



A Documentary Film  
by Shira and Yoav Potash

## **“2011 Fighting Poverty with Faith” *Food Stamped* Discussion Guide**

*Discussion guide created by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs for the 2011 Fighting Poverty with Faith mobilization. Special thanks to Catherine Haas, Silicon Valley JCPA/MAZON Hunger Fellow, for developing the discussion questions in this guide.*

**We encourage you to give attendees the opportunity to have a facilitated discussion following the film. When planning your facilitated discussion, please consider the following:**

- **EVENT GOALS:** What do you want to achieve in this discussion? If you want people to take a specific follow-up action, your questions will be different than if the event goal is to educate the community about the issue of hunger.
- **AUDIENCE:** Who is attending your event? The questions you pose to a general community audience will be different than questions to social service providers or a congregational audience, etc.
- **FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** What do you want people to do next? Be sure to ask questions that can direct people towards this action. At the end of the discussion, you should explicitly describe the action (email your Members of Congress, take the Food Stamp Challenge, etc) and have the resources available so people can take or commit to take the action on-site.
- **MEDIA:** Is your event open to the public? Do you want media to attend? If yes, ask a prominent community member (elected official, clergy, director of the food bank) to speak for a few moments after the film and lead the discussion. Use this big name (plus a media advisory and press release!) to attract media attention to your event.

### **SAMPLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- How did watching the experience of this couple impact you?
  - Did you see things that were expected? Unexpected?
  - What part stood out to you the most?
- Have you witnessed poverty in your community?
  - If so, what did it look like?
  - If not, why not? (note: there is poverty in every community)
  - Do you think this film’s portrayal of the struggles of people using food stamps was accurate? Why or why not?

**[www.foodstamped.com](http://www.foodstamped.com)**



A Documentary Film  
by Shira and Yoav Potash

- Have you personally experienced poverty?
  - How did your experience with poverty differ from what was seen in the film?
  - How was it the same?
  - Do you think this film's portrayal of the struggles of people using food stamps was accurate? Why or why not?
  
- Have you ever been hungry or worried about where you will find your next meal? [note: it does not have to be in daily life; this could be an experience where you were traveling, camping, at an event with food that you couldn't eat because of dietary restrictions, etc]
  - If so, how did it feel?
  
- Do you think it is fair that healthy food is often more expensive than cheap, processed food?
  - Do you think this is something we can/should change?
  - Do you think the US government should subsidize healthy food instead of commodity crops? Should it subsidize both? Neither?
  
- Do you think you could eat on the average food stamp allotment (\$31.50 per person, per week)?\*
  
- What services are available in your community for those in need of food/nutrition assistance?
  - Are there other services you think the community should have available?
  - Do you think there are any barriers to people accessing these services?
  - What is the appropriate role of government in providing nutrition assistance?
  
- In the film, was there anything that was surprising / interesting about the food stamp recipients they interviewed?
  - What does poverty look like to you?
  - Did this film change your perception of poverty or hunger in the US?
  - How do you think people end up needing food assistance?
  
- As a community of faith, do you think we have an obligation to act to help those in need?
  - If yes, as this film inspired you to take action?
  - If yes, what are you going to do now?
  - What do you think we should do as a (interfaith) community?