**Food Justice Manifesto**

*by Jade Cho*

(based on the Black Panther Party's Ten Point Platform)

WHAT WE WANT

WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. WE WANT an end to Type II Diabetes in young people.

WE BELIEVE that by causing diabetes, greed-blinded corporations and deficient living conditions are directly responsible for blinding, maiming, and killing thousands annually. This disease overwhelmingly devastates poor people of color: 1 in 3 latino children and 1 in 2 black children born in 2000 will develop diabetes in their lifetime. This is no longer our grandparents' disease, but a reality of heart attack, severed limbs, and impotence many of us will face in the next 10 years - IF we do not hold the food industry and government responsible for their crimes. We believe by sharing our stories, organizing our communities, petitioning the government, and bettering our lifestyles, we can determine the future of our health and communities.

2. WE WANT affordable, healthy food, fit for consumption by human beings.

WE BELIEVE that health should not have a price tag; that quality food should be available in all schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods. Today, a bunch of broccoli costs more than a full meal at a fast food restaurant. There are no grocery stores in poor neighborhoods, but liquor stores and fast food restaurants on every block. These are *not* conditions in which we can expect to live long, healthy lives.

3. WE WANT education for our people that exposes the true nature of the decadent American food industry.

WE BELIEVE it is our right to know where our food comes from and how it is made. What animal does a hot dog come from? What exactly *is* disodium guanylate? The food industry sells us "healthy" brands and "options," made from the same corn products with the same sugar content, by the same 4 major corporations. We believe that when we educate ourselves and our communities and, through boycotting and media pressure, force the food industry to be more transparent, these artificial "foods" will no longer be accepted.

4. WE WANT safe spaces in our communities to exercise and play.

WE BELIEVE it is the individual's responsibility to maintain physical fitness. However, it is nearly impossible for those of us who live in neighborhoods without safe streets or parks and playgrounds; where the nearest substitute is often inside a fast food restaurant's playpen. Recreational facilities are readily available in wealthy neighborhoods, while abandoned fenced off lots dot the landscape of low income communities. We demand the redistribution of local government funds to make these basic resources available to all communities across California, regardless of income.

5. WE WANT you to take action.

WE BELIEVE that in accordance with the above demands, it is the individual's right and duty to take steps towards making these beliefs reality. We believe the revolution is yours to lead.