

163

People Caught Up In The Wave of Poverty

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In countless communities around the world, the tidal wave of poverty strikes daily. The wave of poverty hurts people in many ways by robbing them of their hope and future. Most people think that poverty only happens in big cities but it doesn't. While most Americans have encountered someone suffering from hunger and poverty in the United States, few of us may have actually realized it.

The face of hunger and poverty in the United States is quite different from the images we often see in developing nations. Rather than outright starvation or homelessness, the face of hunger is a child who is malnourished because his/her parents do not earn enough to buy healthy food and sometimes has to skip meals. The face of a poor person in the United States is a single parent who works full time, but still has to choose between buying food, paying rent, child care, and medical bills, and affording a car in order to travel to work. Don't you think that it is ironic that as the world's wealthiest nation, hunger and poverty in the United States still persist?

Evidence shows that millions of families and children live in poverty and experience hunger. There are many factors to the persistence of hunger and poverty in the United States. The lack of access to safety net programs like childcare and food stamps, low wages, inability to take advantage of most tax benefits aimed at middle- and upper- income households, and a lack of opportunity to accumulate savings and other assets.

163

Former Sen. Mark Hatfield as he had once said, “We stand by as children starve by the millions because we lack the will to eliminate hunger and poverty. Yet we have found the will to develop missiles capable of flying over the polar cap and landing within a few hundred feet of their target. This is not innovation. It is a profound distortion of humanity’s purpose on earth.” I fully agree with the senator’s statement. Now you tell me is that not the truth or what?

People have been working for about 20 years to help end hunger and poverty in the United States. So far its efforts have included more safety net programs like, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Child Care Development Block Grant, Head Start, Food Stamps, and Special Supplemental Program for women, Infant, and Children Programs, as well as the earned Income Tax Credit, and Child Tax Credit. Although there are all these programs to help people in poverty, it still isn’t enough, because millions of people are still stuck in the wave of poverty!

Many of us do not realize it yet, but almost everyone in the United States might end up dealing with hunger or poverty. So instead of this happening, why don’t we do something about it?