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## IDAHO POVERTY

At last, I am finally free! Time to go out on my own, start my life, spend my money, and become a poverty stricken young adult! To some, this statement might not make sense, without knowing my course of action as a young adult, so I will share what goes on in the mind of a young adult about to break free into the world. I will express my thoughts of why I think the poverty rate is so high among young adults, what can be done to lower this rate, what my poverty plan of action is, and what I think the community can do to actively step in and help those persons that don't know how to safely take care of their money and person in times of need.

Once that final walk on graduation day is made, the average teen feels a little different, a little more self reliant. It is time to move on to the next chapter in life; it is time to become independent, and grown up. This is what most teens graduating from high school feel, so with that in mind, they move out of the house, buy the coolest car that they can think of, and possibly blow their money on wants instead of needs. I believe that most teens don't know how to decide the difference between a need and a want, which may not always be their fault. Possibly growing up the teen could have had everything handed to them on a silver platter, which makes it hard for them to decide what they need over what they want until the first check balance comes in the mail maybe giving them a little kick in the right direction. Others may be wise but yet unknowing. Kids just get excited when it comes to freedom, always stretching it out a little, such as their first curfew extension, speeding home at the last minute, being able to talk their way out of trouble. So when they bounce a few checks, they expect to talk their way out of it but find that it is quite

impossible. I also think that the media has a great deal with the high poverty rate. They push us out into the world with ideas of kids having a good time drinking with friends, driving fast cars, wearing cool clothes, and taking expensive trips. They show people having a good time, but not the money needed to generate the fun. With Idaho's low paying jobs, money is hard to save, so teens get sucked into living for the moment, not the future.

I think that when starting something new, whether it be learning to ride a bike, or how to balance a checkbook, everyone needs a little help. So with this in mind, I think that there needs to be more available to those that are in need of a little educational help. In school I would like to see some sort of a lesson for seniors teaching them the ropes of living on their own. Different things could be taught such as home cooking, so that they will be alright not eating out all the time, or how to fix things alone, instead of seeking professional help. It can even go to the extent of having experienced motivational speakers come and tell their poverty story, so that teens can learn through example.

We've all heard the term "poor college student." This is part of my plan of action to live a great life for the future. Throughout high school years there has been and are many opportunities for scholarships and grants. I have been working hard in school to keep up good grades and involve myself in many activities to stay well rounded. This helps when applying for scholarships. If the money is supplied through these different sources, it will make my college life easier to not go into debt, though I am pretty sure I will go in a little. I plan to take out college loans if the money needed is not supplied through scholarships. In doing so I know that I will need to be extra careful in how I spend the little money that I will make on a part time job. I plan to live at home with the support of my parents, but will need to pay for my gas and spending money. I plan to

work hard in school so that I can graduate as fast as possible. This will help me safely pay off my student loans without going too far into debt. By going to school first instead of making money, I am extending my chances for the future. By getting a degree, I can get a better job for myself in the future, which is what I plan on doing.

I think that the community needs to become more aware of the young adults in need. There should be more for the benefit of poverty stricken adults. Some of the programs that I think the community should adopt are possibly making a workshop teaching the importance of FASFA. Another thing that I think would be a plus is giving tax credit to those employers that employ a college student. It might motivate them to mix the young with the old. I also think that it would be a good idea to have senior citizens as motivational speakers. I would also like to see more scholarships given out to those seeking help with living expenses, the community could even set up a donation program to help raise money to help those in poverty.

In conclusion, I feel it important to better educate those on the topic of living before they actually have to live. When I say live, I mean going out on their own, paying for their own college, gas and basically living. If the education is increased I think that teens will understand the importance of balancing their lives so that they can clear a path for a bigger and brighter future.