

ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI STATEMENT ON THE CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Every year, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development makes uniquely positive impacts in communities throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and around the country. This year, our contributions are funding 18 projects throughout the Archdiocese's 19-counties that are empowering low-income people to pull themselves out of poverty. While these organizations are not direct affiliates of the Catholic Church itself, nearly all of them include our priests, religious and/or parish communities as members. We find them worthwhile to fund because they train the poor to concretely overcome various causes of poverty like few other organizations can.

Faithful to Catholic Teaching

Be assured that there are strict guidelines in this Archdiocese to ensure that all organizations that receive funding are not involved in any activities that are contrary to Church principles. **We require all funded organizations to sign a statement, "Basic Principles of Catholic Mission for CCHD," which obliges them to not promote abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, or any other affront to human life and dignity.** Should Archdiocesan staff, members of our local CCHD Committee, or an outside organization raise any concerns that any funded agency is in violation of these policies, we would immediately investigate. If proven true, we would stop funding and demand repayment of past funds. **We want to ensure that none of our dollars are being used in an inappropriate manner.**

Nationally, at times, legitimate concerns are raised by faithful Catholics about CCHD's funding decisions, since a portion of every diocese's collection is sent to the national CCHD offices for redistribution in grants to groups all across the country. The national CCHD also has a strict policy of only funding groups that adhere to the teachings of our Church. In instances where violations have surfaced, action was taken immediately to defund those organizations. In addition, we understand that not all accusations mentioned in some recent media reports have been proven true. I also remind you that the CCHD ban on funding ACORN at any level remains in place. You can assure your communities that this will be the third CCHD collection in which no funds have gone or will go to any national or local ACORN structures.

The Impact in Your Communities

To offer some examples of the efforts we are supporting, CCHD makes possible the work of Working In Neighborhoods, which has helped hundreds of households in Cincinnati pull themselves back from the brink of foreclosure. A number of our parishes throughout the area are also partnering with this agency to host "Foreclosure Forums" that are reaching out to even more families in need. In Dayton, the Wesley Community Center is equipping men to triumph over substance abuse, addiction, entanglement with the criminal justice system and unemployment. In Springfield, Think Tank is pairing up low-income families with community and business leaders to identify what assets in the community can permanently move people out of poverty. Family Services of Middletown is helping individuals improve their computer skills, obtain their GED, and enroll in technical and community colleges. In the North, the Good Samaritan Home helps ex-offenders in Darke County reenter society to lead productive lives.

A complete list of these organizations can be viewed at:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/socialaction/cchdfundedgroups.html>. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tony Stieritz in the Catholic Social Action Office, which oversees our local CCHD efforts at 513-421-3131, ext. 2660.

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