



Right now, in the United States, 44 million people are classified by the federal government as living in poverty. That's **one out of every seven Americans**, and **one out of every five 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 earns a full-time worker less than \$16,000 a year
- health insurance** that is unaffordable to many, including the 51 million people who lacked coverage in 2009
- a **housing** market that has become inaccessible to low-income people; 12 million pay more than half their annual income for rent or mortgage payments.
- Education systems, family environments, and racism**, among other factors, also play roles.

On the following pages, 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

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 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 Jaime Soto
Chairman, CCHD Subcommittee
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

CCHD's Mission: More Important Than Ever

CCHD was established 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.

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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*Please make checks payable to
"USCCB-Catholic Campaign for Human Development"*

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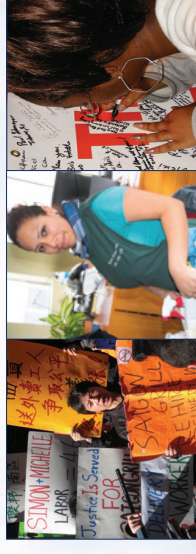


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Find the contact information for the CCHD representative in your diocese:

www.usccb.org/cchd/director.shtml

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development



Bring glad tidings to the poor,
proclaim liberty to the 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 & Dignity, and Solidarity:

Farm Worker Pesticide Project (FWPP)



Maria, a FWPP member, talks to reporters about pesticides and workers' health.

When female farm workers in Washington state spend long hours in orchards and fields without adequate gear to protect them from pesticides, their health—and for pregnant workers, that of their unborn children—can be endangered. Farm workers who experience nausea, vomiting, headaches, and burning eyes are trying to improve worker conditions through the Farm Worker Pesticide Project (FWPP) of Southeast Washington. The FWPP, a group newly funded by CCHD, trains farm workers as advocates, publishes reports, and empowers workers to test pesticide levels at work and in homes, where dangerous residue has also been found. Thanks to FWPP, the lives of farm workers, their families, and their unborn children, are seeing greater attention.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable:

Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People



ESOP members hold a press conference about predatory lending.

In 2008, more than 300,000 people in Ohio fell victim to payday lending, with the average victim having 13 outstanding loans, many with annual interest rates as steep as 391%. CCHD-funded group ESOP, or Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People, worked with other community organizations to successfully pass a new state law that caps payday lending interest rates at 28%, extends repayment terms to 31 days, limits customers to four payday loans a year, and prohibits such loans over the internet. With this new law—which was the result of the sweat, blood and tears of groups like ESOP and their committed members—significant steps have been taken to protect Ohioans from predatory lending.

Care for God's Creation:

Louisiana Bucket Brigade (LABB)



LABB members learn how to take bucket samples.

After Hurricane Katrina, CCHD-funded group Louisiana Bucket Brigade (LABB) trained community members to use EPA-approved "buckets" to take air samples, which led to the discovery of 150 violations of health standards. This prompted refineries to install pollution reduction technologies in order to curb excess emissions that were causing residents serious health problems. After the 2010 oil spill, LABB created an Oil Spill Crisis Map, which documents the effects of the spill on individuals and communities and helped to identify severely impacted "hot-spots" so that response agencies can target these areas in their relief efforts.

Rights and Responsibilities:

Faith and Action for Strength Together (FAST)



2500 FAST members gather to ask public officials to prioritize the poor.

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. Their 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 under \$42,000 a year. One thousand units have already been built.

Family, Community and Participation:

Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC)



Bishop Doohier attends BIC meeting on foreclosures.

Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC) brings together area pastors to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable families in the city of Brockton, MA. For example, at a 600-person meeting at St. Patrick's Church in downtown Brockton, BIC members asked Congressional representatives and the Federal Reserve of Boston to secure new loans for unemployed homeowners and for a speedier loan modification process for troubled homeowners. The result? Four billion dollars have now been distributed toward this purpose, with another billion yet to come. As a result, at least 3000 families in Massachusetts will be able to keep their homes.

Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers:

Women's Action to Gain Economic Security (WAGES)



WAGES members learn important skills.

WAGES is an Oakland-based non-profit organization that empowers low-income women to work together to launch environmentally-friendly business cooperatives, such as green cleaning services. Training programs, peer leadership programs, and community workshops help the women build new skills. Upon completion of training requirements, the women become worker-owners in cooperative businesses. In the San Francisco Bay Area, where an estimated 37% of Latino households are barely able to meet basic needs, many female-headed households have doubled their income thanks to WAGES.