A Place at the Table Response

Food insecurity is the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. In the documentary *A Place on the table*, a single mother of two named Barbie was living with food insecurity. At one point, she had food stamps to rely on, but now that she has a full-time job, she is responsible for putting food on the table for herself and her children. In my opinion, I think Barbie needs food stamps more than anything with her full-time job. I look at it like this, now that she has a solid steady job, if the government could step in and help her by getting food one the table, she would be able to make savings so that one day she would be able to provide for her family on her own. I feel as if it’s a cycle that these poor families just continue to fall into. They apply for food stamps, and get in, then they find a steady job that pays better than before, and they are taken off the food stamps. Without it, they are in the same boat as before…in need of help, except now, they aren’t able to receive any. Rosie, a young student in elementary school, is also living with food insecurity. Rosie is very lucky to have a teacher like she does who understands the difficulties of learning while hungry. Having someone that brings you and your family 8 full grocery bags of food definitely helps, but it isn’t stopping the problem for Rosie or her family.

When talking about who food insecurity effects, it can range. Obviously, a big part in being food insecure is being in poverty or without enough money to put food on the table. Poverty can affect anyone. Parents who are unable to hold steady jobs are often prone to being food insecure, which leads to the children being food insecure as well. These kinds of families are often more at risk because of the lack of money.

 Watching this movie made me realize that these problems are in our backyard. I used to think that these problems only occurred in less developed countries and stereo typical crime filled cities like Detroit, Chicago and Philly. The people that this documentary focused on were just regular citizens. They are people you would walk pass on the street and you’d think they have everything together. I think that people are good at hiding food insecurity because often times it is something they are embarrassed by. I think that things people do at Christmas time like food hampers are great but I wonder why it needs to be a holiday or special event for people to recognize these people’s reality. During Christmas when you may be delivering goodies, I think talking to these families about how you can continue to help is a great idea.

 If I was in a place of power, the first thing I would do is make it so that you can be on food stamps while still having a well-paying job. Like I said earlier, to get someone up on their feet, they need to collect savings. I don’t think it is right to just completely cut off the food stamps once they get a sufficient paying job. I think that once they are able to provide things like toys and new clothing for their children, it is then time to slowly start taking these families off of food stamps. These kinds of situations can lead to crime. If I was low on money and needed to put food on the table for my children, I would consider things like dealing drugs or stealing. When your children are beginning to get sick from lack of food, I can imagine parents will do anything to make them healthy again.