

Madison Sebren radiates joy when she walks into a room. As the 10-year-old young girl bounces into the hallway of Wynndale Baptist Church in Byram, Mississippi, she runs up and embraces one of the volunteers. Soon after, other volunteers ask when they will receive their own hugs. With such joy coming from her, one could blink and almost miss an important detail of Madison and her family's life: they face hunger on a regular basis.

Her family members follow Madison into the hallway. Steven Craker, 51, leads the group, who live in Byram, Mississippi, into the church. A painter by trade, Steven's wife receives government food assistance, but it is still not enough to feed their household consisting of four adults, Madison and her eight-year-old sister, Mackenzie. Steven goes to great lengths to ensure his family has food. "I started looking in the dumpsters of the dollar store last year," he said. "A lot of the food they throw away hasn't expired yet." Steven continued, "I have missed car payments so we could eat, but the food pantry helps fill the gap when food stamps run out."

