

3/22/05
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Poverty in Idaho

Idaho has the worst poverty rate in the nation for young adults ages eighteen to twenty-four. Twenty-nine percent of Idaho's young adults live in poverty. Things can be done to prevent and help kids stay out of poverty. I have plans of my own to stay out of poverty that may enlighten others for future success.

I think that part of the reason that young adults live in poverty is ten percent of Idaho's teens dropout of high school. Another reason is that twenty-eight percent of renters don't make the eleven dollars and twenty cents per hour to rent a two-bedroom apartment. That means on average an Idaho minimum wage worker must work eighty-seven hours a week to pay rent. In Bannock County it is seventy-six hours a week to pay a five hundred and twelve dollar a month rent. In the last few months of the year 2002 the welfare roles in Idaho increased fifteen percent more than any other state.

This means that Idaho needs more job opportunities. Thirty-two percent of jobs in Idaho pay poverty-level wages. If there isn't any job that pays over minimum wage and doesn't require experience, then how are we going to live? If you don't have experience, how does one go about getting experience in that job field?

My plans for staying out of poverty are already in affect. I plan to graduate from high school and go to college. I already have a job to help earn college money. My parents also said they would help out. When I graduate from college, I should be making upward of twenty dollars per hour. When I save up enough money, I want to open my own auto performance shop.

Presently in Idaho, we already have programs to help people in poverty. What we need is

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some kind of program to help people stay free from poverty and the helplessness it can bring. If the schools had some kind of program that taught students how important it is to get a high school diploma, more awareness of future success would be apparent. Even if they didn't continue to attend college, they would still be able to work toward their goals of obtaining a better life.

Idaho has the worst poverty rate in the nation. The state already has many programs to help people in poverty. However, what the state needs to realize is there aren't enough jobs out there and people who have good jobs are paying for the ones who don't. I think if we had more jobs then the poverty rate in Idaho would drop significantly.