

## After Surgery, President Bill Clinton Calls for Better Child Nutrition

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by *John Leggio*

Here at the Food Bank, we work to improve **child nutrition** because we know kids' food choices can have lifelong health effects. Last week, at a press conference in Harlem, former President Bill Clinton said he learned that lesson the hard way.

After surgery for blocked arteries at NY Presbyterian-Columbia University Medical Center, President Clinton "**weighed in**" on the **childhood obesity epidemic** while speaking for the **Alliance for a Healthier Generation**.

"The root cause of this was habits that I acquired in my childhood," Mr. Clinton, who also had a quadruple bypass operation in 2004, said.

Mr. Clinton (who spoke at our **2009 Can-Do Awards Dinner**) also gave a shout-out to First Lady Michelle Obama for her "**Let's Move**" **campaign**, which will tackle the obesity epidemic by **helping families** make healthy food choices, improving the **quality of school food**, **encouraging exercise** and **increasing food access**.

We're working to meet similar goals through programs like **CookShop**, which encourages the development of healthy diets among New York City students and their families, as well as **community outreach and advocacy** on issues like **universal school meals**.

With work like ours — and similar efforts from a dynamic duo like the former president and the current first lady — maybe we can protect more children from the outcomes of poor nutrition.



*Former President Bill Clinton speaking at the Food Bank's 2009 Can-Do Awards Dinner; photo by Tran Dinh*