



# INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WELFARE

## NORTH AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

I trust that you've all had a wonderful summer and taken the time to sit down with a glass of iced tea, maybe spend some time at the pool or the beach or just spent some time with your family. While I personally love this time of year, I have to admit that I feel the stores are pushing the season when you can find Halloween candy and harvest decorations next to the sale on outdoor lounge chairs! I went to the grocery store over the weekend and discovered pumpkin everything! They had pumpkin flavored butter, pumpkin pancake mix and pumpkin spice cream cheese to go with your pumpkin bagel. I remember in college, the dining hall actually had pumpkin ice cream which I thought was a real waste of ice cream.

One of the things I really like about this time of year though are the colors that abound in nature as the trees change from green to vibrant oranges, browns, reds and yellows. The red leaves stick out just asking you to notice them, the

orange reflects the warmth of the fall season, the yellow conjures up joy and cheerfulness and the browns - I doubt if the other colors would be as brilliant if they weren't in the midst of browns. As I sit in my office writing this, I have several trees that I can see from my window with most already beginning to change.

The start of this new season gives us a wonderful opportunity to renew; to discover what we'd like to embrace and expand upon and which parts of our summer skin we'd like to shed.

*"The season for enjoying the fullness of life – partaking of the harvest, sharing the harvest with others, and reinvesting and saving portions of the harvest for yet another season of growth."*  
Denis Waitley (American motivational speaker, writer and consultant)

May you take the time to sit and be amazed by the colors,

Ardis Fuge  
Lt. Colonel  
Chairperson, ICSW U.S. Committee

### Our Mission

In keeping with the mission set forth by the International Council of Social Welfare, the U.S. Council is committed to the advancement of social development, social welfare and social justice. Our priorities include subjects such as food insecurity and improving the nutrition of children and the elderly, reducing poverty, improving education and promoting affordable house. The U.S. Council is also involved in issues relating to economic development, both in the U.S. and around the world, social justice and encouraging community participation.

FALL 2017



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# PATHWAY OF HOPE

*The Salvation Army is one of the largest providers of direct social services in the U.S. and around the globe. The Salvation Army has been a key supporter of ICSW in the U.S. and internationally for decades. In this issue, we highlight some of the Salvation Army's important work in advancing social development, social welfare, and social justice.*

The Salvation Army's Pathway of Hope initiative provides enhanced services to families with children who desire to take action to break the cycle of crisis and intergenerational poverty. It offers access to a holistic continuum of social services so that families can rise above crisis and despair toward greater sufficiency and hope.

Pathway of Hope is deeply consistent with The Salvation Army's mission to 'meet human needs in His name without discrimination', and harkens back to the work of our founders, William and Catherine Booth, who, motivated by the love of God, sought to address the physical and spiritual needs of the poor throughout the world. Pathway of Hope seeks to address the root causes of poverty in addition to The Army's history of compassionate serving. Importantly, the word 'hope' links to spiritual strength, which The Salvation Army is uniquely positioned to support.

The Pathway of Hope includes:

- A collaborative, integrated approach across The Salvation Army's ministries
- Catalyzing community resources to improve outcomes of shared clients
- Moving families to stability and tracking family progress along the way
- Strengths-based case management
- Focus on hope – which represents the distinctly relational, spiritual outcome The Salvation Army seeks in the work it does

As we know, poverty in the US is an epidemic: Today, more than 1 in 6 Americans lives in poverty, including 22% of our nation's children. Among the world's 35 richest countries, the US ranks second highest in child poverty. Children who live in poverty for half their childhood are 32 times more likely to remain in poverty compared with their more fortunate peers. On top of the personal toll this tragedy takes, the costs associated with child poverty alone total about \$500 billion per year, or 4% of US GDP.

In the Pathway of Hope mission, we emphasize the importance of working with families, to address the challenge of intergenerational poverty. We have also sought, in the Bold Goal, to include a national outcome measure of 100,000 families that increase hope and stability. Pathway of Hope is a long-term, cross-functional 'initiative', that bridges units in an integrated

mission across the US, not a time-limited 'program'. We are also shifting our focus to outcomes vs. outputs, which will allow The Salvation Army to move together and renew a focus on solving problems that trap clients in a cycle of poverty.

