



Food For Thought

Raising awareness about
childhood hunger in Baltimore City

The Project

The Baltimore Museum of Industry and Baltimore City Public Schools' Food and Nutrition Services Department are partnering to **raise awareness about childhood hunger in Baltimore.** *Food for Thought* honors the frontline food service workers who have continued to nourish Baltimore students throughout the pandemic.



The Need

Every day, Baltimore City Public School Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) employees provide about 64,000 meals to students and families. In the words of one longtime staffer, “The pandemic showed me how important my job is. Families are really struggling with providing three meals a day for their children. I feel good to be on the front line as an essential employee.”



The Story

Aaron Henkin, an award-winning senior producer at Baltimore's NPR affiliate, WYPR, invited workers to tell their stories in their own words. These stories will be paired with portraits by photojournalist J.M. Giordano of FNS staff in their workplaces.





"We are part of the learning process with the kids, because a child cannot learn if they're hungry. So we give them the nourishment they need in order for their brain to function."

-Sheila Alston





"The pandemic started for us March 16th, 2020. Everything got turned upside down. The way we used to do things we could no longer do. We had to be innovative in how to get the meals to the kids."

-Bruce Martin





"We know that these students come in hungry. Some of them may not want to show it because of pride, and they feel like they're going to be bullied behind it, but we try to keep that on down low if we know a child wants something extra."

-Gail Pendelton



"[The pandemic] was challenging. However, it was just as rewarding because you never know who has food and who does not have food. So for me, it was like one of the greatest things I ever did in my life."

-Samone Flowers



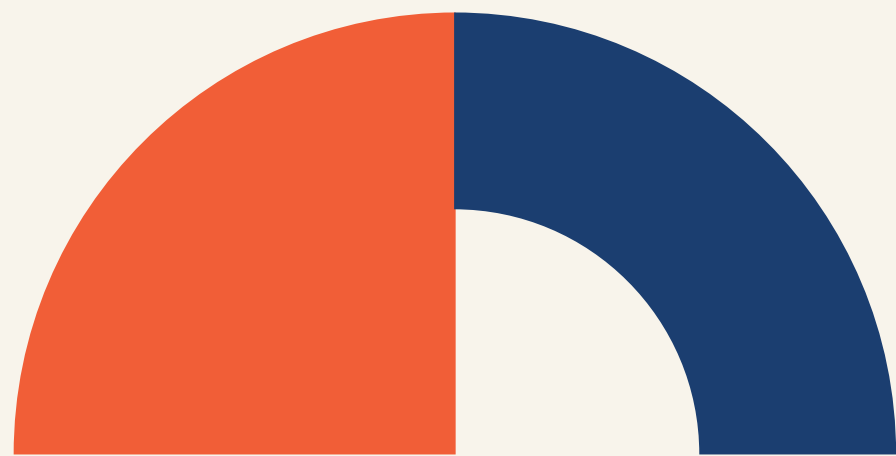
"And so our job is very important. We are not only feeding people, we're giving them food and nutrition, and giving them new values, food values."

-Diane Blick



What's next?

The BMI will create a **temporary exhibit that will be available for travel to satellite locations** featuring J.M. Giordano's photographs paired with interview recordings so visitors can hear workers share their stories in their own words.



Inspiring Action

The exhibition will include information about organizations fighting to end childhood hunger so viewers can learn how to get involved. **By working together to tap our collective strengths, we can make a real difference in the lives of community members – both those in need and those who can help.**

