

# Faith to Face Poverty Week

October 3-10, 2010

Hosted by:

Fox Cities Project Promise  
Poverty Coalition

Sponsored by:



Prince Of Peace Lutheran Church



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# Project Promise Overview



*“God has not called us to be successful, but faithful...Do not think that love in order to be genuine has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired. Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.”*

*--Mother Teresa*

Project Promise is a coalition of non-profit organizations, service providers, and individual community members with the goal of ending poverty. They have come together to provide resources to those who may be living in poverty, as well as those who want to understand poverty and what they can do to help fight it in the Fox Cities.

*“Poverty in America is a pressing and moral problem. All faiths speak out on the need to care for the poor and vulnerable and to strive for the common good...Poverty is not a Democratic or Republican issue...it is a moral issue.”*

*--Fighting Poverty with Faith: A Week of Action (September 2008)*

The mission of this community resource is to engage our community in the elimination of poverty. Members of the Project Promise Poverty Coalition continue to work to eliminate poverty by building awareness of the causes and conditions of poverty in the Fox Cities, by educating the community about the impact and complexity of poverty, and by facilitating collaborative action. Project Promise will be a cooperative effort of providers, supporters of social services, businesses, community members and all others who seek to advocate for the needs of people living in poverty in the Fox Cities. It is not itself a provider or funder of direct services to the poor.

*“The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority.”*

*--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Strength to Love (1963)*

Project Promise will work to accomplish its goal by using the following three strategies: Analysis, Education, and Action. To that end, 3 committees have been established.

### **INFORMATION & ANALYSIS**

- Create knowledge and understanding of poverty
- Analyze and evaluate data such as census information, trends/community reports, poverty information and other statistics
- Complete poverty root cause analysis
- Create understanding of our current delivery system, including developing the “Continuum of Care” for poverty
- Identify gaps and measure progress toward goals

### **AWARENESS & EDUCATION**

- Build awareness of systemic nature of poverty
- Enhance communication between agencies and the community
- Communicate knowledge and understanding of poverty, including development of Speakers Bureau and cultivation of relationships with media to build public awareness of poverty
- Create opportunities for the community to learn about poverty
- Recognize and build upon existing community collaborations and relationships

## **ACTION & IMPACT**

- Support on-going work of existing agencies and the community
- Support partners engaged in advocacy
- Amplify the voice of poverty
- Convene the community
- Facilitate public policy discussions
- Facilitate community initiatives and innovations
- Inspire personal, community, and public policy change necessary to end poverty

The first *“The Faith to Face Poverty Week”* was held October 9-15, 2009. More than 30 faith communities throughout the Fox Valley focused on poverty. Over 140 individuals participated in 1 of 2 free poverty simulations, experiencing what it might be like to live in poverty. Thousands of people heard about poverty during their worship services, and various events (such as “free oil change day” and a canned food drive) shed light on the reality of poverty in our community.

### **Fox Cities Project Promise Poverty Coalition Goals**

The Fox Cities Project Promise Poverty Coalition will:

1. maintain a long-term focus on fighting poverty in the community.
2. establish priorities based on the needs of the community and consistent with existing community plans.
3. facilitate connectivity between all those involved in service to those in poverty but will not regulate their activities.
4. document and build awareness of the continuum of care of poverty services.
5. help educate the community on poverty and services so that every member of the community will know a few key poverty facts, such as:
  - The number and percentage of people living at or below 100% of the federal poverty guideline
  - The percentage of children qualifying for free or reduced lunch
  - The number of homeless people
  - The awareness of the 2-1-1 service
  - Current priorities of the Coalition
6. help educate the electorate about policy and its impact to those living in poverty.
7. not become an agency, but will be an entity organized and run by volunteers that engages other agencies, businesses and the community at large in activities that work to end poverty.

## **BEING POOR by John Scalzi**

Being poor is knowing exactly how much everything costs.

Being poor is getting angry at your kids for asking for all the crap they see on TV.

Being poor is having to keep buying \$800 cars because they're what you can afford, and then having the cars break down on you, because there's not an \$800 car in America that's worth a damn.

Being poor is hoping the toothache goes away.

Being poor is knowing your kid goes to friends' houses but never has friends over to yours.

Being poor is going to the restroom before you get in the school lunch line so your friends will be ahead of you and won't hear you say "I get free lunch" when you get to the cashier.

Being poor is living next to the freeway.

Being poor is coming back to the car with your children in the back seat, clutching that box of Raisin Bran you just bought and trying to think of a way to make the kids understand that the box has to last.

Being poor is wondering if your well-off sibling is lying when he says he doesn't mind when you ask for help.

Being poor is off-brand toys.

Being poor is a heater in only one room of the house.

Being poor is knowing you can't leave \$5 on the coffee table when your friends are around.

Being poor is stealing meat from the store, frying it up before your mom gets home and then telling her she doesn't have to make dinner tonight because you're not hungry anyway.

Being poor is hoping your kids don't have a growth spurt.

Being poor is Goodwill underwear.

Being poor is not enough space for everyone who lives with you.

Being poor is feeling the glued soles tear off your supermarket shoes when you run around the playground.

Being poor is your kid's school being the one with the 15-year-old textbooks and no air conditioning.

Being poor is thinking \$8 an hour is a really good deal.

Being poor is relying on people who don't give a damn about you.

Being poor is an overnight shift under florescent lights.

Being poor is finding the letter your mom wrote to your dad, begging him for the child support.

Being poor is a bathtub you have to empty into the toilet.

Being poor is stopping the car to take a lamp from a stranger's trash.

Being poor is making lunch for your kid when a cockroach skitters over the bread, and you looking over to see if your kid saw.

Being poor is believing a GED actually makes a goddamned difference.

Being poor is people angry at you just for walking around in the mall.

Being poor is not taking the job because you can't find someone you trust to watch your kids.

Being poor is the police busting into the apartment right next to yours.

Being poor is not talking to that girl because she'll probably just laugh at your clothes.

Being poor is hoping you'll be invited for dinner.

Being poor is a sidewalk with lots of brown glass on it.

Being poor is people thinking they know something about you by the way you talk.

Being poor is needing that 35-cent raise.

Being poor is your kid's teacher assuming you don't have any books in your home.

Being poor is six dollars short on the utility bill and no way to close the gap.

Being poor is crying when you drop the mac and cheese on the floor.

Being poor is knowing you work as hard as anyone, anywhere.

Being poor is people surprised to discover you're not actually stupid.

Being poor is people surprised to discover you're not actually lazy.

Being poor is a six-hour wait in an emergency room with a sick child asleep on your lap.

Being poor is never buying anything someone else hasn't bought first.

Being poor is picking the 10 cent ramen instead of the 12 cent ramen because that's two extra packages for every dollar.

Being poor is having to live with choices you didn't know you made when you were 14 years old.

Being poor is getting tired of people wanting you to be grateful.

Being poor is knowing you're being judged.

Being poor is a box of crayons and a \$1 coloring book from a community center Santa.

Being poor is checking the coin return slot of every soda machine you go by.

Being poor is deciding that it's all right to base a relationship on shelter.

Being poor is knowing you really shouldn't spend that buck on a Lotto ticket.

Being poor is hoping the register lady will spot you the dime.

