

Writing from the CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP)

Many People Don't Have Enough Food

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Once upon a time when my friends and I were celebrating my birthday we were eating special dishes and gossiping with each other when suddenly I heard children's voices begging for food. I looked outside and saw a little boy and girl, sick and wearing ragged clothes. I called them over. "Why are you begging? Where are your parents?"

The little girl was crying, and tears came to my eyes as I listened. "Our father died. Our mother is sick, and she stays home. We live in a shanty-town. From morning to night, we beg for food and money on the street. At midday and at the end of the day we give our mother everything." I shouted for my friends to bring food, *biryani*, *roti* and birthday cake. "What about our mother? She hasn't eaten today," they exclaimed. I packed enough food for everyone.

Later, I asked my friends, "What if we give our money to the poor so they can buy food?" One friend answered, "We could donate 1.15% of our income." For the last five years, my friends and I collect our money, and during Ramadan, we give it to people who don't have enough to eat. Doing this helps us believe that, someday, poor people will have enough.

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