Did you know that more than 46 million people in the United States are living in poverty? That’s one out of every seven Americans, and almost one in five children. Many of these Americans are considered “working poor” — they work but do not make enough money to cover essentials like housing, healthcare, childcare and food.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the Catholic Church’s response to poverty in the United States and is a concrete example of how the Church can be a vehicle for positive change. For more than 45 years, CCHD has addressed poverty by attacking its root causes and funding community projects that promote independence as a means for finding a permanent end to poverty. CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities. The program is unique in that it gives a hand up, not a handout. CCHD empowers people living in poverty to make real, lasting change.

CCHD offers two grant programs: a community development grant program and an economic development grant program. Community development grants fund organizations led by people in poverty to organize low-income community members to change structures and policies that perpetuate the cycle of poverty. Economic development grants support community-based organizations and businesses that create just workplaces, provide quality jobs and develop assets for low-income people. Both grant programs fulfill CCHD’s mission of empowering low-income individuals living on the margins of society to end poverty in their communities.

Funding for these grants comes almost entirely from the CCHD collection. This year, the collection will take place on the weekend of Nov. 23-24 with 25 percent of funds remaining in the Diocese of Burlington to support local anti-poverty efforts. The remaining 75 percent is sent to the national CCHD office to fund organizations that empower low-income individuals to eliminate the cycle of poverty. Although CCHD is a national collection, organizations and neighbors in our local communities benefit. The funding goes to support grants to local nonprofits that make meaningful differences in the lives of Vermonters.

Since its beginning, CCHD has made nearly 8,000 grants to projects created and managed by people with low incomes. These projects aim to improve lifestyles and promote financial stability. In Vermont, one of the organizations benefiting from CCHD funding is Northeast Kingdom Organizing. CCHD support has allowed NEKO to work with low-income people in the Northeast Kingdom to identify key issues that are barriers to success and to create solutions that end the cycle of poverty. Martha Braithwaite, community organizer for NEKO, said, “It is said that community organizing is slow and respectful work. CCHD’s support has allowed NEKO to take the time to build relationships across difference and to address the barriers to participation in community and civic life. By supporting leadership teams that are inclusive and empowering, together we are building a rural Vermont that works for all of us.”

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Please prayerfully consider contributing any amount that you can. With your help, we can work to end poverty — not just for a day, but for a lifetime. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

— Mary Beth Pinard is the Executive Director of Vermont Catholic Charities
UPCOMING EVENTS

11/11, 18 MONDAYS
Distinctly Matthew: The Most Quoted Gospel
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7 - 8:30 pm
Join us for three Monday evening sessions with Father Richard Berube. Series started on November 4.

11/15 FRIDAY
Catholic Variety Show Benefit for Seminarians
St. Michael’s College, Colchester • 7 - 9 pm
An evening of family-friendly entertainment presented by our gifted diocesan priests. All proceeds to benefit our seminarians. Baked goods available and a silent auction.

11/16 SATURDAY
8th Annual Vermont Catholic Women’s Retreat
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 9 am - 4 pm
How do you listen, show gratitude, and rest in the mercy of Christ? How can we, as women, be beautiful to God? Discover and be transformed. Keynote speaker: Donna-Marie Cooper O’Boyle, Author of more than 30 books, Speaker, EWTN TV and Radio Host.

11/17 SUNDAY
Organ Recital
Sacred Heart Saint Francis de Sales, Bennington • 3 pm
Donald McMahon will perform a recital at the organ. The performance is free and open to the public. This offering of music is a personal expression of thanksgiving and praise as he celebrates 25 years of service to the parish.

11/22, 23, 24 FRIDAY – SUNDAY
Walking with Mary on my Life Path
Our Lady of Life Spiritual Center, Saint Paul d’Abbotsford, QC
Retreat for all ages in the Carmelite tradition, teaching by Fr. Laurent Marie, o.c.d., given in French with simultaneous English translation. FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/event/walking-with-mary-on-my-life-path/

11/24 SUNDAY
Thanksgiving Dinner
All Saints Dorion Hall, Richford • 12 - 1:30 pm
Cost: By donation.

11/26 TUESDAY
Rice Memorial High School STUNT NITE
Flynn Center, Burlington
2 Shows: 4pm and 8pm. All seats, both shows — $20.

12/03 TUESDAY
Knights of Columbus Annual Christmas Party
St. Mark, Burlington • 6 - 8:30 pm
Prayer service and lighting of the Christmas tree with a potluck. The celebration is open to all families and friends.

CRAFT FAIR & MARKET DIRECTORY

9th Annual Craft & Product Fair
St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury, 9 am - 4 pm
11/16
Holiday Craft Fair
St. Andrew, Waterbury, 9 am - 3 pm
11/23

Christmas Bazaar
All Saints Dorion Hall, Richford, 9 am - 2 pm
St. Paul’s Christmas Bazaar
Town Hall, Orwell, 9 am - 2 pm
Christmas Bazaar and Craft Fair
St. Patrick, Fairfield, 9 am - 3 pm
Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar
St. Frances Cabrini, West Pawlet, 10 am - 2 pm

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON
CAREERS

Diocese: Respect Life Coordinator
Diocese: Senior Accountant
Diocese: Technical Support Specialist
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Williston: Administrative Assistant
The Loretto Home, Rutland: Residential Care Positions
Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Fair Haven: Organist or Keyboardist/Choir Director
Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Randolph: Administrative Assistant
St. Joseph Residential Care Home, Burlington: LPN
Vermont Catholic Charities: Counselor

For More Info: vermontcatholic.org/careers

GOAL: $2,700,987
TOTAL COMMITTED: $2,195,504 as of October 28, 2019

Vermont Catholic Charities has been providing services to individuals and families throughout Vermont since 1929, including counseling, emergency aid, prison ministry, residential care homes, crisis pregnancy services, and more.
Consider supporting this initiative with a gift at bishopssappealvt.org.

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/dioburlington
twitter.com/dioburlington
instagram.com/dioburlington

To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar: vermontcatholic.org/events