

**GOOD SHEPHERD VOICES FOR JUSTICE ACTION ALERT**  
**AWARENESS OF POVERTY IN AMERICA**  
**NOVEMBER 2005**

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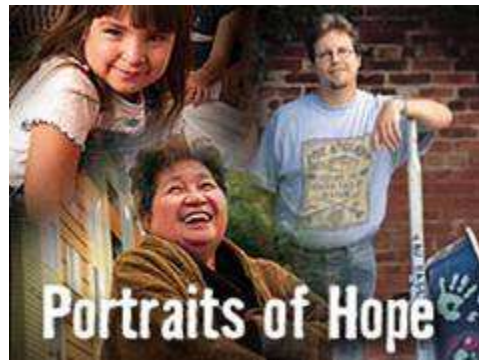
The Good Shepherd Voices for Justice ministry has been established to facilitate the presentation of justice issues consistent with the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and then offer a call to action. We believe that it is important to gain better understanding of local, national, and international issues in light of the Gospels

and the principles of Catholic social teaching. And in speaking and acting accordingly, the process will offer transformative opportunities and a challenge to continue to grow in faithful discipleship.

With this in mind, please review this month's issue, and prayerfully consider taking the recommended action. We estimate it will take you only a few minutes to complete this action. We encourage you to take additional time to pray and reflect as you look for the presence of God in the process. We welcome those outside the Good Shepherd community who have joined with us on this journey.

**POVERTY USA – Together we can end it!**

Are you aware that today nearly 36 million Americans live in a state of poverty, hunger and hardship? That's more than last year and more than ever before. By joining with those in need, we can change the picture of poverty to one of hope.



Find out important facts about poverty in America on the website for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: Catholic Campaign for Human Development – [www.usccb.org/cchd/povertyusa](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/povertyusa) .

On this site you can click into 'Portraits of Hope' for inspiring stories of communities, organizations and individuals working to change the picture of poverty in the U. S. You can also find out how you can help. If you do not have access to a computer, you can read a couple of the Portraits of Hope on the reverse side.

For more information about the state of poverty in America or its residents, or to help support CCHD write:

Catholic Campaign for Human Development  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
3211 4th Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20017-1194

A community garden in Washington DC.



Urban Oasis

Picture this: On an abandoned lot in the southeast corner of the nation's capital, volunteers work at a community garden. This is "Urban Oasis," "an acre of tomatoes and beans, squash and okra, herbs and sunflowers, grown in an impoverished neighborhood where the nearest supermarket is two bus rides away. Community Harvest, the organizing group for the garden, began its work here a few years ago, when the last grocery store pulled out of the area — leaving the residents without access to good food or nutrition. Now, residents and volunteers grow their own food for farmers' markets in the city and to donate to local soup kitchens. Better yet, the group teaches nutrition to residents and has opened more farmers markets in the city. Today 36 million Americans live in poverty. But even a small seed of an idea can begin to change hunger to hope.

Low-income housing in San Francisco



San Francisco Organizing Project

Picture this: In the Outer Mission district of San Francisco, 168 seniors are anxious to know if they'll be among the lucky few chosen for a place at 5199 Mission Street. With affordable housing at a crisis in this city, many seniors living on fixed incomes are barely able to make ends meet. Low-income seniors live in unheated garages or basements, or have to make painful choices between food, medicine, and rent. More than 1600 seniors applied for these 36 apartments.

But hope is building. Thanks to the efforts of low-income residents, working with community groups, citizens and government agencies, people are uniting to say "yes in my back yard" (YIMBY) to more affordable housing in the city — making 5199 Mission St. a beacon of hope in days to come. Nearly 36 million people live in poverty. But working together, hope is building.