Being poor is feeling helpless when your child makes the same mistakes you did, and won't listen to you beg them against doing so.

Being poor is a cough that doesn't go away.

Being poor is making sure you don't spill on the couch, just in case you have to give it back before the lease is up.

Being poor is a \$200 paycheck advance from a company that takes \$250 when the paycheck comes in.

Being poor is four years of night classes for an Associates of Art degree.

Being poor is a lumpy futon bed.

Being poor is knowing where the shelter is.

Being poor is people who have never been poor wondering why you choose to be so.

Being poor is knowing how hard it is to stop being poor.

Being poor is seeing how few options you have.

Being poor is people wondering why you didn't leave.

# Poverty Facts





## Facing the Facts...

Regional and state unemployment rates were generally lower in June, with 39 states and the District of Columbia recording unemployment decreases, 5 states had increases, and 6 states had no change, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The U.S. national jobless rate was 9.5; Wisconsin's was 7.9 percent ([www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov), retrieved 072610).

In 1990, 15% of children in Wisconsin were living in poverty. By 2000, that number fell to 11%, but rose back to 14% by 2008. This means that 172,033 Wisconsin children were estimated to be living in poverty in 2008. Of that total, 4,404 lived in Outagamie County and another 3,525 in Winnebago County (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>, retrieved 072610).

Residents in 1 of 10 Wisconsin households faced food insecurity in 2008; locally, St. Joe's Food Pantry and other area pantries have recorded record numbers of request for food assistance in the past 2 years, including many new clients who had never sought community services before.

In 2009, the Food Pantry Program at the Salvation Army-Fox Cities distributed over 913,000 pounds of groceries to 33,034 people in need. Also, the Noon Feeding program served 53,821 nutritious meals to the hungry.

LEAVEN provides emergency financial assistance for housing, utilities, transportation and other basic human needs. It has increased its assistance enormously in the past 8 years, supporting 2,667 families in 2000 to 7,400 household visits in 2009.

The Tri-County Community Dental Clinic in Appleton served 22,300 patients (31% of whom are children) from October 2003 when it opened through December 2009. Dental care was provided during 37,008 client visits. TCCDC estimates that over 60,000 adults and children in the tri-county area are unable to afford basic dental care.

The Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley is a drug and alcohol free environment; anyone caught not abiding by Shelter rules is asked to leave. Many who end up at the Shelter have either had a string of bad luck or are suffering from some form of physical/mental health issue.

The shelter provides an opportunity to receive the support and skills to become sustainably independent. Average demographics at the Shelter look like this:

Single Males - 47%

Single Females - 15%

Families/children - 38% (16% of those are adults, and 22% are children).

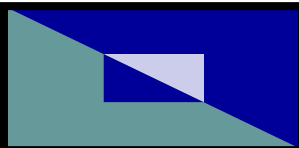
Outagamie: 43%

Winnebago: 20%

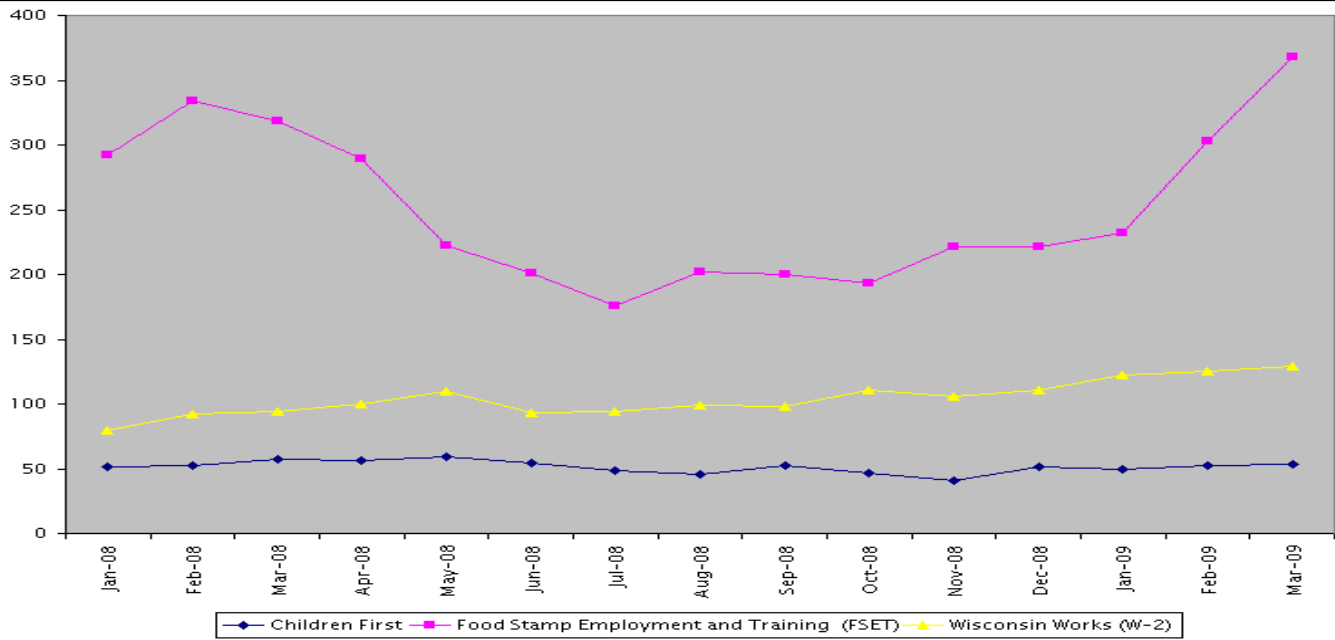
Calumet: 1%

Other counties: 24%

Out of state: 12%



# Facing the Facts...



Wisconsin is still lower than the national average when it comes to foreclosures, but foreclosure court cases in Wisconsin rose from 6,407 in 2000 to 23,263 in 2008, according to Andy Lewis, UW-Extension community development specialist.

**Lack of affordable housing** - In the Fox Cities, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a 2-bedroom apartment \$663. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$26,520 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, at 52 weeks per a year, this translates into a Housing Wage of \$12.75. It is estimated that 33% of renter households in the Fox Cities do not earn enough to rent a 2-bedroom apartment.

In Wisconsin, a minimum wage worker earns an hourly wage of \$6.55. In order to afford the FMR for a 2-bedroom apartment, a minimum wage earner must work 78 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for an individual are \$674 in Wisconsin. If SSI represents an individual's sole source of income, \$202 in monthly rent is affordable, while the FMR for a one-bedroom in the Fox Cities is \$534.

2010 Federal Poverty Guidelines	
Family size	100% Poverty guideline
1	\$10,830
2	14,570
3	18,310
4	22,050
5	25,790
6	29,530
7	33,270
8	37,010
For families with more than 8 persons, add \$3,740 for each.	

# Worship Resources for Faith Communities



## **OPTION ONE:**

**Hymn List:** *Lord of Feasting and of Hunger*  
*Now the Feast and Celebration*  
*As We Gather at Your Table*  
*Now We Join in Celebration*  
*You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*  
*Praise and Thanksgiving*

## **Litany Suggestion:**

### **A LITANY FOR UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC TIMES**

When God brought the Israelites out from Egypt into the wilderness, they complained that they had nothing to eat. But God gave them manna. Let us bring our prayers before God, knowing that they will be heard by the One who provides.

