



“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”
- Mt 25

The Gospel
in action

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)

“The **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)** is the Gospel at work and Catholic social teaching in action.”

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

CCHD provides funding to groups whose activities reflect Catholic moral and social teaching on **human life and dignity**. CCHD-funded groups work to change social structures and policies which undermine life and dignity, especially for the poor and powerless.

CCHD is an example of how the Catholic community reaches out to involve and support people who are poor in acting together to improve their lives, overcome injustice, and escape poverty. CCHD is a sign of how the Church lives out the call from Scripture and Tradition to give special concern and priority to the **needs of the poor and vulnerable**.



Protecting Life and Dignity

*Twenty-five churches, schools and parent groups and 300 individuals make up **Omaha Together One Community (OTOC)**. With CCHD's support, OTOC has worked to ensure that the needs of society's vulnerable are met. Since the early 90's, OTOC members—over half of them Catholic—have worked on issues such as making sure poorer areas were included in a city plan to improve the sewage system, and the creation of recreation and enrichment programs at sites across the city for low-income children. OTOC has also helped improve community-police relations, worker safety and wages, parental involvement in schools, and neighborhood revitalization.*

What is the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)?

CCHD is the **domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops** which works to address the root causes of poverty in the U.S. through promotion and support of community-controlled, self-help organizations.

CCHD works with Catholic dioceses and their bishops to **award grants** to local, low-income community groups working to address the **causes of poverty**. By helping the poor to participate in the decisions and actions that affect their lives, CCHD **offers a hand up**, not a hand out, helping people and communities overcome injustice, escape poverty, and build bridges of solidarity.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Carrying out the mission of Christ to “bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, new sight to the blind, and to set the downtrodden free” (Luke 4:18)

CCHD also works to **educate Catholics** about poverty and its causes in our nation and to help the non-poor put into practice the Church’s **concern for human life and dignity**, the Gospel command to **care for “the least of these”** (Matthew 25), and the Holy Father’s **call to practice solidarity** in helping poor people help themselves to overcome injustice and escape poverty.

“I commend the bishops of the United States for their wisdom and compassion in establishing the [Catholic] Campaign for Human Development . . . and I thank the whole Catholic community for the generous support given to this initiative during all these years.”

- John Paul II, October 5, 1979, Providence of God Church, Chicago, IL

In response to questions and concerns, the U.S. Catholic bishops have undertaken a Review and Renewal of CCHD to reassure Catholics that it is faithful, effective and accountable to its Gospel mission. For more information on the review, visit www.usccb.org/cchd.

Grounded in Our Catholic Faith

- CCHD was created **in response to a mandate from the U.S. Catholic bishops** in 1969 to address the root causes of poverty in the United States.
- CCHD provides funding to groups whose activities are **consistent with Catholic moral and social teaching** and who work to help poor persons help themselves.
- More than **683 Catholic priests, 776 Catholic parishes, 18 Catholic Charities agencies, and 51 religious communities** are involved in the work of groups around the country that receive funding from CCHD.
- As the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** reminds us, “*The Eucharist commits us to the poor*” (#1397). The Eucharist, celebrated as a community, teaches us about human dignity, calls us to right relationship with God, ourselves and others, and sends us on mission to help transform our communities, neighborhoods and world. **The work of CCHD is an example of “Eucharistic” living.**



FAST members ask public officials to prioritize families.

Protecting Families

*In Pinellas County, FL, low-income families were being pushed by rising rents to poorer, crime-ridden areas of town. Thirty churches came together through **Faith and Action for Strength Together**, and with CCHD’s support, won public commitments to strengthen families including 3,000 new **affordable housing units**, a full day **pre-kindergarten** for low-income children, and make neighborhoods safer by **addressing drugs and crime**.*



To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/cchd

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