

The Poverty Program

Discussion and Planning for 2008 November 4, 2 PM, BELLEVILLE CHURCH

Please come to share your ideas and thoughts and to be part of the discussion and planning for the 2008 program. Some of the topics that we are considering are: Homelessness, Affordable Housing, Sustainable Agriculture and Local Farming, Racism, American Indians, Slavery, Environmental Issues, Water, Haiti, Human Rights and Political Prisoners, Politics and Poverty, Nutrition, American consumerism and Poverty, Drugs and Poverty, Baseball/Music: A Way out of Poverty?, Volunteer Job Fair. Please consider signing up to chair a program or help with publicity or the newsletter.

A report on the 2007 Poverty Program is at the end of the newsletter. The Poverty Program is run completely by volunteers and is funded by grants and private funds. We need your help in order to continue! If you are unable to attend but would like to suggest a topic, be a presenter, host one the programs, or help in any way, please contact Catherine Gould at 978-463-0507 or povertyprogram@gmail.com.

Please try to attend the Planning Meeting on November 4th!

NEWSLETTER: Letters to the editor, articles, calendar events may be submitted by the 15th by mail: 280 High Street, Newburyport, MA or email: povertyprogram@gmail.com. If you would like to receive the newsletter or stop receiving it, please contact us.

WEBSITE: Charities: if you would like to be listed or linked, or list volunteer or donation needs, please email (povertyprogram@gmail.com) or call Catherine at 978-463-0507. Events for the calendar may be submitted at any time but if you would like to be listed in the newsletter, please submit by the 15th.

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**FOR EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE, A PERSON DIES OF HUNGER OR HUNGER
RELATED ILLNESS**



Two cups of coffee, \$8, can feed a child for an entire month. Help end poverty!

Volunteer Job Fair

October 13, 2007: We had an amazing day at the Poverty Program Volunteer Job Fair. Fifteen charities participated and about 50 people attended with half signing up to volunteer. Banners were made for the October 17 CARE event and were displayed at the Unitarian Church, with a blessing of the banner on the 17th. The attending charities and participants were all enthusiastic about attending a future Volunteer Job Fair. Thank you to all the participating charities; to Bob and Diane Crofts, Helen Hatcher, and Natalie Jones for volunteering; to the Unitarian Church for donating the use of their beautiful building; and a special thanks to Rob Burnham who did a super job chairing and organizing this event!

Poverty Program
Amnesty International
Shalupe Foundation
CARE
Habitat for Humanity
RIM
UNICEF Trick or Treat Boxes
Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society
American Red Cross
MA Coalition for the Homeless
Kelleher Learning Center
MA Coalition for the Homeless
WildlifeDirect
Salvation Army
Horizons for Homeless Children



VOLUNTEERING

PETTENGILL HOUSE & SALVATION ARMY

The Pettengill House and Salvation Army are serving more people this year - more than 12,000 more meals at Pettengill House - and are in need of our assistance in restocking their pantries. Please make a monetary donation or donate or toiletry items to these organizations. The Salvation Army can also accept fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables.

CONCERT AGAINST HUNGER

On Saturday, November 3rd at 7 p.m., the Community Human Services Committee of the First Religious Society is sponsoring a Concert Against Hunger to benefit local food kitchens such as Our Neighbor's Table. If you would like to help usher, sell tickets, help with PR, please contact Chris Hyde at triskell@comcast.net or 978-834-0862.

ONE LAPTOP PER CHILD

The One Laptop per Child Foundation is supported by individuals, businesses and foundations. Contributions large and small are greatly appreciated and will be used to support grassroots learning innovations throughout the lesser-developed world. <http://www.laptop.org/en/vision/index.shtml>
Consider making Search Kindly your home page. Search Kindly donates 100% of their advertising dollars to nonprofits that are chosen by their users each month. By just making Search Kindly your home page, \$3 will be donated to charity each month. Can it get any easier to make a difference? For more information: <http://www.searchkindly.org/>

"Must we starve our children to pay our debts?"

Julius Nyerere, former President of Tanzania

WEBSITE GOOGLED TO NUMBER ONE

Frankly I was rather astonished, then pleased and then saddened by being called and informed by a friend that the Poverty Program's website, which began in March of this year, is first out of a possible THIRTY-FOUR (34) MILLION web sites when you do a Google search for "poverty program". Our website comes up before UNICEF, Oxfam, Feed the Children, Care. There is something terribly sad about our being number one on any search. I know how many people have been visiting our website (see below for more information); I know what country they reside in; I even know what time of day they are looking at the website. The good news is I have no idea who they are! I find it rather disturbing that you can get this kind of information on who visits our website and it is especially creepy to know that "Homeland Security" can get far more information on all of us as we search the web.

