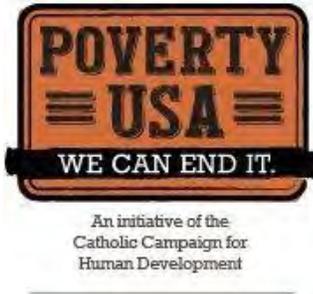


WHO IS CCHD?



The collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the weekend before Thanksgiving. This is not just another second collection. This is the only second collection dedicated to social justice.

Yes, as Oregon and our nation continue to recover from the Great Recession, we need to donate food to our food pantries, time and money to help unwed teenage mothers, used coats and blankets to shelters for the cold and homeless. When many Oregonians are living in poverty – 18% of Oregonians, 23% of our children and 30% of Latinos – we need to contribute time, food and money.

As people of faith we feel good donating food, coats and money to help those in need. But food, coats and money run out. We are called to build the Kingdom of God here on earth and in this kingdom all are invited, all are equal, justice reigns, peace abounds, no one is shunned, and no one is hungry. Our goal must be to create this just world where food pantries are no longer needed because people have food and poverty no longer exists.

Can you imagine a world without poverty and hunger? Did Jesus say to his apostles, “the poor you will *always* have with you...” Or did Jesus say “the poor you will always have *with* you (in solidarity, standing not *next* to the poor but *with* the poor)...?” Or did Jesus say to his apostles, “the poor you will always have with *you* (loving the Lord your God with all your heart [Mk 12: 30] requires dedication to the plight of the poor and vulnerable)...?”

CCHD awards grants to local organizations proposing ideas to break their cycle of poverty). Food, coats and money run out. Local solutions with local control and local decision making are often more effective. Our U.S. Catholic Bishops created the Campaign in 1970, but the mission goes way back, more than 2000 years, back to Isaiah.

Who do you know who is not invited into the God’s Kingdom here on earth? The [day laborer](#) who wonders whether he’ll get paid for his work or be the victim of [wage theft](#)? The [teenage mother](#) who decided to keep her baby and now her family and society shun her? [Immigrants](#) who feel the eyes of discrimination upon them? The [teenager suffering from mental illness](#), who society shuns because he’s not quiet and behaved? The [tenant](#) who complains about the mold in her apartment and is immediately given a 30-day notice of eviction?

Right here in the Archdiocese of Portland, the Church of Western Oregon, CCHD has funded every one of these programs because isolation and discrimination and a lack of an opportunity have kept these people in poverty.

These are not just stories; these are real people. When I was a young man I did not know these stories. Then I knew their stories. Now I feel them and they hurt. I see the face behind every story. I’ve shared meals with these faces. I have cried. When I was younger I gave a few dollars to this collection, to these initials “CCHD.” Now I contribute time and money and prayers to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, not to the stories but to the men and women and children behind them. I plead with you to do the same: give of your time, your prayers and your contributions.

Who is CCHD? It’s you, it’s me, it’s those we meet in the Eucharist, and it’s those in poverty – whether we know them or not. It is all of us. It is San Martin de Porres lifting up immigrants in Yamhill County. It is [Adelante Mujeres](#) creating a Farmers’ Market in Forest Grove to create opportunity for Latino organic farmers. It is the [Rockwood Community Voices for Food Justice](#) organizing in East County because the grocery stores are moving out, leaving a food desert of convenience stores and canned vegetables. It is [Huerto de la Familia](#) creating opportunities in Eugene through a micro-development program. It is the [Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality](#) organized within the Latino migrant community to increase the educational outcomes of low-income and minority students.

Who is CCHD? It the people and their hope within these organizations. It is our neighbor, whom we love just as much as we love ourselves (Mk 12:31) and our God.



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