Food Justice Primer

OKTjustice.org
Definitions:

Food Justice

seeks to ensure that the benefits and risks of where, what, and how food is grown, produced, transported, distributed, accessed and eaten are shared fairly.
Food Justice

represents a transformation of the current food system, including eliminating disparities and inequities.
Food Justice?

Food banks and food charity are not food justice. They are important but do not address the causes of food insecurity.
Food Insecurity

You cannot get healthy foods.
Definitions:

Food Insecurity

You cannot store or prepare healthy foods.
Food Insecurity

As depicted, foods available in your neighborhood are junk foods or fast foods.
Definitions:

Food Sovereignty

People determine the kind of food system they want, as long as it is ecologically sustainable.

https://vimeo.com/27473286

Food Desert

Neighborhoods with little or no access to large grocery stores that offer fresh and affordable foods.

Is this a good term?
Food Desert?

- A desert is a vibrant ecosystem.
- Grocery stores are not a measure of food security.
- Intentional political and historical factors limit availability of healthy food in certain neighborhoods.
Food Desert?

No.

A more accurate term: **Food Apartheid.**
Food Apartheid:
The intentional, systematic marketing and distribution of profitable, nutrient-poor, disease-causing foods to neighborhoods experiencing income challenges, mainly, communities of color (i.e. communities receiving the most food assistance dollars).
Why Do Our Neighborhoods Experience Food Apartheid?

IT'S PROFITABLE FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY.
How we got the food system we have.

Industrial capitalism moved people from rural to urban spaces. As fewer people grew their own food, the industrial food system gained control of food production.
How we got the food system we have.

To increase profit, the Industrial Food System has historically exploited workers and brutalized animals.
Instead of relying on home-preserved and seasonal foods, people began to rely on industrial preserved foods and refrigeration.
Transportation systems and refrigeration allowed food to travel thousands of miles from where it is grown and/or processed. Chemicals extend shelf-life.

How we got the food system we have.
Chemicals and fossil fuel fertilizers came to dominate agriculture production after WWII.

How we got the food system we have.

http://www.texascenter.org/almanac/Land/PESTICIDES1.HTML
In Government

Annual Lobbying on Agribusiness

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<td>'13</td>
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In Government

**Prop. 37: Genetically Engineered Foods**
Requires labeling of food products made from genetically modified organisms.

**Outcome:** FAILED

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<td>3</td>
<td>NATURE'S PATH FOODS U.S.A. INC. FINE NATURAL FOOD PRODUCTS</td>
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<td>DR. BRONNER'S MAGIC SOAPS ALL-ONE-GOD-FAITH INC.</td>
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<td>ORGANIC CONSUMERS FUND</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>ALI PARTOVI</td>
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<td>MARK SQUIRE</td>
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<td>AMY'S KITCHEN</td>
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<td>LONGER TRUST, TRUSTEE</td>
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<td>DOW AGROSCIENCES LLC</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>SYNGENTA CORPORATION</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>COCA-COLA COMPANY</td>
<td>$1,700,500</td>
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Last updated: 11/6/2012

**Download all contributions**
In Government

Farm Subsidies 1995-2011

- Nationally $277.3 billion
- Michigan $4.61 billion

http://farm.ewg.org/region.php?fips=26000
In Government

2014 Farm Bill

- Gave $956 billion to agribusiness.
- Cut $8.6 billion from food assistance programs.
America's "Subsidy Garden"

What the White House garden would look like if it were planted to reflect the relative costs of the main crops subsidized by US taxpayers. Rough total spent subsidizing these crops: $11 billion/yr, the majority of which goes to subsidize large-scale using conventional agricultural practices ethically modified seeds, pesticides and les derived from fossil fuels, etc.).
In the Media

$100 Billion+ in advertising dollars spent in the US annually.

$1.8 billion target children with unhealthy foods: TV, product placement, online, phones, school events & materials etc.
In schools and universities

a snapshot of corporate influence over university agricultural research 2012
Monopolization of food production.
Monopolization of food production.

Top 4 US Beef Companies

1. Cargill
2. Tyson
3. JBS
4. National Beef

80% of all US cattle
Corporate Influencers

On Non-profits.

food company directors on non-profit boards
each line represents a shared board member

- US-China Business Council (trade association)
- Pepsi
- Coca-Cola
- Cargill
- General Mills
- Smithfield
- HERSHEY'S
- Sara Lee
- Dean Foods
- ConAgra Foods
- Hormel Foods
- American Meat Institute (trade association)
- Chicago Council of Global Agricultural Development (funded by Gates Foundation)

- National Pork Board (trade association)
- Knut & Alice Wallenberg Foundation (Swedish science & biomedical foundation)
- Council on Foreign Relations (policy think tank)
- Consumer Goods Forum (trade association)
- Grocery Manufacturers Association (CEO association)
- National Petroleum Council (trade association)
- Independent Petroleum Association (trade association)
- American Natural Gas Alliance (trade association)
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Unilever
On Healthcare.