We thank you, gracious God, for all that you provide. In this time of economic uncertainty, give us gratitude for all that we have and freedom from worry about the things we lack.  
Lord, your faithfulness is beyond all measure.

**Help us trust in you.**

We pray for all people who have lost jobs and for those whose livelihoods are threatened, especially those supporting families through their labor.  
Lord, your faithfulness is beyond all measure.

**Help us trust in you.**

We pray for all people now facing futures dramatically different from the ones they planned. Help us meet what is yet to come with flexibility, grace, and a certainty that our future is in your hands.  
Lord, your faithfulness is beyond all measure.

**Help us trust in you.**

We pray for all people who hunger and especially for those around the world whose lives are at risk this day because of insufficient food.  
Lord, your faithfulness is beyond all measure.

**Help us trust in you.**

We pray for all people struggling to stay in their homes and for those who have been uprooted. Help us to remember that we are truly at home in you.  
Lord, your faithfulness is beyond all measure.

**Help us trust in you.**

In this time of challenge, deliver us from the temptation to see blaming others as a solution. Give us a spirit of generosity, understanding and love. Lord, your faithfulness is beyond all measure.

**Help us trust in you.**

We pray for the leaders of all nations, and especially for our president and congress, as they make decisions that affect many lives. Guide them and help them remember hungry and poor people as they consider the path ahead.

Lord, your faithfulness is beyond all measure.

**Help us trust in you.**

Loving God, provider of manna, loaves and fish, and bread and wine.

**Help us trust in you.**

## **A Prayer Suggestion**

**for Christians:**

Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” We pray for the children, women and men across the world who struggle each day to survive, pitted against economic conditions beyond their control. Give them strength to meet each day and hope for a different future.

Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.” We pray for the leaders and politicians with the power to change things. Help them to take the side of the poor, to resist the voices of self-interest and complacency and to make bold choices for the good of all people.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, friend of the poor.

Amen

## **OPTION TWO:**

**Hymn List:**     *Lord of Feasting and of Hunger*  
                      *Now the Feast and Celebration*  
                      *As We Gather at Your Table*  
                      *Now We Join in Celebration*  
                      *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*  
                      *Praise and Thanksgiving*

## **Litany Suggestion:**

### **A LITANY FOR UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC TIMES**

Refer to Option One

## **A Prayer Suggestion**

Refer to Option One

## Scripture Text Suggestions:

Exodus 32:1-14

Deuteronomy 15:11

Philippians 4:1-9

Leviticus 19:9-10

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Leviticus 25:35

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Matthew 22:1-14

Deuteronomy 15:7-8    Isaiah 25:6-10a

## Qur'an references:

*Have you considered him who calls the judgment a lie, that is the one who treats the orphan with harshness and does not urge others to feed the poor? Qur'an 107:1-3*

*And what will make you comprehend what the uphill road is? It is the setting free of a slave, or the giving of food in a day of hunger, to an orphan, having relationship, or to the poor man lying in the dust. Then he is of those who believe and charge one another to show patience, and charge one another to show compassion. These are the people of the right hand. Qur'an 90:12-18*

## Reproducible Insert:

Information about the Fox Cities Project Promise Poverty Coalition and a few facts on poverty (see *Facts on Poverty* section for a more detailed version).

## OPTION THREE:

### **Hymn List:** *Lord of Feasting and of Hunger*

*Now the Feast and Celebration  
As We Gather at Your Table  
Now We Join in Celebration  
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart  
Praise and Thanksgiving*

### **Contemporary Song List:**

*Poverty Train* by Laura Nyro  
*Ghetto Show* by Talib Dweli  
*Poverty* by the Bobby Blue Band  
*Inner City Blues* by Marvin Gaye  
*Poor Dirt Farmer* by Levon Helm  
*Welfare Blues* by John Lee Hooker  
*How Can a Poor Man Stand Such Times and Live?* by Ry Cooder  
*Crime to Be Broke in America* by Spearhead  
*Free Money* by Patti Smith  
*Welfare Music* by The Bottle Rockets

## **Litany Suggestions: A LITANY FOR UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC TIMES**

Refer to Option One

### **LITANY FOR THOSE IN POVERTY**

On those bowed down by poverty

**Lord have mercy**

On those who struggle to survive

**Lord have mercy**

On parents who have lost children to disease

**Lord have mercy**

On children who miss school because of unpayable debt

**Lord have mercy**

On young people growing up with no hope for the future

**Lord have mercy**

On adults who work and cannot make a living

**Lord have mercy**

On farmers who cannot sell what they produce

**Lord have mercy**

On people working to rebuild their lives after disasters

**Lord have mercy**

For those fighting for justice

**Make their voices heard**

For citizens standing up for their rights

**Make their voices heard**

For politicians and decision-makers

**Give them wisdom, Lord**

For the leaders of the world

**Give them wisdom, Lord**

For ourselves, as we struggle with these issues

**Make us the means of change**

For your world

**Help us make poverty history**

## A Prayer Suggestion

Refer to Option One

OR

Dear Father in heaven, in heaven, in the days and years remaining to me in this life, I shall find myself called upon to come to the assistance of those who lack sufficient food or clothing, or who need a place to live, or who need work. May I always find a way to follow the promptings of my conscience to help others whose humanity is diminished by the desperate conditions of their lives. Let me remember that you showed your love especially to the poor, and warned the rich that their wealth was an obstacle to holiness. Amen

### Scripture Text Suggestions:

Exodus 32:1-14

Leviticus 19:9-10

Leviticus 25:35

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

Deuteronomy 15:11

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Isaiah 25:6-10a

Philippians 4:1-9

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Matthew 22:1-14

### Qur'an references:

*Have you considered him who calls the judgment a lie, that is the one who treats the orphan with harshness and does not urge others to feed the poor? (Qur'an 107:1-3)*

*And what will make you comprehend what the uphill road is? It is the setting free of a slave, or the giving of food in a day of hunger, to an orphan, having relationship, or to the poor man lying in the dust. Then he is of those who believe and charge one another to show patience, and charge one another to show compassion. These are the people of the right hand. (Qur'an 90:12-18)*

*If you give alms openly, it is well, and if you hide it and give it to the poor, it is better for you; and this will do away with some of your evil deeds; and Allah is aware of what you do. (Qur'an 2:271)*

*O you who believe! be maintainers of justice, bearers of witness for Allah's sake, though it may be against your own selves or your parents or near relatives; if he be rich or poor, Allah is nearer to them both in compassion; therefore do not follow your low desires, lest you deviate; and if you swerve or turn aside, then surely Allah is aware of what you do. (Qur'an 2:135)*

*Surely those who guard against evil shall be in gardens and fountains. Taking what their Lord gives them; surely they were before that, the doers of good. And in their property was a portion due to him who begs and to him who is denied good. (Qur'an 51:15-16,19)*

## Torah references:

*And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest.*

*And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and stranger; I am the Lord your God.*

**(Lev. 19:9-10)**

*And if your brother has become poor, and his means fail with you; then you shall relieve him; though he may be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with you.*

**(Lev. 25:35)**

*If there is among you a poor man of one of your brothers inside any of your gates in your land which the Lord your God gives you, you shall not harden your heart, nor shut your hand from your poor brother; But you shall open your hand wide to him, and shall surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he lacks. **(Deut 15:7-8)***

*For the poor shall never cease out of the land; therefore I command you, saying, You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor, and to your needy, in your land.*

**(Deut. 15:11)**

*Judaism emphasizes to its adherents the obligation to help the poor rather than to merely pray for them. A Jew is not exempt from helping the poor, and must not desist from doing so. Every day the act of Tzedakah (doing what is right) is practiced when Jews may donate according to their ability.*

## Baha'i references:

### **Baha'u'llah was known as "Father of the Poor"**

Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i Faith, in His youth, was to the orphan He a kind father, to the downtrodden a helper, and to the poor and needy a haven and a refuge. These heavenly qualities manifested by Him from childhood made Him the object of adoration and love among people who heard His name and came in touch with His vibrant personality. He spent His time looking after the needy, the poor and the sick. When Baha'u'llah's father died He succeeded to the management of a large estate and married the daughter of a well-known vazir, and they became known as the "Father of the Poor" and the "Mother of Consolation".

