

## **The Florida Partnership to End Childhood Hunger--**

Share Our Strength ([www.strength.org](http://www.strength.org)), through a two-year initial grant from the UPS Foundation, has selected Florida and Washington to be the first states to replicate a multi-year Ten Part Plan to End Childhood Hunger, which was first piloted in the Nation's Capitol. Florida Impact was selected to oversee this Project in Florida.

The Partnership was formally launched in Orlando on October 26th by a Core Advisory Group (bios attached), comprising a broad sector of Florida leaders concerned with childhood hunger. Grace Nelson (wife of U.S. Senator Bill Nelson) is serving as Honorary Chair. Impact has contracted MGT of America to help facilitate meetings leading up to the final Strategic Plan, which will be released at the Capitol in March 2008. A preliminary, working draft of the Plan can be viewed at [www.flimpact.org](http://www.flimpact.org).

As a statewide, multi-year initiative, we hope to begin implementation in eight target counties grouped into three regions: 1) Orange, Polk, and Osceola; 2) Hillsborough and Pinellas; and 3) Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach. These were selected after statistical analyses determined they would potentially deliver the most dramatic progress in the shortest amount of time in support of continued efforts to raise money for implementation in Florida's remaining 59 counties.

The Partnership proposes to address childhood hunger by drawing down and applying more of the existing but underutilized federal dollar entitlement for Florida communities as well as by increasing awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit for low wage, working families. Counting only three of the federal food and nutrition programs, over \$1 billion in allotted federal dollars were not used for Florida's low-income families in 2006.