

Southeast Working-Class Task Force
January/February 2017 Newsletter

➤ **Indy is national leader in places to eat; but, for whom?**

- “New places to eat are opening like crazy across the Indianapolis metro area...” says Liz Biro, food and dining reporter for the *Star*, (11/17/16). “In the 29 months since I landed in Indianapolis, I can't think of a time when I've reported more restaurant openings in the metro area. These 20 have kept me busy since late September. More are on the way. Stay tuned.”
<http://www.indystar.com/story/entertainment/2016/11/17/20-new-restaurants-past-2-months/94015630/>
- In contrast, according to a survey by Feeding Indiana's Hungry (09/20/16), 20% of Hoosier households with children struggle to afford food.
 - Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson MSA ranked 46 out of 100 with a food hardship rate of 19.9% for households with children in 2014-2015.
<http://feedingindianahungry.org/blog/child-hunger/>
- Last Dec. 12, Liz Biro reported: “Zagat names Indy one of America's hottest food cities.” Noting the rankings included New York, Chicago, New Orleans and Los Angeles, the Zagat national restaurant guide ranked Indy No. 15 on its list of the [26 hottest food cities of 2016](http://www.indystar.com/story/entertainment/2016/12/01/indy-named-one-americas-hottest-food-cities/94746584/).
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"When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist." ~ Dom Helder Camara, a Brazilian archbishop

- This news from Liz Biro is in contrast to Suzette Hackney, community engagement editor for the *Star*, and her earlier commentary (02/26/16), “How do we feed hungry Hoosiers?”

“It can sometimes be easy to forget, living in our bubbles of security and convenience, just how grueling it is for those less fortunate than us to survive. Many impoverished Hoosiers must fight each day just to eat.”

“Hoosiers simply don't have access to affordable and nutritious food.”

Commentator Hackney quotes John Whitaker, executive director of the Midwest Food Bank and vice chair of the Indy Hunger Network's board: “Indiana residents have to look out for each other by donating food instead of throwing it away and giving financial support to those organizations that are working to eradicate hungry. It's a two-prong approach, one of government intervention and human interaction.

<http://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/columnists/suzette-hackney/2016/02/26/hackney-feed-hungry-hoosiers/80993376/>

➤ **Income inequality: a hidden American reality**

In a January 13 special edition of ABC's 20/20 news show, viewers are connected with working-class Americans to appreciate the realities they face every day just to make ends meet.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/deepdive/diane-sawyer-income-inequality-my-reality-hidden-america-44770807>

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