### **Take care of the poor:**

"O ye rich ones on Earth! The poor in your midst are My trust; guard ye My trust, and be not intent only on your own ease. Watch that ye betray not His trust, that ye deal not unjustly with them and that ye walk not in the ways of the treacherous. Ye will most certainly be called upon to answer for His trust on the day when the Balance of Justice shall be set, the day when unto every one shall be rendered his due, when the doings of all men, be they rich or poor, shall be weighed."

### **True wealth**

"The essence of wealth is love for Me; whoso loveth Me is the possessor of all things, and he that loveth Me not is indeed of the poor and needy. This is that which the Finger of Glory and Splendour hath revealed."

### **Prayer revealed for aid and assistance:**

“O Thou Whose face is the object of my adoration, Whose beauty is my sanctuary, Whose habitation is my goal, Whose praise is my hope, Whose providence is my companion, Whose love is the cause of my being, Whose mention is my solace, Whose nearness is my desire, Whose presence is my dearest wish and highest aspiration, I entreat Thee not to withhold from me the things Thou didst ordain for the chosen ones among Thy servants. Supply me, then, with the good of this world and of the next. Thou, truly, art the King of all men. There is no God but Thee, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Generous.” Baha’u’llah

## **CHILDREN’S TIME SUGGESTION:**

Written by Larry Hollar

Ask the children how many have ever gone to a meal where there were lots of people present. These may have been family picnics, wedding receptions, birthday parties, or other events. We often call these feasts, and they’re a time for celebration and rejoicing. Sometimes when we’re invited to a feast we have to say no because we already have other plans. But in our story today, we’re reminded that God welcomes all of us, whether we’re poor or rich, young or old, to the wonderful feast God has ready for us. And like God, we’re also to welcome others to share food around our own tables so that all God’s people can be fed, each day. What a joyous feast!

## **OTHER RESOURCES:**

Sojourners have many on-line worship resources on poverty issues including Scripture texts, sermon illustrations, responsive readings and litanies. Check their website: [www.sajo.net](http://www.sajo.net)

### **Ramadan-The Month of Fasting**

(excerpt from 877-WHY-ISLAM Project)

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. It begins with the sighting of the new moon after which all physically mature and healthy Muslims are obliged to fast for the complete month. Fasting is done as an act of worship and obedience to Allah (God). Between dawn and sunset, Muslims abstain from all food, drink and any kind of sexual contact. In addition to this physical component, the spiritual aspects of the fast include an added emphasis on refraining from gossip, lies, obscenity and in general, any sinful act.

God says in the Holy Quran: O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that ye may (learn) self-restraint...Ramadan is the (month) in which was sent down the Quran, as a guide to mankind, also clear (Signs) for guidance and judgment (between right and wrong). So every one of you who is present (at his home) during that month should spend it in fasting (Al-Quran 2:183,185).

Fasting is thus universally known as a means of gaining self-discipline and of gaining closeness to God. It is the third of the Five Pillars of Islam. The others are declaration of faith (Shahadah), prayer (Salah), charitable-giving (Zakah), and the pilgrimage to Makkah (Hajj). Fasting, together with the other pillars, forms the foundation of the faith. It instills in the

individual a feeling of closeness to God and a desire to do good deeds at all times.

It is common to have one meal (known as Suhoor), just before sunrise and another (known as Iftar), directly after sunset. The breaking of the fast (Iftar) usually consists of dates, following the tradition of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Ramadan strengthens the community: Muslims invite one another for the Iftar meals, and thereby create concern and friendship among neighbors, families and friends. Many people also take Iftar to the mosque and share it with the wider community, especially the poor and needy.

Ramadan is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer and doing of good deeds. Fasting is intended to inculcate self-discipline, self-restraint and generosity. Fasting makes the individual more aware of the many bounties of God. The hunger and thirst remind the fasting person of the poor who may rarely eat well. Fasting re-enforces the concept that wasting the Creators bounties is a sign of ingratitude to Him.

The end of Ramadan is marked by the sighting of the new moon, which is followed by a day of celebration known as Eid-ul-Fitr or the festival of fast-breaking. Families wake up early in the morning, put on their best clothes and go to the mosque for the Eid sermon and congregational prayers. They thank the Merciful God for having given them the opportunity to experience the blessed month of Ramadan. The day is accompanied by celebration, socializing, festive meals and modest gift-giving especially to children. But before the festivities begin, every person, adult and child, must have already contributed towards Zakat-ul-Fitra. This is the giving of a meal, or cash equivalent, to a needy person to make sure that none are excluded from this happy occasion.

# Activities & Events



*The Faith to Face Poverty Week* committee has developed lists of activities suitable for adults and for families/intergenerational groups. These are also subjectively listed from easy, low-level, inexpensive commitment to harder, higher level of commitment.

## ADULT ACTIVITIES

1. Bring in a speaker from a local agency to speak on some aspect of poverty in our communities for Adult Education Hour/Adult Forum.
2. Have a speaker from the Fox Cities Project Promise Poverty Coalition Speaker's Bureau come out and speak about the wonderful work that Project Promise is engaging in. Contact Mary Wisnet at [mary.wisnet@unitedwayfoxcities.org](mailto:mary.wisnet@unitedwayfoxcities.org) to set this up.
3. Visit <http://www.gratefulness.org> (spiritual ideas rooted in gratefulness).
4. Have the "Poverty Overview" PowerPoint emailed to you to show to your community and start a discussion on this issues on our community (see *the Poverty Facts section for more information*).
5. Fall cleaning - challenge yourself to fill your backseat/trunk within the next week with items to donate to *Goodwill* or *St. Vincent de Paul*.
6. Organize a food drive at your place of worship/employment. Donate the food raised to a local food pantry (i.e. - *St. Joe's, Neenah-Menasha Red Cross, Hortonville Food Pantry*).
7. Host a **Suds for the Shelter** drive for 1-2 weeks (shampoo, detergent, dish soap) and donate to the *Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley, COTS, Harbor House Domestic Abuse Shelter, Christine Anne Domestic Abuse Shelter*.
8. Socks, socks, socks – Did you ever think about the fact that persons who are homeless or living in poverty may consider this to be a luxury that they cannot afford? This may not be a problem in Wisconsin summers, but in our winters.... Consider holding a new (and possibly gently used) month-long sock drive at your congregation and donating it to a local homeless shelter or similar organization.
9. Do you have an extra crib, high chair, refrigerator, kitchen table/chairs you're not using? See if *Harbor House* can use it; if not, donate it to *Goodwill* or *St. Vincent DePaul*.
10. Host a "CASH FOR GAS" Drive and donate the funds raised to the *LEAVEN*.
11. Write a letter to the editor in support of a non-profit organization and the benefits that it provides to the community at large.

