



Right now, in the United States, 37 million people are classified by the federal government as living in poverty.

That's **one out of every eight Americans**, and **one out of every six children**. It's a huge number of people.

Sometimes, people make bad choices. But a lot of other factors can send a family below the poverty line—and keep others there who are already poor:

- a **minimum wage** that pays a full-time worker less than \$16,000 a year
- **health insurance** that is unaffordable to many, including the 46 million people who lacked coverage in 2007
- a **housing** market that has become so inaccessible to low-income people, 12 million people spend more than half their income for rent or mortgage payments.

Education systems, family environments, and racism, among other factors, also play roles.

Learn about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and the groups it funds—groups made up of poor and low-income persons working to effectively address these and other root causes of poverty.

The **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)** is the Gospel at work and Catholic social teaching in action. CCHD practices the principles the Church teaches: the option for the poor, solidarity, subsidiarity, and participation. CCHD defends human life and dignity every day, in countless ways, all across our nation.

By working together through CCHD, Catholics offer hope and help to low-income families and communities working to overcome poverty and injustice in the United States. For almost 40 years, the Catholic Campaign of Human Development has invited followers of Christ to share in Jesus' mission to "bring good news to the poor . . . release to the captives... and to let the oppressed go free . . ." (Luke 4:18).

*Bishop Roger P. Morin
Chairman, CCHD Subcommittee
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

CCHD's Mission: More Important than Ever

CCHD was established by the Catholic bishops in the United States in 1969 to provide funding for groups of poor and low-income people who are empowered to address the root causes of poverty in their communities.

Since then, CCHD has provided nearly **8,000 grants** to self-help organizations led by poor persons.

CCHD

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development

For more information, visit
www.usccb.org/cchd/
www.povertyusa.org

To support CCHD's work, please send your gift to

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Publication No. C5-284

08/2009

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development



**"Bring glad tidings to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives,
recovery of sight to the blind,
and let the oppressed go free"**

Luke 4:18

Empowering low-income persons to address the root causes of poverty

Catholic Campaign for Human Development Funded Groups: Living Examples of Catholic Social Teaching!

The Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

All human life is sacred, made in the image and likeness of God. Society and its structures should aim to lift up the human person.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

Humans are social and develop in community, starting with family. We should construct our society so all can flourish and participate in the decisions that affect them.

Rights and Responsibilities

Every human person has basic rights inherent in his or her very nature. We have a responsibility to organize our society so the rights of all can be fulfilled.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Those who are weak, vulnerable, and most in need deserve preferential concern.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Through work, humans participate in God's ongoing process of creation. Work has dignity, and the basic rights of workers must be respected.

Solidarity

We are one human family and are called to work for the common good—so that each individual can flourish materially, spiritually, and in all ways.

Care for God's Creation

The earth has been entrusted to us, its stewards. All of creation is interdependent and its gifts are for all to share.

Life and Dignity, Solidarity: Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

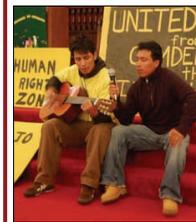
In the past 14 years, **Iowa's** rural communities have seen a proliferation of large, industrial hog farms, or "factory farms," which have caused over 600 manure spills. This has threatened the lives and well-being of children and adults, due to asthma caused by air pollution. It has also caused road damage from heavy trucks, and the closing of small family farms. Local farmers and community members have responded by working in solidarity through Iowa CCI. Their efforts have led to new restrictions on the proximity of factory farms to houses and schools, new air quality standards, and prevented sixty new factory farms from being built.



Members of ICCL calling attention to the plight of family farms.

Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers United Workers Association

Camden Yards and M & T Bank stadium, homes of the **Baltimore** Orioles and Ravens, practice outsourcing to day labor agencies, who are able to provide workers cheaply. The agencies often use low-wage day laborers as a way to avoid providing benefits. Hoping to achieve conditions that better respected human dignity and the dignity of work, workers involved in UWA organized. They held meetings, engaged in dramatic demonstrations, and educated the media and the public. The group succeeded in gaining the first-ever raise for day laborers, doubling pay to \$11.30 an hour. They also succeeded in implementing a worker's code of conduct.



UWA members singing about human rights.

Family, Community and Participation: Families United for Racial and Economic Equality

In the 1990s, financial services companies and high-end retailers' redevelopment of **Brooklyn** led to skyrocketing rent and buying out land occupied by corner stores and family-owned businesses that were vital sources of employment and services. Over 500 members of FUREE felt they should have a voice about the changes occurring in their neighborhood. They embarked on a campaign to call attention to the impacts of development on poor people. Their efforts won relocation funds and affordable housing for displaced families, transportation for seniors to the supermarket and other services, and the ears of council members, who now promise to solicit the opinions of poor people in future decisions.



Maisha and son speaking about development's effects on the family business

Rights and Responsibilities: Faith and Action for Strength Together

To address the growing problem of a lack of affordable housing for low- and middle-income persons in **Pinellas County, Florida**, this group of 34 churches prayed, organized, and invited public officials to meetings where 2,500 members were gathered to challenge those officials to support policies that benefit poor people. FAST's efforts resulted in an affordable housing trust fund that directed \$19 million toward housing for low-income persons, and new legislation to guarantee development of 3,000 units over the next three years for families with incomes less than \$42,000 a year. One thousand units have already been built.



2,500 FAST members ask public officials to prioritize the poor.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable: People Organized for Westside Renewal

In many low-income **West Los Angeles** public schools, math and reading proficiency was in single digits—and parents knew something had to change. Recognizing that hungry kids can't concentrate, POWER leaders from ten schools wrote their own cafeteria reform motion, which now requires healthier foods, and involves parents in a tightened cafeteria inspection process for all 800 schools in the LA school district. They then developed a three-year initiative to increase students' test scores. The initiative connects teachers and parents with training programs and support networks to bolster student achievement.



POWER parent Amparo Marcos speaks about improving education.

Care for God's Creation: Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition

In **West Virginia**, coal companies practice mountaintop removal, which involves razing forests, exploding mountaintops, and using draglines to scoop out the valuable coal. The mining method often contaminates watersheds by dumping waste into streams, and affects community drinking water by leaking coal waste into aquifers cracked by blasting. Through OVEC and its partner organization, Coal River Mountain Watch, affected residents brought their concern to state officials and won access to an emergency water supply. They are now working to protect community health, by urging coal companies to clean up their practices.



An OVEC member proudly shows off a drum of clean water. Photo: Maria Lambert