

State of the Union

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Poverty In Idaho

Nature and the wants of individuals are leading factors in the rising poverty rate in Idaho. A family's job and income, droughts, the desire to go to college, unexpected pregnancies, credit cards, and the "give me, give me, give me" attitude are just some of the numerous reasons for this problem. The poverty rate in Idaho is due to the lack of responsibility found most commonly among 18-24 year olds.

Responsibility covers basically everything that a person can think of. Individuals are becoming more and more impatient when getting something because as children and young teenagers they receive almost anything they want at the snap of their fingers. Now I know this isn't true about every single person, but it is evident among most individuals. The driving force to go out into the world and make a living has almost disappeared because most people, while in their youth, have been given almost everything and/or have had everything done for them.

This leads to poor judgment of money budgeting. Poor money budgeting leads to debt. Most teenagers and young adults have plans for college, a new car, or even a baby. They don't take into account that money is an important factor when planning for these things. If they don't have a clue how to manage money they get into debt really fast. This sometimes leads to despair or no self-control when it comes to how much money they spend. Often people realize they are in trouble and try to get help, but there are

those individuals who decide they are in way too far and should just quit their job and live off the government. This is both morally and ethically wrong.

Now that I have almost graduated I will be joining that age group. Something I have been doing to manage my money and stay out of poverty and debt is not to spend my money whenever I receive a check or when the newest things come out in the stores. I make do with what I have until I am in real need of something or if I have got a little extra cash that I can spend after paying for my needs. Most of my checks go into my account for college. I save everything and look for good sales before buying. I don't want to have to depend on the government or anyone else to reach my goals and potential.

There are four major programs to assist people who are in poverty. They consist of the following: Medicaid, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Supplemental Security Income for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled, and food stamps. Now in my community I don't know of any of these programs in effect, but if you go to Idaho Falls and places like that then you can receive this help. In my town I don't see a lot of poverty but I know it's there. The best help I see in my community are the ladies who serve in the Relief Society for the LDS church. They care for those who are needy. I think if poverty was really prevalent in my community than the best thing to do would be to make a shelter in one of the buildings that went out of business. People would feel secure because they would know for a little while that someone cared that they were/are hurting.

Poverty is a disease that is not known to only one town, state, or nation. It is a plaque that infests the whole world. It is not directed towards one cause or a certain type of people. It is caused by both nature and the desires of individuals everywhere. The

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lack of responsibility though is the gunpowder to the explosive. Until individuals learn this concept, nothing will change. All it takes is the desire of one to rise above their situation to affect millions. The sooner the people of the world learn this the better off we will all be because we will strive to become more serviceable to our fellow men and take on the responsibility required to do so.