

CCHD NEWSLETTER

Fall 2008

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,

There are nearly 37 million people in the United States struggling below the poverty line, and 13 million of those are children. Over a 10-year cycle, about 40% of the United States population experiences poverty at some time. Poverty is caused not simply by the lack of financial resources, but by the lack of quality education, affordable housing, health care, child care, fair wages, and vocational training.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has worked to create permanent, community-based solutions to the problem of poverty by funding programs that promote self-sufficiency. Projects like those listed in this newsletter.

These successes are only possible through the solidarity of parishioners across the United States.

The majority of CCHD's funding comes through its annual parish Collection.

This year's Collection will take place on November 22 -23. Out of your donations, some of the funds stays in our diocese to fund local projects that help strengthen our communities and to support the on-going educational and operational needs of the appeal. The remaining funds go to the CCHD national office to support anti-poverty initiatives across the United States.

The success of the mission of CCHD is not possible without *you*. You can stand in solidarity with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to make a difference in your community and all over our nation. In 2007 the Diocesan CCHD parish collection and mail appeal generated \$181,023.21. **For 2008 I have set a diocesan goal of \$199,126 which is 10% higher than 2007. Your generosity and participation are vital if we are to reach it.**

May God bless your generosity.

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.

Photo: Courtesy of Catholic Campaign for Human Development

2008 National CCHD Grants

Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP) - \$35,000

Mark Seifert (216) 361-0718

To utilize its predatory lending experience in organizing working class and minority populations to prevent housing foreclosures and 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.

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

St. Martin of Porres High School: "March for Life 2009" - \$1,000

Mary Ann Vogel (216) 881-1689 X 308

To create a culture of life among the students at St. Martin de Porres High School through participation in the March for Life in Washington, DC on the anniversary of Roe Vs. Wade.

The Thea Bowman Center: "Summer Youth Leadership Training & Work Experience - \$500

Sr. Sheila Marie Tobbe, OSU (216) 491-0699

Involving low-income and at risk youth to serve as leaders in the Thea Bowman Center Summer Program.

Sacred Heart Chapel: Project JOSHUA (Journey of Sacred Heart Chapel Youth & Adults) - \$500

Martin Flores (440) 258-8810

Helping youth and young adults apply Jesus' social justice teachings in a work environment of rebuilding and repairing homes for the poor.

Hispanic Ministry Office: "Si Se Puede" - "Yes We Can" Project - \$800

Misael Majorga (216) 696-6525 ext. 4300

Helping empower Hispanic young people into a more active, enthusiastic and influential role in the life of justice in the Church.

John Carroll University: "Gifts that Give Twice" Fair Trade Holiday Sale - \$800

Chris Kerr (216) 397-4777

To promote Catholic social teaching through conscious shopping and helping raise the fair trade movement among the JCU faculty, staff and students.

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)

© 2007, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (Catholic Campaign for Human Development)

Community Social Justice Grants

Organize! Ohio: Advocates for Budget Legislation Equality (ABLE) - \$4,600

Dominic Liberatore (216) 431-6070

To help empower low-income Clevelanders affected by the state's health and human services decisions made by the 2009-10 budget process by ensuring that they have a voice to impact the decision-making budget process.

United Clevelanders against Poverty: Maximizing Common Ground (Step 2) - \$2,600

Tim Walters (440) 631-5800

Continue organizing and leadership development efforts in the Cleveland Westside low-income communities in order to bring people together to work on issues that promote the common good of their community.

The Family Connection Center - Welfare Rights & Social Activism Project - \$1,600

Priscilla Cooper (216) 751-2260

To help organize and train community people to become more vocal advocates for policy change in the municipal and state government structures. (Priscilla Cooper (216) 751-2260)

**The Unitas Group, LLC:
Training for Women's Reentry - \$2,050
Diana Gurley, Ph.D. (216) 795-1194**

To develop and pilot a curriculum for, by and about women who are reentering the community after incarceration or other institutionalization so as to assist in their transition.

**Diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry:
Monsignor Romero Committee - \$3,050
Misael Mayorga (216) 696-6525 Ext. 4300**
Providing leadership development opportunities to members of the Bishop Oscar Romero Committee so that they can become advocates for Latino immigrants in need of friendship and solidarity.

**Housing Research & Advocacy Center:
Documenting Payday Lending Growth in Ohio –
\$2,050**

Jeffrey D. Dillman (216) 361-9240
To continue researching the growth of Payday Lending in Ohio in order to help advocate on behalf of individuals victimized by the industry.