12. Write a letter to the editor in support of policies that are effective in assisting those in poverty. Keep up to date with this by checking the Project Promise website ([www.projectpromisefoxcities.org](http://www.projectpromisefoxcities.org)) or the Wisconsin Council on Children & Families ([www.wccf.org](http://www.wccf.org)).
13. Take advantage of *Buy One, Get One Free* specials at area stores and donate the extra items.
14. Help coordinate an Alternative Gift Fair at your faith community. An Alternative Gift Fair is a holiday experience hosted by a faith community that is generally open to the entire community. It can be offered 1-2 days or on several consecutive weekends, generally beginning shortly after Thanksgiving. It is a way to bypass the crowds in the mall and buying more “stuff” for people by donating to causes that honor their values. The coordinator of the fair determines what kinds of “items” they will have available. It can include donations to local, national and international charities. For example, instead of buying another sweater for Granny and a tie for dad, you might buy 3 chickens for a family in Thailand, backpacks for children in Appalachia, or compact fluorescent light bulbs for low income families in rural Wisconsin. For each donation, the giver received a holiday card with a description of the organization and gift. For more information or ideas, type Alternative Gift Fair into your search engine and you will find many results to review.
15. Do you have a musical instrument you no longer use? Call one or two local elementary schools and see if the music teacher knows of a child who could benefit from your old tuba or clarinet? Or donate it to the New Orleans Musicians Relief Fund ([www.nomrf.org/donations.html](http://www.nomrf.org/donations.html)).
16. Donate the cost of eating Sunday breakfast out for a month to a local charity. Have members of your community pledge a certain number of Sundays in a month or two-month period to donate.
17. Set up a box in the break room at work where people can bring in unwanted coupons and exchange for coupons they want.
18. Attend the Project Promise Volunteer & Resource Fair to be held on the first floor of the City Centre in conjunction with the Appleton Farmer’s Market on July 18<sup>th</sup> from 8 to noon. Learn about volunteer opportunities available in the Fox Valley area as well as about some of the wonderful program and services that are offered for those in need.
19. Put up a mitten/hat tree in late October so you can donate the items to the *Community Clothes Closet* or *Lutheran Social Service’s Urban Threads* before it gets really cold out.

20. Go through training and donate 8-16 hours at a *Habitat for Humanity* home building site. Not handy with a hammer? Provide the morning snack or lunch for the work crew. Or donate time at the *Habitat Restore* in Appleton. Perhaps set a goal to reach a certain total number of hours as a faith community.
21. Sort items at the *Community Clothes Closet* or *Lutheran Social Service's Urban Threads* once a week for a month.
22. Prepare a bulletin insert each weekend for a month featuring the story of an area non-profit agency devoted to helping those in need.
23. Take any store's flyer from the Sunday paper and use all of the food coupons; buy the items and donate to a local food pantry or homeless or domestic abuse shelter.
24. Take the 5-day hunger challenge concept to your church body or faith community and educate them and then challenge them on dealing with hunger. Ask your people to step into the experience. Invite them to live on beans and rice (low cost mercy food) for 5 days and save the money they normally spend at the grocery store and donate that to your faith community or a local organization for combating hunger. It is a great experiential example and provides great stories and changed hearts. Millions of people live on beans and rice and millions more wish they could. We have it so good in America...step into the challenge!!!
25. Donate money to the *CAP Services Skills Enhancement Program*. Since education is the key out of poverty, CAP Skills helps employed low- and middle-income individuals take classes to improve their skills so they can obtain jobs paying higher wages. Go to [www.capservices.org](http://www.capservices.org) to find out how to donate.
26. Volunteer on the *St. Joe's* food collection vans one morning a week for 3 months as they collect food donations from local restaurants and stores; or sort donations once they are delivered to the pantry.
27. Volunteer to teach Sunday School or drop in as a "guest teacher" and lead an exercise on understanding poverty for each class over the next few months (see *Children's Activities & Resources* section for more information).
28. Volunteer at *BABES* once a week for 3 months to provide child care or tutoring.
29. Commit to visiting [www.sacredspace.ie/](http://www.sacredspace.ie/) (daily on-line prayer guide using Judeo-Christian scripture readings) for a month.
30. Join the Social Concerns Ministry at your house of worship or volunteer to join the advisory board at a local non-profit; plan on a 1-2 year commitment.

31. Speak with your social concerns group about getting involved in the NOAHH program (*Neighbors Offering a Helping Hand*). This program connects individuals, churches, community organizations and agencies with children and families served by the Outagamie County Dept. of Human Services to help meet their most basic needs. For more info, call Penny at 832-5515.
32. Help someone learn to read; there is a proven link between low levels of literacy and high levels of poverty. Tutor someone for a year through the *Fox Valley Literacy Coalition*.
33. Call *Big Brothers/Big Sisters* or *Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha* or *PALS* and volunteer to be a “Big” for a child in need for the next year.
34. Organize/host a Hunger Banquet, with food proportional to hunger in the world – 40% of the world population lives in poverty. Details at [www.oxfam.org](http://www.oxfam.org). The premise is that some people get a meal of water and bread, some get rice and beans, some get chicken, one gets beef.
35. Become a volunteer mentor for *CAP Services Project Team Family Mentoring Program*; this requires a 1-year commitment of about 4-6 hours per month.
36. Donate your used car to *WINR* or your used boat to *Rawhide*.
37. Go to [www.29gifts.org](http://www.29gifts.org) for an inspirational site on developing an attitude of giving and sharing.

## **INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

1. Host a Garden Drive and have members of your community take some of that extra zucchini and other produce (or apples/pears from your trees) to *St. Joe’s Food Pantry* soon.
2. Walk in the *Crop Walk* on October 10; get lots of sponsors! Try for 10-10-10, i.e. get 10 more walkers, 10 more sponsors, 10 times more money than your faith community did last year. *See enclosed materials inserted in this manual for more details and information on how to register.*
3. Offer a pumpkin decorating contest in your neighborhood with a small entry fee; winner gets a token prize and the rest of the money is donated to *LEAVEN*.
4. Trick or Treat for *Unicef* ([www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)). Consider making it a youth event for your faith community.
5. The next 3 times you want to rent a movie, go to the library instead and get a free movie, throw the money you saved in a jar & donate the cost of the movies.

