

CCHD NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Life at the Poverty Line. Every day is about hanging on.

"If you want peace, work for justice." Paul VI

WWW.Catholic-Action.org

**A Publication of the Diocesan Social Action Office:
Secretariat for Catholic Charities Health and Human Services**

Message from Bishop Richard G. Lennon



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Millions of hard-working Americans struggle to keep food on the table and a roof overhead. A family of four is said to be living at the poverty line when their annual income is \$19,971 - but two adults working full-time at minimum wage jobs with no time off for illness or vacation, barely make that amount. And what happens if a parent needs to stay home with a sick child, the employer downsizes, or the rent is raised?

For these people **"living at the poverty line, every day is about hanging on.**

For 37 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has partnered with poor and low-income people to identify their needs and implement long-term solutions. Since 1970, the Diocese of Cleveland CCHD Office has funded an average of 15 community-based projects per year. These projects have addressed a multitude of critical community social justice issues – issues similar to those in this newsletter.

CCHD relies on the generosity of individuals like you to support anti-poverty projects in communities across the country and in helping with the on going educational and operational needs of the appeal. By joining in support with Catholics across our country, you lend strength to efforts already underway to foster self-sufficiency and strengthen communities. Please join with those Americans who are **"living at the poverty line – where every day is about hanging on."**

Please support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development appeal directly or through your parish collection on the weekend of November 17 - 18, 2007.

May God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Richard Lennon

Bishop of Cleveland

THE POVERTY LINE

In the United States,

 **28 million children**

are growing up in

low-income families.

(National Center for Children in Poverty)

2007 National CCHD Grants

Deaf & Deaf Blind Committee on Human Rights \$40,000 - Heather West (440) 801-1998

Continue organizing and training efforts that will benefit and empower the deaf and deaf-blind community of Northeast Ohio by addressing issues such as health care, communication, employment, education and full access to the electoral process.

East Side Organizing Project (ESOP) \$25,000 Mark Seifert (216) 361-0718

To utilize its predatory lending experience in organizing working class and minority populations to better understand existing payday lending consumer state laws in order to help reduce consumer debt and create a model to hold payday lenders accountable.

Community Organizations for Reform Now (Cleveland ACORN): \$30,000 Liz Kropp (216) 431-6070

Organize a membership committee from its Cleveland ACORN chapters to work on a State Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign to benefit low and moderate income Ohioans.

Empowerment Center of Greater Cleveland: \$25,000 - Tom Mendelsohn (216) 432-4770

Continue organizing and leadership development efforts of low and moderate-income Clevelanders interested in becoming advocates for the poor and working in collaboration with other community groups to address issues that impact the common good.

Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH) \$30,000 - Jason Lehrer (216) 834-2324

To organize and advocate for a Community Circulator Campaign that would enhance the quality of life for East Cleveland residents and institutions through improved public transportation.

Youth & Young Adult Grants

“Si Se Puede” - “Yes We Can” Project - Hispanic Ministry Office: \$1,000

Sr. Pat Harvat (216) 696-6525 ext. 5920

Help empower Hispanic young people into taking a more active, enthusiastic and influential role in the life and mission of the Church.

“Faith Based Legislative Advocacy Day 2008 – John Carroll University: \$800 Christopher Kerr (216) 397-4777

Making students aware of the legislative advocacy process from a faith-based perspective through participation in a national Legislative Advocacy Day in 2008 in Washington, DC.

World Fair Trade Day & Fashion Show 2008 - Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin High School: \$500

Molly Linehan (440) 286-6226 ext. 225

To sponsor a “Fair Trade Fashion Show” in order to educate northeast Ohio youth about the options available for supporting fair trade and just working conditions of workers.

Community Improvement Initiative 2006- 2007

Direct Action of Central Lorain CDC: \$500

Daniel Sabolsky (440- 244-3150

Organizing parents to be more involved in after school programs and activities to benefit inner-city young people.

Diocesan Community Social Justice Grants

Social Activism Project - S.T.O.P. Family Connection Center: \$1,300

Priscilla Cooper (216) 751-2260

Help organize and train community people in leadership skills so as to become advocates for the needs of poor people to ensure that federal funds benefit this population.

A Journey of Hope - St. Mary Wooster Hispanic Outreach Ministry Effort: \$4,950

Fr. Daniel J. Reed (330) 264-8824

Seeking to educate parishioners and community members about the church’s attitude and response to the immigration crisis and providing legal assistance to those seeking legal status.

Cuyahoga County-wide Living Wage Campaign- Cleveland Jobs with Justice: \$2,800

Jaclyn Stacy (440) 333-7007

To organize a community effort to help pass a county-wide living wage resolution that extends living wage coverage to people working for contractors and/ or vendors employed by Cuyahoga County.

Inner-ring Suburbs/ Land Trust Business Planning-Cuyahoga Community Land Trust, Inc.: \$2,300

Margaret Mizak (216) 334-1620

Helping expand low-income home ownership opportunities in the inner-ring suburbs of Cleveland through the redevelopment of foreclosed houses.

Citizens for a Drug Free Community – South Elyria Neighborhood Development Corporation (SEND): \$2,300

Ms. Chris Baker (440) 284-0041

To help eliminate areas of high drug trafficking in South Elyria through resident participation and organization.

