

Fight Poverty in America. Defend Human Dignity.



In 2009, 43.6 million Americans lived at or below the poverty line, the highest number in the 51 years for which data is available. With many families living one paycheck away from financial instability, there is little hope that more Americans won't face poverty in the years to come.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) funds programs in communities across the United States where people living in poverty join together to identify problems, make decisions, and find ways to improve their lives and neighborhoods.

Please visit www.usccb.org to read more details about CCHD's efforts to bring good news to the poor by helping to break the cycle of poverty.

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Diocese of Grand Rapids

CCHD contributions from parishioners in the Diocese of Grand Rapids have helped to benefit and support nonprofit organizations in our diocese that work to strengthen the voice of low-income people.

Two programs that have empowered poor people to help themselves escape poverty by addressing its causes are highlighted below:

The **Advancement of Citizenship WORD Project English as a Second Language (ESL)**, a program of the Dominican Sisters, provides ESL students with a safe and welcoming classroom environment where students learn basic English to improve the quality of their lives and become active, contributing members of their communities. The inability to speak English is a major barrier to finding employment, navigating the immigration system, and participating in community activities.

The **Job Seekers Program**, a program of St. Patrick/St. Anthony Catholic Churches and the Catholic Community of Grand Haven, serves unemployed and underemployed individuals by providing networking sessions, coaching and mentoring, community resources, and computer and internet access for Michigan unemployment resources, as well as resume and cover letter development courses. The Job Seekers Program empowers others to achieve their career objectives and offers mentorship through a most difficult time of life.

Through the continued generous support of the parishioners in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, CCHD will be able to provide grants to worthy organizations in our community that work to offer support, guidance, and necessary skills to help our marginalized brothers and sisters move beyond poverty.

Support the
**Catholic Campaign
for Human Development.**

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)

carries out Jesus' mission "to bring good news to the poor . . . release to captives . . . sight to the blind and let the oppressed go free" (Lk 4:18).

Origins

CCHD was founded as a domestic anti-poverty program in 1970 by the Catholic bishops of the United States. They realized that outreach through existing charitable services was not creating the changes needed to keep people out of poverty. The bishops saw a need to address the policies and systems that perpetuate poverty as a complement to their direct service programs.

Impact

CCHD funds community and economic development programs across the United States that help poor and marginalized people join together to make decisions, seek solutions to local problems, and find ways to improve their lives and neighborhoods in alignment with Catholic social teaching. Economic development initiatives help develop new businesses, create new jobs, and develop family- and community-owned assets. CCHD also provides educational opportunities for Catholics to learn about poverty, interact with those affected by it, and reflect on our faith response to it.

Involvement

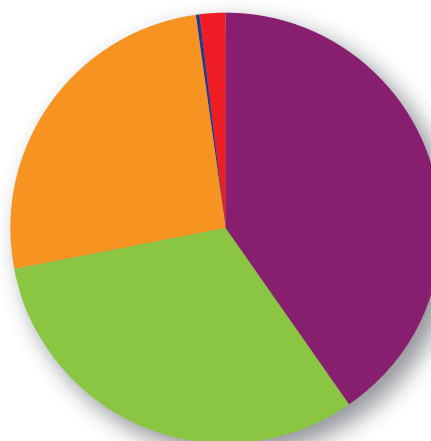
You can make a difference:

1. **Donate.** Your generous support of CCHD in the parish Collection and throughout the year is vital to CCHD's anti-poverty mission and creates real change.
2. **Learn.** Take advantage of the awareness programs that CCHD offers to learn more about poverty, those affected by it, and our responsibilities as members of the Church. Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.
3. **Pray** for those who receive CCHD support and for all caught in the cycle of poverty.

"When we attend to the needs of those in want, we give them what is theirs, not ours. More than performing works of mercy, we are paying a debt of justice." St. Gregory the Great, *Regula Pastoralis*, 3, 21: PL 77, 87

2010-2011 Grants

Total: \$7,973,000



- Community Development/Housing: **\$3,215,000**
- Family & Community Issues: **\$2,538,000**
- Economic Development: **\$2,045,000**
- Technical Assistance: **\$30,000**
- Emergency Funding: **\$145,000**

CCHD is committed to accountability and transparency. We allocate funds to community projects that promote the mission and vision of CCHD and the Catholic Church while adhering to the Church's moral and social teachings. Please visit www.usccb.org to view funding criteria and see a detailed list of our most recent grants. CCHD's primary source of support is an annual Collection held in parishes across the United States. The Collection is split, and 25% of the proceeds support anti-poverty projects in the (arch)diocese where the funds are collected.



Office of National Collections

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