But I digress. What saddens me is that so few people are searching the web to get information on poverty programs. We only get an average of 15 visits a day to our website. How did we get to be first on a Google search? Granted we aren't even close to first if you search for poverty; but the fact that we are first on any search is truly amazing and saddening to me. It reinforces my belief that we need to reach out and educate more people on what is happening in the world, so that more people are learning about poverty. And while it is nice to be first, organizations that actually help the poor and who have spent decades helping the poor, are the organizations who should be coming up first on any search of the web. This would certainly be more meaningful to the people who are suffering and living in poverty. My favorite poverty websites are on our website under "more information" (<http://www.povertyprogram.com/info.html>). So please keep visiting our website but also please go to the web sites of organizations that directly help those in need.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEKLY PEACE RALLY

Every Sunday at noon at Market Square, Newburyport

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 27, 8AM - 7 PM

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

CONCERT AGAINST HUNGER

UNITARIAN CHURCH, 26 Pleasant Street, Newburyport

NOVEMBER 3, 2007, 7 PM – DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM

On Saturday, November 3rd at 7 p.m., the Community Human Services Committee of the First Religious Society is sponsoring a Concert Against Hunger to benefit local food kitchens such as Our Neighbor's Table. Tickets are a \$15.00 minimum donation at the door, and higher donation amounts will be welcome.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VOLUNTEER AWARENESS AND RECRUITMENT

NOVEMBER 7, 2007, 10AM - 6 PM

NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

THREE CUPS OF TEA

NOVEMBER 8, 2007, 7 PM

Cambridge Public Library, 359 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139

more information: <http://www.gregmortenson.com/welcome.php>, <http://www.threecupsoftea.com/Intro.php>

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 15, 7 PM (THIRD THURSDAY MONTHLY)

FRS Unitarian Universalist Church at 26 Pleasant Street in Newburyport

KATRINA VOICES

NOVEMBER 17, 10 AM - 12 NOON

FRS Unitarian Universalist Church at 26 Pleasant Street in Newburyport

Led by Catherine Garnache. Lower Meeting House. Deadline Nov. 9. Catherine, who has worked on damaged houses in New Orleans, will moderate a panel of local church people who have worked in various capacities in New Orleans. We hope to inspire more people to volunteer to help Katrina victims.

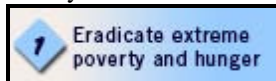
ARTICLES

UN MILLENNIUM GOALS REPORT SUMMARY FOR 2007

by Catherine Yesair Gould

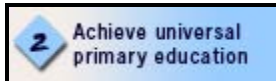
FOR THE FULL REPORT: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/mdg2007.pdf>

The target date for achieving the UN's Millennium Goals is 2015. Can you imagine that we can, in our lifetime, see the end of poverty? One of the reasons why I started the Poverty Program was to make people aware of the Millennium Goals and aware that the Millennium Goals are a possibility that we all, especially here in the First World, need to work towards. Developed nations need to keep their promise of .7% which, sadly the USA has not done. There are several countries with demonstrated successes: Malawi - raising agricultural productivity, Kenya - boosting primary school enrollment, Niger - controlling malaria, Zambia - increasing rural health care, Niger - reforestation, Uganda - increasing access to water and sanitation. Have we made progress? Are we making an impact? Where do we need to work harder? What can each of us do to meet the goals by 2015. Below is a summary of the UN Millennium Report for 2007:



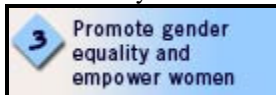
1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- People living in extreme poverty fell from 1/3 to 1/5. Sub-Saharan Africa not on track to meet goal.
- Half the population in the Third World lacks basic sanitation. Will likely miss the target date of 2015.
- Sub-Saharan Africa fell while Western Asia increased. Poverty reduction has been accompanied by an increase in inequality.
- Proportion of children worldwide who are underweight has fallen.
- One in 3 urban dwellers live in slums.



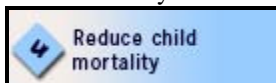
2 Achieve universal primary education

- Enrollment in primary education has gone from 80% to 88% in 2005.
- Sub-Saharan Africa has 30% of children not in school.
- Girls and children of rural families are least likely to be in school.



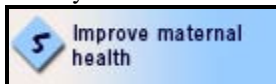
3 Promote gender equality and empower women

- Slow growth in women's equality. Women's labor is more likely to be unpaid.
- Rwanda is leading the way and has 49% of its parliament seats held by women. Bahrain - A woman won a parliamentary seat for the first time in history.



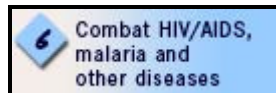
4 Reduce child mortality

- Child mortality has been reduced; however the worst child mortality rates are in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 2005: 10.5 million children died before their 5th birthday from preventable causes. HIV/AIDS, malaria, wars and regional conflicts are the main contributing factors.
- Death from measles fell from 2000-2005 by 60% due to increased immunizations.



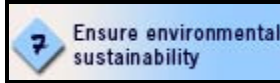
5 Improve maternal health

- Over half a million women still die from childbirth and complications from childbirth. Odds of dying in childbirth in the Third World are one in sixteen versus one in 3,800 in the developed world.



