



"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."  
- Mt. 25

**The Gospel  
in action**

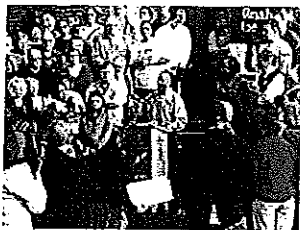
## **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)**

"The **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)** is the Gospel at work and Catholic social teaching in action."

- Bishop Roger P. Morin, Chairman, CCHD Subcommittee, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

CCHD provides funding to groups whose activities reflect Catholic moral and social teaching on **human life and dignity**. CCHD-funded groups work to change social structures and policies which undermine life and dignity, especially for the poor and powerless.

CCHD is an example of how the Catholic community reaches out to involve and support people who are poor in acting together to improve their lives, overcome injustice, and escape poverty. CCHD is a sign of how the Church lives out the call from Scripture and Tradition to give special concern and priority to the **needs of the poor and vulnerable**.



### **Protecting Life and Dignity**

*Twenty-five churches, schools and parent groups and 300 individuals make up **Omaha Together One Community (OTOC)**. With CCHD's support, OTOC has worked to ensure that the needs of society's vulnerable are met. Since the early 90's, OTOC members—over half of them Catholic—have worked on issues such as making sure poorer areas were included in a city plan to improve the sewage system, and the creation of recreation and enrichment programs at sites across the city for low-income children. OTOC has also helped improve community-police relations, worker safety and wages, parental involvement in schools, and neighborhood revitalization.*

### **What is the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)?**

CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops which works to address the root causes of poverty in the U.S. through promotion and support of community-controlled, self-help organizations.

CCHD works with Catholic dioceses and their bishops to award **grants** to local, low-income community groups working to address the **causes of poverty**. By helping the poor to participate in the decisions and actions that affect their lives, CCHD offers a **hand up**, not a hand out, helping people and communities overcome injustice, escape poverty, and build bridges of solidarity.

## The Catholic Campaign for Human Development

*Carrying out the mission of Christ to "bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, new sight to the blind, and to set the downtrodden free" (Luke 4:18)*

CCHD also works to educate Catholics about poverty and its causes in our nation and to help the non-poor put into practice the Church's concern for human life and dignity, the Gospel command to care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25), and the Holy Father's call to practice solidarity in helping poor people help themselves to overcome injustice and escape poverty.

"I commend the bishops of the United States for their wisdom and compassion in establishing the [Catholic] Campaign for Human Development . . . and I thank the whole Catholic community for the generous support given to this initiative during all these years."

- John Paul II, October 5, 1979, Providence of God Church, Chicago, IL

In response to questions and concerns, the U.S. Catholic bishops have undertaken a Review and Renewal of CCHD to reassure Catholics that it is faithful, effective and accountable to its Gospel mission. For more information on the review, visit [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd).

### Grounded in Our Catholic Faith

- CCHD was created in response to a mandate from the U.S. Catholic bishops in 1969 to address the root causes of poverty in the United States.
- CCHD provides funding to groups whose activities are consistent with Catholic moral and social teaching and who work to help poor persons help themselves.
- More than 683 Catholic priests, 776 Catholic parishes, 18 Catholic Charities agencies, and 51 religious communities are involved in the work of groups around the country that receive funding from CCHD.
- As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, "The Eucharist commits us to the poor" (#1397). The Eucharist, celebrated as a community, teaches us about human dignity, calls us to right relationship with God, ourselves and others, and sends us on mission to help transform our communities, neighborhoods and world. The work of CCHD is an example of "Eucharistic" living.



FAST members ask public officials to prioritize families.

### Protecting Families

In Pinellas County, FL, low-income families were being pushed by rising rents to poorer, crime-ridden areas of town. Thirty churches came together through *Faith and Action for Strength Together*, and with CCHD's support, won public commitments to strengthen families including 3,000 new affordable housing units, a full day pre-kindergarten for low-income children, and make neighborhoods safer by addressing drugs and crime.



To learn more, visit [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd)

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Dept. of Justice, Peace and Human Development  
3211 4th St. NE, Washington, DC 20017



**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 (CCHD) is the Gospel at 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/](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/)  
[www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org)

To support CCHD's work, please send your gift to

Office of National Collections  
3211 4th Street NE  
Washington DC 20017-1194

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

United States Conference  
of Catholic Bishops  
3211 Fourth Street NE  
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Find the contact information for the CCHD representative in your diocese:

[www.usccb.org/cchd/director.shtml](http://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)

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.



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

#### Option for the Poor and Vulnerable:

##### Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People

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.



ESOP members hold a press conference about predatory lending.

#### Care for God's Creation:

##### Louisiana Bucket Brigade (LABB)

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.



LABB members learn how to take bucket samples.

#### Rights and Responsibilities:

##### Faith and Action for Strength Together (FAST)

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.



2500 FAST members gathered to pressure the poor.

#### Family, Community and Participation:

##### Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC)

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.



Bishop Dauber attends BIC meeting on foreclosures.

#### Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers:

##### Women's Action to Gain Economic Security (WAGES)

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 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.



WAGES members learn important skills.