**Fair Trade Fundraising Packet –
Heartbeats: \$2,800**

Sr. Josie Marie Chrosniak, HM (440) 356-8601

To create a fair trade fundraising packet to be used in schools and parishes in order to better educate our constituency about fair trade policies and practices, support the sales efforts of cooperatives in developing nations and help generate local advocates.

**Maximizing Common Ground - United
Clevelanders Against Poverty: \$2,100**

Tim Walters (440) 631-5800

Continue organizing efforts in the Cleveland Westside low-income communities in order to bring people together to work on a common agenda that promotes the common good of their community.

**Systems Change through Grassroots Advocacy
– Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential
(LEAP): \$3,500**

Melanie Hogan (216) 696-2716

Helping low and moderate income persons with disabilities to become self-sufficient and move out of poverty.

**Documenting Payday Lending Growth in Ohio -
Housing Research & Advocacy Center: \$2,500**

Jeffrey D. Dillman (216) 361-9240

Researching the growth of Payday Lending in Ohio in order to help advocate on behalf of individuals victimized by the industry.

**Isaias Duarte Hispanic Outreach and Ministry
Effort - The Bridge Foundation: \$4,750**

Dora Luz Harper (330) 256-8124

Educating Hispanic immigrants on the importance of developing a strong and connected community by becoming familiar with USA immigration laws and teaching them to become advocates for others.

Reclaim Lorain –

Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF): \$1,300

Laura Rios (440) 821-7135

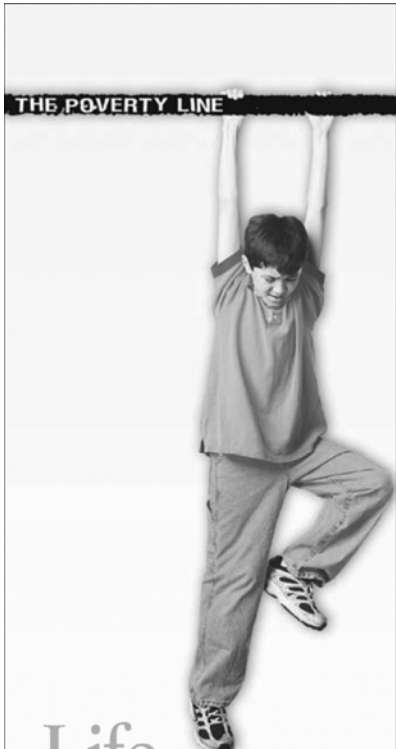
Increase voter turnout in poor and minority neighborhoods for the purpose of building power to change the political systems that keep people poor.

**Project JOSHUA (Journey of Sacred Heart
Chapel Youth & Adults) –**


Sacred Heart Chapel: \$2,100

Martin Flores (440) 258-8810

Helping youth and young adults become advocates for peace and justice by applying Jesus' social justice teachings in a work environment of rebuilding and repairing homes for the poor.



Life
at the
Poverty
Line.
It's no way
to live.



Join the numbers who care.
Support the **Catholic Campaign
for Human Development**
in your parish collection.

Visit www.usccb.org/cchd to learn more.

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VIEW ART WORK:

[HTTP:WWW.USCCB.ORG/CCHD/PROMOCLIPART.SHTML](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/promoclipart.shtml)

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CCHD

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Deacon Rocky Ortiz, Diocesan Director

Life at the Poverty Line.

Everyday is about hanging on. Be part of the numbers who care.
Catholic Campaign for Human Development • www.uscb.org/cchd

CCHD Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest

An opportunity for young people, grades 7 - 12, to work on innovative projects that respond to the issues of poverty in the United States. To enter this contest, youth in Catholic parishes or schools can work individually or in a group and submit artwork within one of three categories: visual arts, literature, or audio-visual. Entries need to be received by the Diocesan CCHD Office no later than **March 17, 2007**. Contact the CCHD Office for entry forms, criteria and guidelines. **Prizes:** 1st \$500, 2nd \$375, 3rd \$250 and Honorable Mention (\$50). The first 3 Prizes are equally matched with a donation to your designated CCHD project.

For details visit the CCHD Website at www.usccb.org/cchd or Contact Deacon Ortiz.

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS ALSO AVAILABLE

Be in Solidarity. By working to bring about the reign of God, we cannot merely work *for* the poor and marginalized. Somehow, we must enter their world; we must learn to see the injustices of our time as the people who directly suffer from those injustices see them. We can then work with them to bring about change. *What is the difference between working for the poor and marginalized and working with them?* From *Sharing the Tradition, Shaping the Future*, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2001.

Visit <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/index.shtml> to learn more.

THE POVERTY LINE



The majority of
low-income parents
only working full-time
for part of the year reported they
could not find full-year work.

(National Center for Children in Poverty)

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PRACTICE SOLIDARITY THESE HOLIDAYS

By sponsoring a CRS Work of Human Hands Sale at our parish/ school - (For products, call 1-800-685-7572)

By purchasing or sponsoring a sale of genuine olivewood products to benefit Christian families in Bethlehem (Contact Deacon Rocky Ortiz)

View the beautiful olivewood carvings by visiting <http://www.zoughbi-olivewood.1colony.com>