

# Catholic Campaign for Human Development

THE POVERTY LINE

Steady employment is good. Spending 14 hours each day working and commuting, but still not making enough to support a family, is not good. Yet thousands of families in our country rely on the minimum-wage salaries of exhausted, hard-working adults to keep food on the table and a roof overhead.

**I**n Virginia and Florida, two community groups funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) helped their low-income members gain control over their wages and their commutes.

In Alexandria, Virginia, taxi drivers were paying \$150 each week to an established cab company to carry its familiar logo on their cars. Competition was intense, and drivers did not get as many fares as they needed to make ends meet. Business dried up after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, when Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., shut down. However, the taxi drivers' expenses did not decrease.

With help from CCHD, the drivers banded together to establish the **Union Taxi Cab Cooperative**. More than 200 owner-members now compose the largest cab company in Alexandria. The drivers still drive 12 to 14 hours a day, but they take home more money to their families because they contribute only \$45 each week to the cooperative. Their contribution guarantees a minimum number of daily dispatches and pays for advertising. And they own the business.

People living on the north side of Jacksonville, Florida, an area of traditionally high unemployment



rates, were able to secure jobs when an upscale mall with 150 stores opened south of the city. Because there were no direct bus routes linking the two areas, workers routinely spent up to three hours commuting in each direction on three different buses.

## **Interfaith Coalition for Action Reconciliation and Empowerment (ICARE),**

a 25-congregation group supported by CCHD, worked with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority to establish a bus hub on the north side. Now, workers can get directly to their jobs in 30 minutes. They can also explore employment options elsewhere in the sprawling metropolitan area.



**S**ince 1970, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development has worked alongside poor and low-income people to identify their needs and implement effective solutions. CCHD's respectful partnership and dedication to social justice have lifted millions of Americans above the poverty line.

You can read more details of CCHD's efforts to break the cycle of poverty in your community and across the country at our Web site, [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd).





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

CCHD was founded in 1970 as the Catholic Church's anti-poverty program in the United States. For almost four decades, CCHD has promoted acts of solidarity with the poor and supported grassroots programs aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty.



## What does CCHD do?

CCHD funds community-based programs created and managed by low-income people. These programs consist of anything from campaigning for policy changes in labor or housing, to reforming education curricula, to tackling other issues at the root of poverty in America. 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.



## Where do the funds come from?

CCHD's primary source of support comes from a once-a-year Collection held in parishes all across the United States. The annual Collection is an opportunity to build solidarity between the poor and non-poor. Because of the funds donated by you, CCHD is able to provide grants to make long-term changes in communities across the country. Twenty-five percent of the Collection stays in the diocese for local anti-poverty programs.

## What should I do?

You are essential to CCHD and can make a difference in three ways: (1) **Donate**. Your generous and prayerful donations in the Collection and throughout the year are vital to the anti-poverty mission of CCHD. (2) **Learn**. You can help by taking advantage of the awareness programs CCHD offers to learn more about poverty, those affected by it, and our responsibilities as members of the Church. (3) **Pray** for the mission of CCHD and an end to the harsh cycle of poverty. Your solidarity with the poor of the United States makes CCHD's goals possible.

### FUNDING 2007

CCHD is a responsible steward of your donations; we allocate the funds to community projects that promote the mission and vision of CCHD and the Catholic Church. Please visit [www.usccb.org/cchd/grants](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/grants) to view a detailed list of our most recent grants.



### Office of National Collections

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