

# Poverty in Idaho

164

Poverty strikes young adults in Idaho every day, people struggling with lack of food, shelter and other valuable things. Many people in Idaho don't think twice to consider how fortunate they are.

This problem affects young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 for various reasons. Drug and alcohol abuse contributes to this tragedy more than any other factor. Drug abuse affects thousands of people every day, drugs such as Methamphetamines and Cocaine are highly addictive, and many young people surround their lifestyles around substance abuse. They do this with no concern for tax's, the rent or any other thing accept the drugs. Many young people live in a poverty stricken lifestyle only for one reason, to continue their chemical use.

There are others factors as well; poor family ties, and un-supportive households also lead to poverty. Many young people grew up in households where family tradition was fighting and the abuse of chemicals as a way to "Bond". Lack of supervision and positive support are also factors that influence poverty in this state.

As a young adult there are steps I can take to prevent myself from becoming a poverty affected young man. I encourage others to take these steps as well. One huge advantage to have in this world is an education. With an education at the college level young people can find a well paying job that interest them, they also will learn valuable skills to help them in life's trials. While attending college I plan to go to positive support groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous and other community activities that are based on friendship and honesty. I will also surround myself with people who are reliable, caring, and supportive. I think that family relationships are very important also; I plan to build upon my own family relationships and hope that others do as well.

There are certain things that the community can do to help stop the high rate of poverty in our state. Fund raising activities for the poor and homeless are great ways to raise money and build upon a foundation to help these struggling people. Building food shelters and homeless stations are great ways to help as well.

As a young person who grew up in a poor home I know that the kindness of others touches you more than anything else. If people in our community came together, and worked toward the common goal

164

of reducing poverty in our state I think that would be the best solution to this problem. Bringing together support groups are also ways to motivate and drive a young person to be the best that they can be.

Hopefully people can come together and attempt to apply some of these solutions in our community. Showing care and concern for one another, and building upon our youth of today would be positive steps so that the youth of tomorrow do not have to struggle with the same hardships so many of us do today. Maybe then Idaho's poverty rate among young people would drop by a significant amount.

Thank you,