6. Schedule a time to ring bells for *Salvation Army* in November or December. This would be a great family or youth group activity.
7. Hold a *Souper Bowl* event, in which all worshippers are asked to bring a can of soup to church for each family member –donate them to the food pantry at *St. Joe's, Salvation Army, or Hortonville Food Pantry*. To make it more exciting, have posters for 2-4 NFL teams and the “winner” is the one that has the most cans of soup in front of it at the end of the event. This does not have to occur on Super Bowl Sunday.
8. Participate in one of two poverty simulations that are being offered during this week-long event. One will be held on October 4<sup>th</sup> and the other on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Get a group (5-20 people or more!) to participate in one of these simulations and get an idea of what those in poverty experience on a daily basis. This is free of charge and a wonderful opportunity. Space is limited to the first 172 people that sign up as well as 30 volunteers are needed that will need to show up 45 minutes prior to the start to be trained. ***Refer to the Poverty Simulation flyer included in this manual for more information and find out how to register.***
9. Call *Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Fox Valley* or *Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha* or *PALS* and volunteer to help with an upcoming event.
10. Make a batch of popcorn and watch/discuss the 20-minute children’s movie: *The Story of Stuff with Annie Leonard* at [www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com).
11. Oxfam International is a confederation of 13 like-minded organizations working together and with partners and allies around the world to bring about lasting change. We work directly with communities and we seek to influence the powerful to ensure that poor people can improve their lives and livelihoods and have a say in decisions that affect them. Find out how we work with others to end poverty and injustice, from campaigning to responding to emergencies.  
[www.oxfam.org](http://www.oxfam.org)
12. Sit on the floor and eat a simple dinner of soup and bread. Talk with your family about the “luxuries” of having a kitchen table and chairs, and adequate food.
13. Pay for the meal of a family in line behind you at McDonald’s. This is great role modeling for your (or anyone else’s) children about random acts of kindness.
14. Suggestions for ways to increase the awareness of poverty issues during National Poverty Awareness Month held in January every year.  
<http://www.usccb.org/cchd/focusonpoverty.shtml>
15. Rake leaves for an elderly neighbor.
16. Pray for the comfort and safety of our community’s homeless.
17. Talk with your child’s teacher to see if there is a child in need in his/her class and make a donation, asking the teacher to pass the gift along anonymously to that

child's parent(s) (*consider a grocery store gift card and/or a gift certificate to a moderate-priced or fast-food restaurant*).

18. Join the *Fox Cities Project Promise Poverty Coalition* and help eliminate poverty in the Fox Cities. Get on the mailing list for updates on meetings, important policies, and more.
19. Host a one-day famine. Collect pledges and donate them to a local organization.
20. Hold a Bake Sale and use the proceeds to buy phone cards for residents at COTS.
21. Plan an ecumenical youth lock-in at your house of worship (*see Children's Activities section for more information*).
22. Put a red slip of paper (or some other unusual marker) in every 8<sup>th</sup> bulletin at your worship services; at one point in the service, everyone with that marker will be asked to stand while the rest of the congregation remains seated. This provides a visual representation of the 1 in 8 people in the US living in poverty.
23. Talk with your child(ren) about poverty and those less fortunate than you during dinner. Talk about how blessed you are.
24. Organize a community showing or get together with family and/or friends and watch *The Pursuit of Happyness* or *Slum Dog Millionaire*. Discuss it afterwards. How did it make you feel? Do you think the movie was realistic?
25. Sponsor a Scavenger Hunt for food in your neighborhood or near your place of worship. Up the ante—assign point values for certain items and winning team gets a prize. Charge an entry fee of 2 non-perishable food items and donate all food to a local food pantry.
26. Write down all of the money you spend each day for a week; then review it. Think about how this list would be different if you were living in poverty? Discuss it with 1-3 other people. How would your lives be different if you suddenly lost ½ of your income?
27. Play [www.freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com); every time you get a correct answer, grains of rice are donated to some of the world's hungriest persons. An added benefit: your vocabulary will improve!! Keep track as a faith community how much rice is donated on behalf of members in your community. Demonstrate using graphics for the children!
28. Plan an indoor rummage sale at your house of worship this winter and donate the proceeds to a local charity OR organize a rummage sale for the community, where all items are free. Put up posters around town at sites where people with limited incomes are likely to see them.
29. Eat meatless meals 2 days a week for 3 weeks and donate the money you saved to the charity of your choice.

30. Have your kids, youth group, Scout Troop, or Sunday School class decorate a jar to use as a piggy bank and develop a plan to save money to fill it and decide with them where they would like to donate the cash after 30-60 days.
31. Begin using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and donate to the charity of your choice. If your favorite charity is not listed, arrange to have them added. They get 1 cent each time you use that search engine. Track the number of members that start using this search engine.
32. Go to [www.thehungersite.com](http://www.thehungersite.com) daily and click; sponsors provide 1.1 cups of food to the hungry each time you visit (limit once per day). Again, develop a way to track and display for members in your community to see their impact and motivate them!
33. Put a dot on your wristwatch or cell phone and say a prayer for those in poverty every time you look at it for the next week.
34. Set up a prayer wall at your house of worship; let people write prayers on slips of paper and commit to praying for 1 or more persons' needs daily for the next month. Kids can do this too!
35. Build a Shanty Village on a chilly day/evening. Each person is only allowed to wear a tee shirt, shorts, socks, and shoes and to bring \$5. They can buy articles of clothing for 75 cents each to stay warm and can buy food – but the \$5 needs to last 24 hours.
36. Encourage your son or daughter(s) to save their allowances to buy a book of stamps and give it to a single mom or dad in your neighborhood or to *Boys & Girls Club* or *Boys and Girls Brigade*.

If you are looking for even more ideas on how to make a difference in our community, please contact the Volunteer Center of East Central Wisconsin at [info@volunteercenter.net](mailto:info@volunteercenter.net) or call (920) 832-9360.

Please remember to keep track of the difference that your faith community is making by tracking numbers (i.e. - number of people that experienced a Poverty Simulation, number of canned foods collected, etc...) as well as gathering input from your members on the various activities and/or events that they participate in. Taking a few minutes to do these things now will enable us at Project Promise to report back to the community as a whole on the impact that this project had. Thanks in advance for doing this.

# Children's Activities & Resources



# ACTIVITIES

## SET UP NEEDS

1. List of donation locations in your community that you and/or the children are interested in helping
  - Contact information: Name, Phone, Hours open for donation
  - Specific Needs
  - Any special instructions per the site
    - ❖ *Some domestic shelters have limited access and room for storing items, please check with them before starting the challenge*
2. Create a listing of families that are in need
  - What are their specific needs (if applicable)?
    - ❖ *Should only be accessed by coordinator (privacy is necessary)!*
3. Make a volunteer list at your location
  - Name, contact information and what they are willing to donate, and experience/skills they are willing to share
    - ❖ *Cooking, cleaning tax preparations, Mr./Mrs. fix-it, sewing, babysitting, etc...*

## COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

### 1. STUFF THE MINI-VAN

- ✚ Ask local dealership to donate a vehicle or someone willing to donate the use of their vehicle for the week
- ✚ (Optional) Challenge a fellow community site to see who can pack in the most items to donate to a local pantry, shelter or group
- ✚ Determine your winner criteria or set a goal for your faith community to reach
  - For example: total weight of items donated, volume of items donated, dollar value, etc...
- ✚ Get volunteers to load and unload items
- ✚ Coordinate with the donation site
  - Contact person, name and phone
  - Drop off time and location
    - ❖ *Do this promptly, as many locations are staffed by volunteers with limited hours*
- ✚ Get volunteering information for your community (for future use)
- ✚ Base the items collected from donation site wish lists
- ✚ Items to be stuffed:
  - Non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, baby items, new clothing items, new school supplies, etc...

