free nutritious lunches to children under 18 years of age five days a week at parks throughout the city.

There are no eligibility requirements. The locations are in poor neighborhoods where need is greater. Children are already participating in recreational programs at the locations, Joyce Ragland, secretary at Godman Guild House, said.

"Parents are good about sending their kids down. I don't doubt that it's the biggest meal some of these kids will get in a day," she said.

The Ohio Hunger Task Force reimburses family day care homes for meals they serve to children in their care in 46 counties in Ohio, said Ann Zeller, associate director.

In addition, they provide nutritious dinners to low-income children in Franklin County participating in after school recreational programs, providing nutritional meals to 5,000 children per day.
Eric Evans and his mother, Gayle Evans, eat a free lunch at Mt. Herman Baptist Church, 1132 Windsor Ave.
OSU could help to stabilize

By Teresa M. Regalsky
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State can play a significant role in the development of a more stable African economy, said Hughlyn F. Fierce, senior vice president of Chase Manhattan Bank.

In his speech to about 130 people at the Ohio Center Monday night, Fierce, area executive of Africa and the Eastern Arab States, said since Ohio State is a high recruitment center for multinational corporations, African students could be recruited to work for corporate branches in Africa.

Multinational corporations would benefit by hiring educated native Africans who are familiar with both the culture of their homeland and that of the United States, Fierce said.

Isaac James Mowoe, associate professor of African politics and assistant dean of the College of Humanities, said some American universities, including Ohio State, are well equipped to educate Africans on technological developments in areas such as agriculture and computer science.

Mowoe, a native of Nigeria, said the College of Education offers Nigerians a program that teaches them about their native country.

The Nigerians can then take the new knowledge back to their homeland and educate the people there.

"It (the knowledge) would then have a spiraling or multiplying effect," he said.

Fierce said educational resources in Africa are limited.

"They (African governments) do not have the funds for educational programs they would like to have," Mowoe said.

Fierce suggested that direct investment by foreign countries in Africa would benefit not only the investors, but also Africa's economic development.

Fierce said although many coun-

African economy, speaker says

tries have been successful with their investments, some have not.

He used a French venture in Nigeria as an example of a successful attempt at investment in Africa. He said in some cases, funds were used by African governments and companies in ways other than originally intended. Money that should have been used to improve roads was instead utilized in other ways such as in expense accounts, Fierce said.

Mowoe said some distrust of the Reagan administration exists, but there is less apprehension about the U.S. than about other foreign countries.

Fierce said some Africans distrust foreign investors because of misleading information.

Africans were, on occasion, sent cheap and/or used supplies, when the materials were supposed to be new. He said the investors still made a profit from the country.

Mowoe also said African distrust of foreign investors stems from a long struggle for independence from Western European countries, such as England, Germany and France. These are the same countries that are now investing in the African nations.

Fierce said Africans and foreign investors need to bridge a present communication gap regarding investments. "They need to become educated about each other's interests," he added.

The African governments must realize that money is invested in their country to make a profit. At the same time, investors need to be made aware that many natural resources are available for their use, Fierce said.

Fierce did not address the issue of South Africa because he said it was a distinct problem that required special treatment and more time than was allotted
OSU student fighting for African Sudanese

A founder of Pax Sudani speaks out

By Jeff Zeiger
Dispatch Staff Reporter

Ohio State University student Isaac Loding is homesick, although he has no desire to return to his native Sudan.

Loding misses his parents. He last spoke with them in 1985, before leaving for school in northern Sudan to avoid persecution from Islamic fundamentalist dictator Omar el-Bashir.

"The only way I might speak with them is through this," said Loding, referring to Pax Sudani, an organization he helped found in June to increase awareness of human rights violations in Sudan.

The group calls for a "bold, expedient and decisive action by the international community to head off imminent annihilation of the African Sudanese."

Loding, 24, has been busy organizing educational conferences and circulating petitions urging the United Nations to intervene in Sudan. Pax Sudani, which already has several hundred members, will sponsor a conference at OSU in September.

The group also plans to develop a documentary film to present to the United Nations and U.S. politicians as evidence of the "gruesome atrocities, starvation, genocide and rape of women and young girls by government popular defense forces."

"We in Sudan should not be considered a different species because of the color of our skin," said Loding. "It seems like Africa is not part of the world. It's always brushed to the side."

Loding attended a rally at the United Nations last weekend where NBA star Manute Bol, who had just returned from Sudan, compared el-Bashir's ethnic cleansing to spraying insects with insecticide.

"In Sudan, innocent people are driven from their homes, food stores burned while people are starving. Civilians are the targets, and they're dying by the hundreds," Loding said.

He recalls an incident in which a friend's brother was captured by Arabs, who skinned his victim because his skin color prevented him from becoming an Arab.

"As if that wasn't enough, they set him on fire after he was dead," he said.

With all of the violence and bloodshed, Loding is concerned about his parents' safety.

He last received a letter about his parents from a friend in northern Sudan in 1989. A Norwegian relief worker smuggled it out of Sudan.

The friend wrote that Loding's mother and father had been separated in 1985 after fighting broke out between the hospital where he was working and their home a half-mile away. Loding is unsure of the fate of his brother and five sisters.

The relief organization was forced out of Sudan before Loding could reply.

Loding would like to see a buffer zone created between the Arab and African Sudanese; a U.N.-supervised government among the African Sudanese; and the slaves in northern Sudan returned to their own lands.

"We need a lasting political culture where the gavel of power is passed from one person to another without bloodshed," he said.
Africans send thanks to OSU delegation

By Amy Christensen
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State professors, administrators and basketball players have returned from Africa and with them have come the videos and letters of thanks from African people.

"You don't know how much it meant to us," wrote one person.

Such messages have been coming in consistently since the return of OSU's delegation from South Africa, said David Williams, vice president for student affairs and a delegation member.

"We really met and exceeded our expectations on this trip," said OSU President Gordon Gee.

The two-week trip was taken to develop relationships with the universities in South Africa and Uganda, said Malcolm Baroway, executive director of University Communications and a delegation member.

"When we got there, you could see that what we were in fact talking about was being part of a world economy and getting involved in the really important transitions that are taking place in these two countries," Baroway said.

OSU and other universities have a role to play in shaping these changes, Baroway said.

"More than anything else, what really stays with me is the role of higher education, specifically Ohio State's role, in changing parts of the world for the better," he said.

"This was one of the greatest things this university has done," Williams said. "A professor told me that they've had many universities visit South Africa, but Ohio State is the first to come into the townships and that meant a lot to them."

Baroway said the changes these countries are trying to make include lowering the income tax rate, equalizing schools and improving agriculture.

"We saw first hand how a nation could benefit from the agricultural techniques that are learned at Ohio State."

Baroway said some of the most spectacular banana trees, a major staple of South Africa, were planted by people who had been educated through OSU.

Another real eye opener of the trip was the potential social impact of basketball.

"These people see basketball as an integrated sport where people are working together and playing together," he said.

"Overall, South Africa is an optimistic, hopeful country," Baroway said. "There are a huge number of people waiting for their promise to be fulfilled. Everyone wants to make it work."

The agreement with the University of Natal in Durban to continue agricultural development is just one of the ways OSU can continue spreading its positive influence to other parts of the world, Williams said.

"We've gone from talking the talk to walking the walk," he said.

Jermaine Tate works with a group of children on their basketball skills at the Soweto basketball clinic June 17.