6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- Malaria interventions such as mosquito nets are working. Statistically for every 1,000 nets, one child's life is saved. Tuberculosis is leveling off although will probably not meet the target date of 2015.
- Number of people dying from HIV/AIDS has increased to 2.9 million in 2006. Prevention methods are failing. 39.5 million people were living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2006 - mostly sub-Saharan Africa.
- In the hardest hit areas, more than half of the people infected are women.



- Carbon dioxide emissions rose from 23 billion metric tons in 1990 to 29 billion metric tons in 2004.
- Climate change will slow the progress of the Millennium Goals. Global energy consumption is continuing to increase.
- Deforestation is continuing especially in bio-rich areas. From 1990 - 2005 the world lost 3 % of its forests. 18-25 % of greenhouse gas emissions are due to deforestation. Biodiversity is continuing to decline.



- There is widening income inequality. Most countries have failed to provide employment for their youth. Young people are 3 times as likely to be unemployed as adults.
- Development aid has fallen despite renewed promises from the developed countries. The only countries who have met their promise of .7% are: Denmark, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Debt service has continued to be reduced.
- Only 15% of the world's population has the internet: 50% connected in the west, 9% in developing regions, less than 1 % in the 50 least developed nations.

“Are we on course to look back, in 2015, and say that no effort was spared?”

TO GIVE AID OR NOT: TWO VIEWPOINTS

Jeffery Sachs: "One day's Pentagon spending would pay for all the bed nets [to stop malaria] for every sleeping site in Africa for five years. People are hungry. People are dying. There are countless proven and effective ways to help, and which can extricate people from poverty in the long run. The drama is whether American politics can rouse itself to take note".

William Easterly: "If ending poverty were so simple, why has the \$2.3 trillion spent over the last five decades not done more? The biggest difference between Sachs and me is that he thinks aid can end poverty and I think it cannot. The end of poverty comes about for home-grown reasons, as domestic reformers grope their way towards more democracy, cleaner and more accountable government, and free markets.... aid can certainly help alleviate the suffering of the poor, but the problem with aid is the people implementing the aid projects have weak incentives because they are never held accountable for results." <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0823/p12s01-woaf.html?page=2>



**WHY, OH WHY HAS THIS POOR CHILD SUFFERED?
THIS CHILD DESERVED BETTER
FROM ALL OF US.**

"There is much suffering in the world - physical, material, mental. The suffering of some can be blamed on the greed of others. The material and physical suffering is suffering from hunger, from homelessness, from all kinds of diseases. But the greatest suffering is being lonely, feeling unloved, having no one. I have come more and more to realize that it is being unwanted that is the worst disease that any human being can ever experience."

-- Mother Teresa (1910-1998)

**BEST INVESTMENT YOU CAN MAKE!
CAN'T GET THESE RETURNS ON WALL STREET!**

How much would we each need to give to fully fund ALL the UN Millennium Goals for one entire year? According to Jeffrey Sachs, if everyone in the developed, First World each gave \$16 (yes, that is SIXTEEN) dollars per YEAR, the goals would be fully funded. So let's get it done!

**SIXTEEN DOLLARS PER PERSON, PER YEAR!
SUCH A SMALL PRICE FOR SUCH A LARGE RETURN!**

ODDS AND ENDS

Child Deaths in the Industrialized World

UNITED STATES HAS A HIGHER DEATH RATE THAN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES

PG 42-43 for Report on the USA

which cost less than 30cents a dose, FOUR 1.8 million children die from diarrhea = oral rehydration therapy which costs 50 cents, FIVE 800,000 children die from measles = measles vaccines cost 15 cents. For more information: www.savethechildren.org.

Save the Children has a new program called "**Survive to 5**" targeting 5 complications that reduce a child's life and 5 solutions. **ONE:** Four million babies die during the first month of life = Skilled care during childbirth; **TWO** One million infants die from lack of nutrition = exclusive breast feeding; **THREE** 2 million children die from pneumonia = antibiotics



- Plant trees** - see <http://www.treepeople.com/>
- Drive** 15 miles less each week and save 900 pounds of CO2 per year.
- Clean** oil and properly inflated tires can save 1000 pounds of Co2.
- Replace** 3 incandescent light bulbs and save 300 pounds of CO2.
- Recycle** half of the aluminum, paper, glass, plastic you use and you save 2,400 pounds of CO2.
- Turn** your furnace and air conditioner down by just 3 degrees and save 1050 pounds of CO2 per year.
- Use** cold water for your laundry and save 500 pounds of CO2.

What is the federal poverty level (FPL) in 2007? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$20,650 for a family of 4.• \$17,170 for a family of 3.• \$13,690 for a family of 2.	Is a poverty-level income enough to support a family? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$41,300 for a family of 4.• \$34,340 for a family of 3.• \$27,380 for a family of 2.
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On average, families need an income equal to about two times the federal poverty level to meet their most basic needs. Families with incomes below this level are referred to as low income:

LITTLE THINGS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Bottled Water: The US throws away 70 million empty water bottles every year!
The oil needed to produce these bottles?
The equivalent of enough of oil for 100,000 cars for a year!

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

~ Margaret Mead~
