



Right now in the United States, more than 46 million people are living in poverty.

That's one out of every six Americans, and one out of every five children.

Lots of factors can send a family below the poverty line, and keep others there who are already poor:

- **minimum wage** earns a full-time worker only about \$15,000 a year
- **health insurance** is unaffordable to many, including the 48 million people who lacked coverage in 2012
- **housing** has become inaccessible to low-income people; over 8 million pay more than half their annual income for rent or mortgage payments
- **educational systems, family environment and racism** are other factors

Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), and the community groups it funds—groups made up of poor and low-income persons working to address the 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, especially: the option for the poor, solidarity, subsidiarity and participation. Working on the margins, CCHD defends human life and dignity every day, in countless ways, all across our nation.

“Jesus’ command to his disciples: *You yourselves give them something to eat!* ... means working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor.” *Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium*

CCHD’s Mission: More Important Than Ever

CCHD was established in 1969 to empower groups of poor and low-income people to address the root causes of poverty in their communities.

CCHD has provided over **9,000 grants** to self-help organizations led by poor persons.

“Charity that leaves the poor person as he is, is not sufficient. True mercy, the mercy God gives to us and teaches us, demands justice, it demands that the poor find the way to be poor no longer.” *Pope Francis, Address to Jesuit Refugee Services*

For more information, visit

www.usccb.org/cchd
www.povertyusa.org
www.pobrezausa.org

*To support the work of CCHD,
make checks payable to
“USCCB-Catholic Campaign for Human
Development”*

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CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



*Never tire of working for a more just world,
marked by greater solidarity!*
Pope Francis, Apostolic Journey to Rio de Janeiro

**Empowering low-income
communities 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 as a child of God. 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 & Dignity and Solidarity:

Indianapolis Congregation Action Network (IndyCAN)

The Indianapolis Congregation Action Network (IndyCAN) develop group members' leadership to achieve positive change. IndyCAN leaders identify community concerns, develop solutions and improve quality of life. IndyCAN works to respect the life and dignity of the human person by supporting strategies proven to reduce violence and providing alternatives to criminal activity. IndyCAN demonstrates the principle of solidarity by working to provide sustainable employment opportunities through job training, education and working to expand public transportation to communities devastated by the recession.

Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers:

Centro de Trabajadores en Lucha (CTLU)

Begun in 2005, the Centro de Trabajadores en Lucha (The Center of Workers United in Struggle) was established by low-wage workers to address workplace injustices in the Twin Cities. CTUL has empowered low-wage workers to achieve more just wages, better working conditions and more ethical treatment by employers. CTUL assists workers in successfully changing corporate policies, and has recovered nearly half a million dollars in back wages in addition to getting workers unjustly fired reinstated. CTUL is committed to working for just wages and working conditions that reflect basic respect for workers' rights.

Family, Community and Participation:

Voices Organized in Civic Engagement (VOICE)

Recognizing the concerns and pressures faced by families in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, a coalition of 25 congregations, schools and nonprofits formed Voices Organized in Civic Engagement (VOICE). VOICE develops the leadership skills of group members to work effectively within the democratic process on issues of concern to local families. Recognizing the power of community and participation across boundaries of division, VOICE brings groups and families together on common concerns, including education, public transportation and job opportunities.

Rights and Responsibilities:

Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (IPJC)

Founded in 1991, the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (IPJC) was established to foster collaboration within the Seattle community between individuals, churches and organizations to build community and promote the common good. Working on an array of community issues, IPJC illustrates the principle of rights and responsibilities through public advocacy. IPJC members have engaged Fortune 500 companies to change corporate policies to better ensure human rights, and have also organized individuals to advocate for the poor and vulnerable.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable:

Youth as Resources (YAR)

Youth as Resources (YAR) is a youth-managed organization that addresses the problems of poverty through community organizing, grant-making and leadership development. Since its founding, YAR has distributed over half a million dollars to projects designed to improve the Baltimore community and influence institutional change. YAR's successes include training nearly 300 community organizers and grant writers, funding projects that develop entrepreneurial skills, and decreasing drug abuse through education.

Care for God's Creation:

Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing (BISCO)

In the past decade, the Gulf Coast has suffered from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike, as well as the Gulf Coast oil spill. Such disasters have taken a toll on the local environment, but Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing (BISCO) is working to secure a safe and healthy coastal environment for years to come. Established in Thibodaux, LA, to bring people together across religious denominations, BISCO organizes groups to address community issues. BISCO addresses environmental concerns through outreach programs designed to educate and unite the community.