



## Catholic Campaign for Human Development: Social Justice at Work

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If you were to ask most people to name an act of charity, they would most likely respond with one of the corporal works of mercy, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, or visiting the sick. These acts are the first and most essential components of charity since they are a response to the immediate needs of the poor. There is another component of charity which, while often overlooked, can also help the poor in perhaps even more profound ways. It seeks to remove the root causes of injustice which affect the poor --- it is called social justice.

Social Justice seeks to improve upon the “band-aid” approach to poverty by dealing with the underlying issues, the root causes that are really causing the poverty to exist. Social justice is usually achieved by community organizations which challenge and change the social structures and policies that undermine the life and dignity of the poor and powerless. It is exactly this justice which is the objective of the United States Catholic Church’s anti-poverty program, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

CCHD provides funding to groups whose activities reflect Catholic moral and social teaching on human life and dignity, and whose aim is to promote social justice. In this way, CCHD promotes the principles at the heart of what the Church teaches, especially related to the option for the poor, solidarity, subsidiarity and participation.

Each year, CCHD has helped fund various local groups in Connecticut. Among these groups are the Naugatuck Valley Project (NVP), United Connecticut Action for Neighborhoods (UCAN), Congregations United for a New Connecticut (CONNECT), Publicly-Assisted Housing Resident Network (PHRN), and the Capital Good Fund. These groups have helped the poor in numerous ways, from improving the treatment of undocumented immigrants, to helping the poor get better access to healthcare, to increasing the availability of affordable housing. The work of these community organizations is made possible by grants which are awarded by the United States Catholic Bishops through CCHD. The money to fund these grants comes directly from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Annual Collection.

In other words, ***the promotion of social justice is made possible through YOUR generosity!***

Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, encourages the Church to take action in promoting social justice, stating “.. Jesus’ command to his disciples: You yourselves give them something to eat... means working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor.” On the weekend of November 22-23, please consider giving generously to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection at your parish. Through your contribution, you will be taking an active part in making the world a more just place.