## 2. **PB&J CHALLENGE**

- ✚ See how much Peanut Butter & Jelly your community can donate
- ✚ Decide on how to set up teams
- ✚ Have a PB&J picnic/dinner to promote the idea (kick-off)
- ✚ Color code theme - Purple/Red & Brown/Tan

## 3. **BACKPACK BUDDIES**

- ✚ Possible Late summer/early fall program
- ✚ Set goal for whole community or teams to reach for
- ✚ Collect backpacks (new or gently used) to use/donate
- ✚ Collect new school supplies
  - Organize each backpack with school supplies
- ✚ Have list of local schools and programs that could use items for lower income families
- ✚ Collect gift cards to donate, but select certain stores and set an amount standard
  - Cards can be placed in the outside pocket with a note stating that it is to be used for those items not included in the backpack

## **SEASONAL/HOLIDAY THEME CHALLENGES**

### 1. **THANKSGIVING - TURKEY DRIVE**

*\*Be sure to consider whether or not you have the proper storage room for frozen turkeys*

- ✚ Hold a turkey/thanksgiving dinner drive
- ✚ Create donation boxes/Rubbermaid containers
- ✚ Fill with all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner
- ✚ Get volunteers to deliver boxes to needy families in your community

### 2. **LABOR DAY/MEMORIAL DAY/4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY - RED, WHITE, & BLUE CHALLENGE**

- ✚ Create list of items needed or purpose of drive
- ✚ Set teams and see who can get the most red, white and blue donations
- ✚ Assign point per color
  - i.e. - Red = 2 points each, Blue = 5 points each & White = 5 points (15 points if item(s) have all 3 colors on packaging or maybe a bonus)
- ✚ Hold a celebration for winner with the agency/organization/program that resources were raised for

### 3. **WINTER - CABIN FEVER CHALLENGE**

- ✚ Decide on an outdoor activity (or pick several) the community would like to participate in
  - i.e. - sledding, snow shoeing, sleigh ride

- + Set date/time/location
- + Set requirement for participating
  - i.e. - non-perishable food item must be donated to go sledding

#### **4. CHRISTMAS, EID, OR HANUKAH DONATIONS**

- + During these holidays, depending on your faith group, donations are usually asked of us. Perhaps a donation of a gift or money could be made to a local non-profit organization or program that helps those in need.
  - Christmas – December 25, 2010
  - Eid Al-Fitr - September 19, 2010
  - Eid Al-Adha - November 16, 2010
  - Yom Kippur - September 18, 2010
  - Rosh HaShanah - September 9, 2010
  - Chanukah - December 1-9, 2010

#### **5. EARTH DAY CHALLENGE (can be done anytime of the year!)**

*\*Earth Day is April 22nd of each year*

- + Set up a day in April to help local homeowners in need
  - i.e. - cleaning, fixing, yard work, basement de-cluttering, etc...

#### **6. “TAKE A BITE OUT OF POVERTY”**

- + Decide on an organization/agency/program to raise funds for
- + Have children create ideas for the bake sale
- + Host the bake sale with a poverty backdrop and with each sale include a slip of paper with an important statistic regarding poverty
  - For helpful statistics go to [www.irp.wisc.edu](http://www.irp.wisc.edu) or see the Fox Cities Project Promise website at [www.projectpromisefoxcities.org](http://www.projectpromisefoxcities.org)

#### **7. POVERTY MEAL**

- + Hold an anti-poverty dinner or lunch where children eat a 'poverty line' meal
- + Have children discuss feelings of the experience and what they can do about it
- + List ideas that may come out of this discussion and follow through if necessary

#### **8. POPCORN**

- + During class-time, have someone pop a bag of microwave popcorn, bring it into the meeting, and eat it (or you can use any other food item that the children would like and want)
- + After several minutes, discuss the experience of wanting something but being unable to attain it, the difficulty of concentrating while wanting something else, and the disparity of some having resources while others do not
- + Generate ideas of ways to help others that want some things, but can't get them

## 9. **THEME-BASED PRODUCT DRIVE**

- ✚ Hold a theme-based product drive such as peanut butter and jelly (see above), trick or teeth (dental hygiene products), school supplies, winter/spring/fall coats (depending on the season), shoes, or whatever else the children can come up with
  - Use your list of needs in the area to help you
- ✚ Have the children come up with catchy slogans for their campaign

## 10. **LOCKDOWN NIGHT**

- ✚ Organize a lockdown evening at school or in the parish hall, where the theme is poverty awareness
- ✚ Invite and set a goal (i.e. - 10% of the students) to sleep overnight in cardboard boxes on the playground or in the gym
- ✚ Guide the students in a reflection/discussion on poverty during the lockdown
- ✚ Group them into teams and challenge teams to create a project that will either bring about poverty awareness, educate the community on poverty, create action that will generate a positive impact in eliminating poverty

### **NEED MORE IDEAS?**

1. Have children brainstorm ideas for creating drives or collections for the resources needed
2. Pick one (maybe two depending on numbers) project that is agreed upon among them
3. Develop a plan with them to implement the project(s)
4. HAVE FUN!!

**\*Please remember to collect data to measure the impact that your project had and report that back to the children so that they can see the impact their project had in helping to eliminate poverty or raise the awareness level of the issue in our local community.**

# RESOURCES

## 1. **“How to Help Kids Learn to Give during the Holidays”**

- ✚ A good article on ways to get the children involved in giving around the holidays  
<http://www.parentcentral.ca/parent/article/539127>

## 2. **MULTIMEDIA ART ACTIVITIES - EXPLORE POVERTY**

- ✚ The following website provides wonderful multimedia art projects all based around exploring poverty  
[http://www.humanityquest.com/topic/art\\_activities/index.asp?theme1=poverty](http://www.humanityquest.com/topic/art_activities/index.asp?theme1=poverty)

## 3. **POVERTY AWARENESS ACTIVITIES**

- ✚ The following website has great ideas to help raise awareness of poverty  
[http://www.wmu.com/VolunteerConnection/Project\\_HELP/Poverty%20Awareness%20Activities.pdf](http://www.wmu.com/VolunteerConnection/Project_HELP/Poverty%20Awareness%20Activities.pdf)

## 4. **GRANDMA’S GIFTS PROJECT IDEAS**

- ✚ See the following website for more great youth activity ideas  
[www.grandmasgifts.org/Projects.aspx](http://www.grandmasgifts.org/Projects.aspx)

## 5. **FOOD FAST**

- ✚ Food Fast is Catholic Relief Services' 24-hour hunger awareness program for Catholic youth in the United States. Focusing on global poverty and justice, Food Fast provides an experience of solidarity with our brothers and sisters overseas, living our faith, and joining together in community to create lasting change in the world. This year, Food Fast focuses on the global dimension of migration, its relationship to hunger and poverty and how we as Catholics can respond to this issue. [www.foodfast.org](http://www.foodfast.org)

# Educational Resources



# Books about Poverty for Children

## **All the Cats in the World (Part of Taking Roots Kit)**

Sonia Levitin (Harcourt, 1982)

Description: This is a story of homeless cats and the two women even though poor, they took on the task of feeding them because they cared about hungry creatures. Every day they came with scraps, leftovers purchased for a few pennies from the fishmonger, the butcher and the grocer.

