BLUE LINE POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY: IT'S REAL, THOUGH NOT VISIBLE

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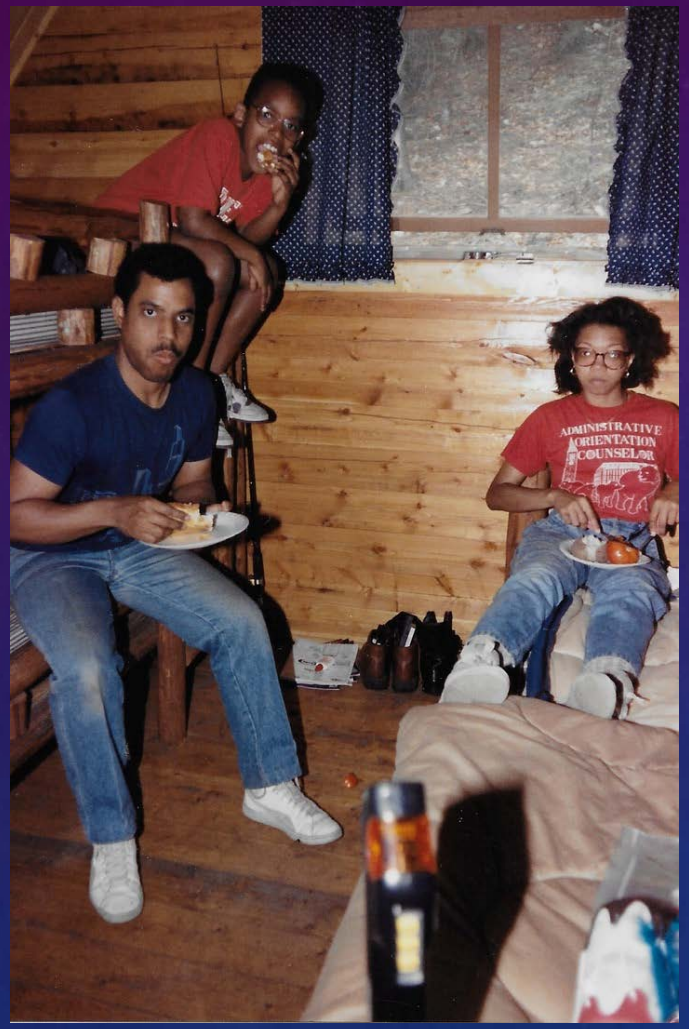
DISCLAIMER:

RICHMAN (ECHO) PARK
TREMONT AVE., BRONX

SOUTH BRONX: ARSON CAPITAL OF THE WORLD, 1970S

FIRST ADIRONDACK EXPERIENCE



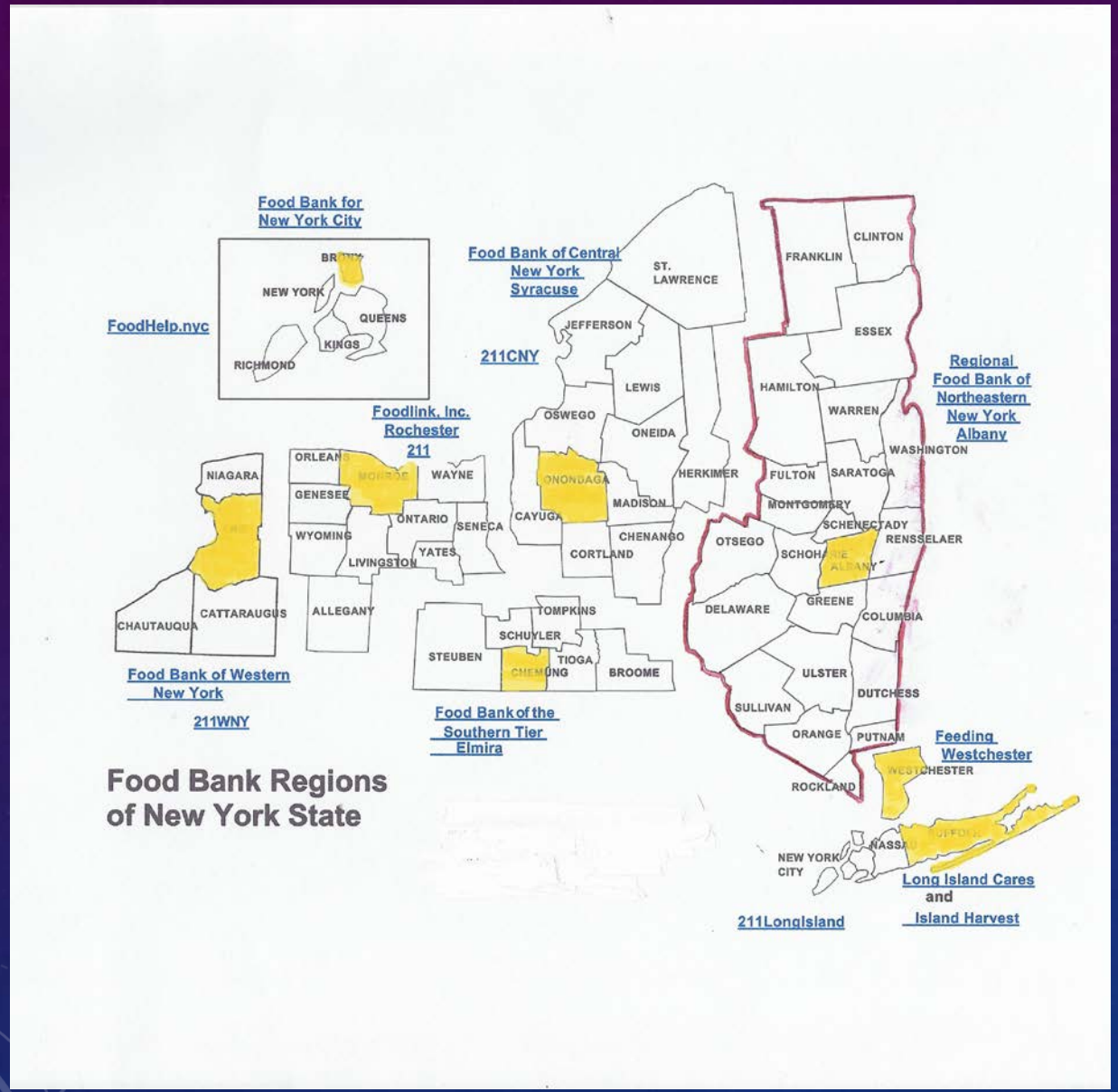
Lake Placid/Whiteface Mountain KOA

NYS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIVISION OF NUTRITION

Administers:

- Women, Infants and Children's Program
- Farmer Market Nutrition Program
- Child and Adult Care Feeding Program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Homeless and Destitute Program
    - Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP)

NYS FOOD BANKS



- There are 8 Food Banks in NYS serving different regions.

- As per ANCA> 14 North Country Counties
  - Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Oneida, Oswego, Warren & Washington
  - Approximately 255 food pantries; 16 soup kitchens

- Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY
- Food Bank of Central New York

FROM SNAP HOMELESS AND DESTITUTE TO HUNGER PREVENTION AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

- 1987 NYS Dept. of Health Census of Emergency Food Relief Organizations (EFROs)
  - 1557 food pantries
  - 327 soup kitchens
- Capital Equipment
- Nutrition Resource Managers
- Gleaning Project
- Food Safety and Sanitation Program
- PROGRAM NAME CHANGE

FROM SNAP HOMELESS AND DESTITUTE TO HUNGER PREVENTION AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

- Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (Just Say Yes to Fruits and Vegetables, aka JSY)
- Minimum Nutrition Standards
- Client Choice Food Pantry Initiative

NORTH COUNTRY RESIDENTS

- PROUD
- SELF-SUFFICIENT
- HARDWORKING
- FRUGAL
- RESOURCEFUL
- PREFER LOW DENSITY LOCATIONS
- PREFER QUIET/CALMER PACE OF LIFE
- PREFER PICTURESQUE/NATURAL AREAS
- POSSESS A CULTURAL IDENTITY DIFFERENT FROM CITY DWELLERS
- CARE DEEPLY ABOUT THE LAND AND ITS WILDLIFE

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ADIRONDACK/RURAL LIFE

- They have a house, they must have money.
- Most rural people are farmers.
- If they are a farmer, they must have money.
- There is lots of open space where they live, they must have money.
- They chose to live in a rural area, they must have money.
- Most of the people who live in the Adirondacks have other homes.
- People who live in rural areas live off the land. They don’t need the things that urban people need.

URBAN VS. RURAL

URBAN AREAS:

- No supermarkets in the neighborhood
- Convenience stores - Inferior food products
- Substandard housing/slumlords/no affordable housing
- Dense population areas/living quarters
- Home heating costs
- Public services near
- Low paying jobs
- Environmental health issues
- Lack access to technology – cost
- Substance abuse
- Domestic violence
- Teen pregnancy

RURAL AREAS:

- No supermarkets in town or within 10 miles
- Convenience stores
- High food prices
- Substandard housing/little, if any public or affordable housing/slumlords
- Home heating costs
- Public services out of reach
- Average commute to work: 12-30 miles
- No public transportation
- Low paying seasonal jobs
- Lack access to technology – location
- Lack of resources for people with special needs
- Substance abuse
- Domestic violence
- Teen pregnancy
- Limited access to health care

ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

Who does not know about North Country poverty and food insecurity? Why?

How can we educate public officials, organizations and the community about this invisible population's presence and needs?

How can we address the needs of North Country residents in a culturally sensitive way?

LET'S GET REAL!

- SENIORS
- COUNTY DISCRIMINATION
- CLASSISM
- RACISM
- POLITICAL DIVISIONS
- INDIGENOUS CONCERNS

LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE ADK/NORTH COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE

- Rural areas provide valuable ecosystem services to our nation and the world, for food production, carbon sequestration, and stewardship of biodiversity and habitat resources.

- Local leaders should work with the community to build rural resilience—including supporting clusters of locally owned small businesses that build community wealth, implement built environment and quality-of-life improvements for vulnerable residents, strengthening social cohesion between neighbors, and nurturing new community-led structures to build capacity and advance community priorities.

THANK YOU!

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