Outcomes measures will be assessed at the client and organizational levels:

## Client outcomes

Progression along the Pathway of Hope: Client progress toward increased stability, measured by the Client Sufficiency Matrix(Arizona Model)

Reduction in number of barriers faced: Number of barriers overcome during participation in Pathway of Hope

Increased hope: Increased belief and confidence in positive outcomes for the future, measured by the Herth Hope Index

Reduction in dependency on Salvation Army material services: Decrease usage of material assistance by Pathway of Hope families

Positive intergenerational impact: Increase in family resources that leads to future stability and sufficiency, including improved finances, connections to communities, and spiritual impact

## Organizational outcomes

Ability to shift from only serving to also solving root causes of our target segment: Optimizing the internal resources aligned to the needs of the client

More effective use of community resources: Number of community organizations reporting having been leveraged by The Salvation Army and clients

Greater integration of Social Services and congregations: Perceptions and concrete examples by unit officers, congregations, and Social Services workers, as reported in unit and performance reviews

Stronger leadership and positive perception in communities: Degree to which community organizations' perceptions of The Salvation Army's role and impact increases over time

Scaling across units: Number of units implementing the Pathway of Hope initiative

All units implementing Pathway of Hope will seek out target families in poverty with these attributes; desire to take action, substantial responsibility for at least 1 child under 18, experiencing multiple barriers, seeking assistance from The Salvation Army – material or referral.

Client progress and outcomes measurements will be tracked using assessments and surveys; University of Rhode Island Change Assessment(URICA), Client Sufficiency Matrix(Arizona model), Client Action Plan, Herth Hope Index, Pastoral Care Plan, Client surveys.



Pathway of Hope family.



Summer camp lessons

## **Advocacy Is Integral to Social Work**

Social workers, caseworkers and volunteers, tend to place a heavy prominence on the importance of social advocacy. Social advocacy can be an effective approach in preventing breakdowns in the established gains toward greater human security and in enhancing healthy social, ethnic, and religious environments that together ensure collective security. Individuals involved in social work understand and appreciate the need to advocate for those who are vulnerable and are unable to speak up for themselves. Citizen participation is a cornerstone of any democratic society and social workers are increasing their roles as advocates at all levels of government -- by underscoring the need to protect the vulnerable, the need to support best social work practices, and the need to enhance critical services that impact clients, agencies and communities.

Engaging in social and policy advocacy is not a new concept for social workers. In fact, advocacy has been recognized as an integral cornerstone of social work since the 1880's (National Conference on Social Welfare, 1887). During the Progressive Era, social workers like Jane Addams and Florence Kelly pushed for reform on behalf of children, people in poverty, immigrants, and racial minorities, winning victories in relation to public school education, child labor laws, and other important social policy initiatives (Cummins, L.K., Byers, K.V., and Pedrick, L. Policy Practice for Social Workers: Strategies for a new era. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2011; Schneider, R.L., Lester, L. and Ochieng, J., Encyclopedia of social work. 20th Edition, Vol. 1, 2008, pp. 59-65). In the wake of the Great Depression, social workers such as Harry Hopkins and Frances Perkins were among those who helped craft the New Deal. Still others, like Grace Abbott, contributed to the drafting of the Social Security Act

(Cummings, Byers and Pedrick, 2011). The 1960's and 1970's brought about a new sense of activism, with social workers like Whitney Young advocating for social justice and civil rights.

Social workers may be more apt to engage in advocacy because social workers understand the context of social problems as a result of their person-in-environment orientation. Social workers share an ethical commitment to serving vulnerable populations; they are trained to analyze policies and craft policy recommendations and improvements. They understand the responsible use of power, they bring clinical, front-line experiences to the job, they learn to use action strategies to influence social policy, and they carry a wealth of substantial experiences gained through in-field education.

Advocacy provides a clear pathway for social workers to improve their own ability to expand and improve provided services. When social workers advocate for fair systems that provide good services with quality providers they are advocating for healthy places where they can offer services, places that are safe, that provide a respectful service context (for clients and for providers), and that ensure that provider turnover is low. When social workers advocate for fair systems that work as intended, they not only benefit social workers and clients alike, they are contributing to the strength, well-being and security of the greater population as a whole.

Michal Machnowski, M P P  
Program Specialist for Basic Needs  
National Social Services Office  
The Salvation Army National Headquarters





## Environmental Racism

### Washington Interfaith Staff Community (WISC) Environment and Ecology Working Group

July 21, 2017

#### What is Environmental Racism?

While pollution is almost everywhere, certain communities are burdened with a disproportionate number of facilities that fill the air, soil, and water with contaminants. Typically found in communities of color and low-income communities, industrial polluters such as landfills, trash incinerators, coal plants, and toxic waste dumps affect the well-being of residents. Environmental racism is the act of putting low-income people and people of color in close proximity to hazardous materials and pollutants. It also includes willfully subjecting people of color to the effect of substandard public utilities.

The birth of the environmental racism came in 1982. During a six week campaign of civil disobedience, the United Church of Christ (UCC) introduced the world to the issue of environmental racism ministries and coined the phrase ‘environmental racism.’ UCC played a key role in giving birth to the environmental justice movement in the 1970’s and 1980s.