## **Beatrice's Goat**

Page McBrier (Simon & Schuster, 2004)

Description: More than anything, Beatrice longs to be a schoolgirl. But in her small African village, only children who can afford uniforms and books can go to school. Beatrice knows that with six children to care for, her family is much too poor. But then Beatrice receives a wonderful gift from some people far away — a goat! Fat and sleek as a ripe mango, Mugisa (which means "luck") gives milk that Beatrice can sell. With Mugisa's help, it looks as if Beatrice's dream may come true after all.

## **Being Poor (Part of the Taking Root Sample Kits)**

Rosenberg, Janet. (Lerner Publishing Group, 1975)

Description: Brief text and illustrations describe what it means to be poor.

## **Benjamin Brody's Backyard Bag**

Phyllis Vos Wezeman, Colleen Aalsburg Wiessner (Brethren Press, 1991)

Description: Do you know about homeless people? Just open this book and see what Benjamin discovered.

## **Butterflies Under Our Hats**

Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and Joani Rothenberg (Illust) (Paraclete Press 2001)

Description: From best-selling children's author Sandy Sasso, an unforgettable story of losing and finding hope. Once there was a town called Chelm where there was no luck. If something could go wrong, it did. The roofs of the houses always leaked. The sidewalks were cracked. The gardens grew only weeds. Nothing was ever right. So begins bestselling children's author, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (nearly 500,000 copies of her books are in print), in this charming, original tale inspired by a Jewish folktale.

## **Does God Still Love Me? Letters from the Street**

Sr. Mary Rose McGeady (Convent House, 1995)

Description: This are stories about homeless children and how they got that way.

## **Everybody Needs a Home**

Myra L. Fozard (ELCA, 1994)

Description: The story teaches children the need to help those who are less fortunate and may not have a home of their own.

### **It's hard not to worry: (stories for children about poverty)**

John M. Barrett and Davis Hannah (Illustrator) (Friendship Press, 1988)

Description: A collection of six stories with Christian emphasis about North American children whose families are facing or living in poverty. Includes discussion guide.

### **Seekers Series #6; Frank's Fear**

G. J. Linko (Augsburg Fortress, 2002)

Description: This is the story of Frank who lives in poverty conditions and is afraid that if he tells his friends about himself he will lose their friendship. Frank becomes trapped in his own web of lies.

### **Taking Root Grades 3-6 Sample Curriculum Kit**

Augsburg, 2009

Description: A kit to sample the curriculum written for grades 3-6. Each kit contains one Leaders' Guide, one of each of the five student newspapers, a promotional poster, and stickers all on poverty and hunger. Shipping paid for by ELCA Development Services.

### **The Quiltmaker's Gift**

Jeff Brumbeau & Gail de Marcken (Orchard Books, 2000)

Description: The Quiltmaker's Gift. This charming fable for our times celebrates the joy of giving. A generous quilt maker, with magic in her fingers, sews the most beautiful quilts in the world, and then gives them away. A greedy king, his storehouse stuffed with treasures, yearns for something that will make him happy...Will the quilt maker sew a quilt for the king? Will the king ever learn to share? Can the quilt maker teach the king to be happy? What will the king do with all his splendid things? Look for clues to the story in the quilts.

### **The Shoemaker's Dream**

Masahiro Kasuya/ Mildred Schell (Judson Press, 1980)

Description: Picture book about Martin, the shoemaker, who discovers the truth of Matthew 25:40. The story is based on "Where Love Is" by Leo Tolstoy.

## **Books about Poverty for Teens & Adults**

- ◆ *An Atlas of Poverty in America: One Nation, Pulling Apart / 1960-2003*  
Amy Glasmeier, Poverty in America Project (New York: Routledge, 2005)
- ◆ *Citizen Hobo: How a Century of Homelessness Shaped America*  
Todd DePastino (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2003)

- ◆ *Down & Out, on the Road: The Homeless in American History*  
Kenneth L. Kusmer (NY: Oxford University Press, 2001)
- ◆ *Encyclopedia of Homelessness*  
David Levinson, ed. (London: Sage Publications, 2004)
- ◆ *Nickel and Dimed—on (Not) Getting by in America*  
Barbara Ehrenreich (NY: Owl Books, 2002)
- ◆ *No Shame in My Game: The Working Poor in the Inner City*  
Katherine S. Newman (NY: Vintage, 2000)
- ◆ *Poor People*  
William T. Vollmann (NY: Ecco, 2007)
- ◆ *Poverty and Inequality*  
David B. Grusky and Ravi Kanbur, eds. (Palo Alto, CA.: Stanford Univ. Press, 2006)
- ◆ *Poverty in America: A Handbook*  
John Iceland (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2003)
- ◆ *Rachel and Her Children: Homeless Families in America*  
Jonathan Kozol (NY: Three Rivers Press, 2006)
- ◆ *Seedfolks*  
Paul Fleischman (NY: Harper Teen, 1997)
- ◆ *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities of Our Time*  
Jeffrey Sachs (NY: The Penguin Press, 2005)
- ◆ *The Right to the City: Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space*  
Don Mitchell (NY: The Guilford Press, 2003)
- ◆ *The Working Poor: Invisible in America*  
David K. Shipler (NY: Knopf, 2004)
- ◆ *What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty*  
Bill Ehlig and Ruby Payne. (Chicago: aha! Press, 1999, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)

Additional book titles may be found at: [www.demos.org/publication.list.cfm](http://www.demos.org/publication.list.cfm)

# Websites with Poverty/Faith-Related Information

- ❖ <http://feedingamerica.org/take-action/dinein.aspx>
- ❖ <http://site.blogactionday.org>
- ❖ <http://tradeasone.org>
- ❖ <http://www.alabamapoverty.org>
- ❖ <http://www.bread.org>
- ❖ <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org>
- ❖ <http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm>
- ❖ <http://www.crsfairtrade.org>
- ❖ <http://www.dressforsuccess.org>
- ❖ <http://www.elca.org>
- ❖ <http://www.feedingamerica.org>
- ❖ <http://www.fightingpovertywithfaith.com/>
- ❖ <http://www.foodfest.org>
- ❖ <http://www.freerice.com>
- ❖ <http://www.heifer.org>
- ❖ <http://www.justneighbors.net>
- ❖ <http://www.oxfam.org>
- ❖ <http://www.projectpromisefoxcities.org>
- ❖ <http://www.sojo.net>
- ❖ <http://www.spotlightonpoverty.org>
- ❖ <http://www.thehungersite.com>
- ❖ <http://www.unicefusa.org>
- ❖ <http://www.web.worldbank.org>
- ❖ <http://www.worldvision.org>
- ❖ <https://www.alternativegifts.org>



# Planning Committee

The following is a list of the dedicated, hard-working individuals that gave their time, effort, and expertise to making this whole event possible:

- ◆ Colleen Holz, Co-Chair
- ◆ Connie Raether, Co-Chair
- ◆ Vernon Hicks
- ◆ Joan Jensen
- ◆ Andrew Konkel
- ◆ Sandi Moore
- ◆ Gary Nokleberg
- ◆ John Slotten
- ◆ Deb West

[www.projectpromisefoxcities.org](http://www.projectpromisefoxcities.org)