



HungerMitao – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is HungerMitao?

HungerMitao is a powerful grassroots movement started by the Indian American community. It is volunteer-driven and aims to support the Feeding America network of Food Banks by raising awareness, improving engagement, and channeling the resources and contributions of the Indian American community toward the fight against hunger in the United States.

What does HungerMitao mean?

HungerMitao is a compound word, made up of Hunger and Mitao (the latter meaning eradicate/wipe- out in the Indian language Hindi).

How did HungerMitao start? And has it made a substantial impact?

HungerMitao was founded in support of the North Texas Food Bank by Raj and Aradhana (Anna) Asava. It was formally launched on September 29, 2017, with community leaders and NTFB Board Members in attendance. Over the last six years, the movement has grown and spread across the USA. HungerMitao chapters have been established in collaboration with 8 Food Banks (North Texas, Tarrant Area, Austin, Houston, New York City, Atlanta, Seattle, and Southeast Michigan). The growing support has enabled 60 million meals for the Feeding America network through funds, donated food and hours volunteered.

Is there unaddressed hunger in the United States? And what is Feeding America?

According to the USDA, More than 44 million people in the US face hunger, including 1 in 5 children. Millions of people in the US don't have enough food to eat or don't have access to healthy food. They are just one job loss, missed paycheck, or medical emergency away from hunger. And hunger doesn't affect everyone equally - some groups like children, seniors, and people of color face hunger at much higher rates.

Feeding America is a United States–based non-profit organization that is a nationwide network of more than 200 food banks that feed more than 46 million people through food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other community-based agencies.

Is HungerMitao a non-profit organization?

No. HungerMitao is not a legal entity or an organization. It is a movement that works to spread food insecurity awareness and evangelize the critical work carried out by the food banks. It aims to activate the Indian diaspora in the US through messaging and awareness in the fight against hunger across America.

Is HungerMitao affiliated with any specific religious or political ideologies?

HungerMitao is a secular movement with no political or religious ties.



Does HungerMitao feed only people of Indian origin? How does it work?

HungerMitao enables food for anyone in need. It does that through galvanizing volunteering, food drive and fundraising efforts, all in support of the Feeding America network of Food Banks.

How many meals has HungerMitao facilitated so far?

The HungerMitao movement has enabled sixty million meals for the Feeding America network since its launch in 2017.

Why does HungerMitao focus on activating the Indian American community?

HungerMitao is part of a community affinity model envisioned by Raj and Anna Asava. They realized that Hunger in America is usually hidden and not apparent to immigrant communities who may have different preconceived notions of hunger based on past experiences in their home countries.

So, while they started out with the Indian American community because of their origin and influence, this model has now been shared and successfully implemented by other communities: Chinese, Hispanic and Japanese communities in North Texas.

Do I donate directly to HungerMitao?

HungerMitao has been set up as a movement, not a 501(c)3 entity. As such, it does not accept or handle any donations.

Where chapters exist, donations are made through the HungerMitao page within the food bank system. If there is no HungerMitao chapter where you are, you can still support the effort by donating through the HungerMitao page at Feeding America.

Are my donations tax-deductible?

Yes. You will receive acknowledgement directly from the Food Bank/Feeding America.

How does HungerMitao measure its impact?

Each Food Bank where HungerMitao is active tracks its impact through hours volunteered, pounds of food donated, and funds raised, converting these efforts into meals enabled.

What are HungerMitao's long-term goals?

The mission of HungerMitao is as much about eradicating hunger as it is about unifying the fragmented efforts of the Indian American community and focusing them on a humanitarian cause. Our vision is twofold:

- Engage our resources in the fight against hunger to ensure no one goes hungry.
- Unify the community as a cohesive force so that the Indian American community is recognized as a leader in the fight against hunger.

As the first community affinity model in the hunger space, HungerMitao aspires to be a role model and openly shares its learnings and experiences with other interested communities.



Are there opportunities for internships with HungerMitao?

Since HungerMitao is not an organization, there are no opportunities for internships. We are always looking for volunteers of all skills. Individual Food Banks may sometimes offer internships.

How can I join HungerMitao for volunteering, fundraising?

You can join HungerMitao efforts by visiting its website www.hungermitao.org. The “Food Banks” button will take you to all the Food Banks HungerMitao is currently working with. Follow your local chapter and contact information to engage in local efforts.

If you do not see your local Food Bank on the list and are interested in spearheading the efforts in your city, please reach out to us at usa@hungermitao.org.

How can my company or organization get involved with HungerMitao?

HungerMitao welcomes corporate involvement. Options include sponsorships, donation matching, food drives, and employee volunteering. Reach out to usa@hungermitao.org to explore possibilities.

How can I contact HungerMitao's media relations team?

Reach out to usa@hungermitao.org for any press-related inquiries or brand usage and guidelines.

Are representatives from HungerMitao available for speaking engagements or interviews?

Absolutely. Please email usa@hungermitao.org to coordinate.

Does HungerMitao work on addressing systemic issues related to hunger?

HungerMitao's primary focus is raising hunger awareness and mobilizing the Indian diaspora to support the work of their local Food Banks. The Food Banks, under the leadership of Feeding America, have a very strong advocacy arm which actively works to influence legislation related to hunger alleviation policies.

Additionally, several pantries that food banks work with, collaborate with ancillary service providers helping people with basic budgeting skills, job search, computer access, etc.

I need help with food assistance, can HungerMitao connect me with resources?

Food assistance resources are available at your local Food Bank and Feeding America website. (www.FeedingAmerica.org)

In case you wondered what a Food Bank is, and how it works!

A food bank is a non-profit, charitable organization that distributes food to those who have difficulty purchasing enough to avoid hunger. It does so usually through intermediaries like food pantries and soup kitchens. Food banks may also have direct distribution programs through schools, senior food distribution or mega distributions.