**Cleveland Jobs with Justice: Cuyahoga County-wide Living Wage Campaign - \$2,600
Debbie Kline (440) 333-7007**

To continue organizing and membership development efforts in creating a grassroots base to help pass a county-wide living wage ordinance in one City of Cuyahoga County by the end of 2008.

**Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential:
Systems Change through Grassroots Advocacy
- \$3,950 Melanie Hogan (216) 696-2716**

To organize consumers with disabilities to focus on community-wide systemic advocacy aimed at preserving and developing opportunities to gain independence and self-sufficiency.

The Grassroots Coalition for Economic and environmental Justice:

**Esperanza Threads – \$2,100
Sr. Mary Eileen Boyle, OSU (440) 786-9009**
Provide training in sewing skills to low-income women in inner-city Cleveland to help supplement their incomes and/or became gainfully employed.

**St. Mary Wooster: Collaborative Initiative to end Human Trafficking: - \$3,500
Fr. Daniel J. Reed (330) 264-8824**

To educate English and Spanish-speaking parishioners and community members on issues related to human trafficking and immigration in light of Church teaching.

**Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF):
Reclaim Lorain - \$4,300
Laura Rios (440) 821-7135**

Help organize members of South and Central Lorain's low-income communities so that they can become agents for change and transformation of their neighborhoods.

**IS 391% TOO HIGH?
VOTE YES ON 5** **VOTE YES on Issue 5
PLEASE
Spread the word**

There are 391 Reasons to Vote YES on Issue 5. Here are 5:

Yes on 5 lowers interest rates on payday loans from 391% to 28% annual interest.

Yes on 5 ensures that loans will still be available for people who need them, but the interest rate is reduced so that it is comparable to the rates charged by credit cards.

Yes on 5 helps prevent Ohioans desperate for quick cash from falling into a cycle of high-cost loans that they can never pay off.

Yes on 5 extend the same payday loan protections to all Ohioans that the federal government provides to military families.

Yes on 5 approves the new laws endorsed by Governor Strickland and the Republican and Democratic leaders of the Ohio Legislature. They believe the state has a fundamental obligation to protect Ohioans from excessive interest rates and defective financial products.

Take Action Now

Join our Conversations Program by sending out 5 emails with "5 Reasons to Vote Yes on 5" to your friends, family and colleagues.

Transforming the Food Industry



The longtime CCHD-funded Coalition of Immokalee Workers won an agreement for a penny and a half more per pound of tomatoes picked and improved working conditions from fast food giant Burger King. At the May 23 Capitol Hill signing ceremony, the CIW invited more food industry giants to join Taco Bell, McDonalds and now Burger King. The USCCB's John Carr also read Bishop William Murphy's statement in support of the agreement.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development & Catholic Relief Services

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Deacon Rocky Ortiz, Diocesan Director

Prayer of Pope Benedict XVI

O God of love, compassion, and healing, look on us who gather today, in a world of incredible violence and pain. We ask you, in your compassion to bring healing to those who suffer from injuries and illness.

God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world: peace in the hearts of all men and women and peace among the nations of the earth. Turn to your way of love those whose hearts and minds are consumed with hatred.

God of understanding, overwhelmed by the magnitude of tragedy, we seek your light and guidance as we confront terrible events in our society.

Comfort and console us, strengthen us in hope, and give us the wisdom and courage to work tirelessly for a world where true peace and love reign among nations and in the hearts of all.

Amen.

Adapted from Pope Benedict's prayer offered at Ground Zero, New York City, April 20, 2008.

(To e-mail a copy of this newsletter to a friend visit the CCHD link at www.catholic-action.org)

Life at the Poverty Line.

Everyday is about hanging on. Be part of the numbers who care.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development • www.usccb.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 12, 2009**. Contact the CCHD Office for entry forms, criteria and guidelines. **Prizes:** 1st \$500, 2nd \$375, and Honorable Mention. The first 2 Prizes are equally matched with a donation to your designated CCHD project. **For details visit this link:** <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/contestmaterials.shtml>

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?* **Sharing the Tradition, Shaping the Future**, CCHD, USCCB, 2001. Visit <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/index.shtml>.

Help advance the mission and work of CCHD at your parish, school or community organization, contact Deacon Rocky Ortiz for details.