And Now a Word From Our Sponsors

Are America’s Nutrition Professionals in the Pocket of Big Food?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Retailer</th>
<th>Stores</th>
<th>Sales</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Walmart</td>
<td>4,750</td>
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<td>Kroger</td>
<td>3,624</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Costco Wholesale</td>
<td>592</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>1,767</td>
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Monopolization of food distribution.

http://www.walmartsubsidywatch.org/
On our health:

- Obesity
- High blood pressure
- Heart disease
- Cancer
- Insurance costs
- Poor Health
Food Justice

“Food Justice asserts that food is a right and no one should live without enough food because of economic constraints or social inequalities. **Food justice reframes the lack of healthy food sources in poor communities as a human rights issue.**”

www.growingfoodandjustice.org
7 Pillars of Food Justice

1.
Everyone has a **RIGHT** to healthy food.
2. We must build a new global food system and "hospice out" the old.
Because multiple systems of oppression prevent food justice, we must do the work through an **intersectional lens**.
4. Food Justice work focuses on marginalized and vulnerable populations.
5.
Food Justice works to eliminate exploitation of humans and animals.
6.
Food Justice preserves ecological biodiversity and promotes sustainability.
7.
Food Justice means sharing resources and skills that empower people to be more food self-sufficient.
Practicing Food Justice

OKT Provides 1st year growers with containers, soil, plants, seeds and a garden coach.
Practicing Food Justice

OKT Provides 2nd year growers with a raised bed, with vertical growing capacity, if requested; soil, plants and seeds.
Practicing Food Justice

OKT offers free classes on preparing food, preserving food, composting, seed saving and many other skill sharing opportunities.
Practicing Food Justice

Southeast Area Farmers’ Market
Gerald R Ford Academy on Saturdays, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
851 Madison Ave. SE at Franklin St.
Garfield Park on Fridays, 3 - 7 p.m.
334 Burton St. SE at Madison Ave.

Double Up Food Bucks

Buy Healthy, Bulk, “Co-op” Foods through OKT!
No added cost! No membership fee!
Our buying group purchases staples from Country Life Foods on a regular basis.
See their catalog at: www.cnf.org or ask OKT for a paper catalog.
OKT may be able to arrange Bridge Card purchases. Email OKTable1@gmail.com or call 616-206-3641 if you are interested in ordering!

Nuts Seeds Rice Grains Flours Cereals Beans Peanut Butter Cooking Oil Milk Substitutes Meat Substitutes Spices & More!

Bulk Food Buying Group
Practicing Food Justice

Working on Food Policy at the Federal, State and Local level.
Practicing Food Justice

Just imagine a just food system.

OKT’s Just Food Dollars Campaign also seeks to promote a more just food system by accomplishing the following:

1) Educate the public about how their tax dollars are used to support an unjust and unhealthy food system.

2) Challenge the public to view government food assistance programs as beneficial and warranting increased funding.

3) Illustrate that government food assistance programs give public money back to the public. It’s our own money!

4) Invite more people experiencing poverty and food insecurity to sign up for any and all food assistance programs, especially the Double Up Food Bucks program. (Our Kitchen Table is signing people up for this program across the community and at the South East Area Farmers Market.)

5) Encourage people to support the local food system by patronizing the South East Area Farmers Market, participating in OKT’s Food Growing Program and attending workshops and food sharing opportunities so that we can build a movement that creates food justice and food sovereignty.

Monies funding food assistance programs are monies collected, in part, from taxes paid by the very people using the programs.

OKT invites you and all community organizations to partner with us in our Just Food Dollars campaign.

First, rethink how you yourself view government assistance programs that enable your neighbors to exercise their right to healthy food.

Second, refer your friends and neighbors using Bridge Cards to us so we can sign them up for Double Up Food Bucks.

Last, and most important, join us by posting and sharing our Just Food Campaign information so we can inspire a larger community conversation about how our food system is funded and how we can make it more just.

OKTjustice.org
oktable1@gmail.com
616-206-3641
Resources

Food & Water Watch
Organic Consumers Association
[http://www.agriculturaljusticeproject.org/home.html](http://www.agriculturaljusticeproject.org/home.html)
[http://casfs.ucsc.edu/](http://casfs.ucsc.edu/)
[http://www.ciw-online.org/](http://www.ciw-online.org/)
OKT Food Justice Series
The Farm Bill
What Is Food Justice?
Women of Color & Food Justice
Food Workers & a Living Wage
Food Justice & Climate Change
Food Justice & GMOs
Food Justice & Farmers’ Markets
Food Justice & Public Health
How to Save Seeds
Politics of Food

OKT offers these hand-outs copy-right free at no charge at http://oktjustice.org/resources/okt-food-justice-series/