

## Why We Feed the Hood, Part 1

by Salim K. T. Adofo – National Vice Chairperson – National Black United Front

For over 32 years the National Black United Front (NBUF) has been on the frontlines on almost every issue concerning people of African descent in America. One issue that NBUF has seen consistently rise to the forefront of the African community in America, is control of and access to, the basic human need for food, clothing and shelter.

Why is it that many people of African descent in America are still struggling just to eat in a country where grocery stores are stocked with an oversupply of food they will never sell? Why do restaurants on a daily basis prefer to put left over food in the trash, as oppose to giving it to those in need? The answer to this in short, is capitalism.



Capitalism is an economic system in which the resources are privately/individually owned and not collectively by the community. In this country the resources were taken by force from the Indigenous People (Native Americans) and are maintained by arms (police departments, state troopers, FBI, etc. etc.) Law enforcement agencies are here to protect property and serve those who own it. Capitalism has been used as an instrument of white institutionalized supremacy, and is used to maintain a strong hold on the resources that people of African descent in America need to maintain a quality of life. Most people of African descent in America, from the time of slavery until today, have never been the main benefactors of their labor. In fact, the sole purpose for African people being brought to America was to work to make white people wealthy. As of yet, the nature of this relationship has not changed. As a tactic to combat this, NBUF has moved past theory and into action, by implementing the principles of Kwanzaa into its program of action.

The third principle of Kwanzaa is Ujima (collective work and responsibility). It means “to build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.” This is how and why NBUF has instituted its “Feed the Hood” program. Through NBUF’s coalition of organizations and individuals, it has worked to help people of African descent meet the basic need of food and shelter. As a result of capitalism, the majority of resources in this country are controlled by less than ten percent of the population. Therefore it is imperative that people of African descent pool their resources together and work together to solve their problems.

NBUF conducts its’ Feed the Hood program the first Sunday of every month at the intersection of Malcolm X Ave and Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE Washington DC. NBUF would like to thank all those that participated in this month’s Feed the Hood. Sister Mjiba of the All African People’s Revolutionary Party, Brother Dirk from the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, and Sister Shareefah from Masjid Muhammad. NBUF would also like to thank the student activist from Howard University Sisters Dejha,

Leoshay, Kimberly, Jordan, Kyara and Lontisha. If you would like to donate or volunteer please contact 202 525 3449 or email [nbufdc@gmail.com](mailto:nbufdc@gmail.com)

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