The Reverends Leon White and Benjamin Chavis, Jr., as well as UCC’s Commission for Racial Justice, served as a leading force in the environmental justice movement. In , the late 70’s, North Carolina residents formed the Warren County Concerned Citizens in opposition to North Carolinas approval of a landfill, where polychlorinated biphenyls, a toxic chemical banned by Congress in 1979, would be disposed in Warren County. As 75 percent of Warren County residents were black and only a few of the state’s one hundred counties could

claim higher poverty rates. The landfill placement became a prime example of the negative impact of environmental racism.

#### Examples of Environmental Justice

- Hazardous waste dumps in communities of color and low income communities
- Homes contaminated with lead and mold
- Multiple pollution sources
- Poor land uses decision and planning (nuclear waste dumping in Indigenous lands)
- Certain communities can’t respond and recover from extreme weather related to climate change
- Communities of color and low income often have the highest asthma, low birth weight babies, higher cancer rates

#### Environmental Racism and the Black Church

Racial and economic justice has been at best only a marginal concern in the mainstream environmental movement. Until recently, ecological justice has not been a major theme in the liberation movements in the African-American community. Justice fighters for blacks and the defenders of the earth have tended to ignore each other in their public discourse and practice. Their separation from each other is unfortunate, because they are fighting the same enemy—human beings’ domination of each other and earth.

#### Communities of Color Have Higher Exposure Rates

Decades of studies have proven that environmental racism is a threat to the health and overall safety of communities across the country. In fact, communities of color have higher exposure rates to air pollution than their white, non-Hispanic counterparts. *Particulate Matter Components in the United States*, a Yale University study, found that non-Hispanic whites had the lowest exposure rates for 11 of the 14 pollutants monitored. Meanwhile, Hispanics had the highest

exposure rates for 10 out of the 14 pollutants, and African Americans had higher exposure rates than whites for 13 of the 14 pollutants. Some of the pollutants studied have been connected to asthma, cardiovascular issues, lung disease, and cancer. Individuals who lived close to noxious industrial facilities and waste sites were 66 percent more likely to be hospitalized for asthma. Significantly, these same individuals were 13 percent more likely to be people of color.

A UCC report, *Toxic Waste and Race at Twenty*, reviewed data collected over a 20-year time period and found that more than half of the people who live within 1.86 miles of toxic waste facilities in the U.S. are people of color. Additionally, the Center for Effective Government found that people of color are nearly twice as likely as white residents to live within a fence line zone of an industrial facility. These facilities contribute to air pollution, safety issues, and health concerns.

#### Children are Disproportionally Affected by Lead Poisoning

Children of color who live in urban areas are at the highest risk for lead poisoning caused by lead-based paint. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined that 11.2 percent of African American children and 4.0 percent of Mexican-American children are poisoned by lead, compared with 2.3 percent of white children. Lead poisoning can result in a wide range of health problems, such as anemia, seizures, and brain development issues. Even with the restrictions on lead paint usage, children of color who live in low-income communities continue to suffer the most. In 2004, a report developed by Chicago city, county, state and federal housing, environmental and health agencies revealed that African American children and Hispanic children were 12 times and 5 times more likely to be poisoned by lead, respectively, than white children.



*Rev. Ben Chavis, who coined the term “environmental racism,” raising his fist as fellow protesters are taken to jail at the Warren County PCB landfill near Afton, North Carolina on Thursday, Sept. 16, 1982.*

## **Environmental Justice Movement:**

**Interconnectedness of environmental health, socio-economic conditions, and racialized discrimination**

## **Environmental Racism:**

**Disproportionate burden of exposure to environmental risks/hazards experienced by socially marginalized communities**

#### Climate Change Disproportionally Affects Low-Income Communities and People of Color

The effects of climate change, such as extreme weather conditions, have devastating consequences for communities of color and low-income communities. These extreme weather events can displace residents and even cause death. In the aftermath of such disasters, efforts of city officials to rebuild communities of color and low-income communities are often inadequate compared to efforts to rebuild higher-income and white communities.

Perhaps the most powerful example of this inequity is the communities of color in New Orleans that were affected by Hurricane Katrina. Black homeowners received \$8,000 less in government aid than white homeowners due to disparities in housing values. In 2013, about 80 percent of the mostly black residents of the city’s Lower 9th Ward had not returned to their community due to inadequate building efforts.

Effective environmental justice policies should safeguard communities as places where all people can live, work, and play without fear of exposure to toxic, deadly surroundings. As people of color come to make up a majority of the population, environmental justice issues should be prioritized as national issues, not one-off problems relegated to cities with significant populations of color.

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WELFARE



### IMPORTANT DATES

- November 2-5 National Association of Christians in Social Work, Charlotte, NC
- December 10 International Human Rights Day
- March 1-2, 2018 National Conference on Ending Family & Youth Homelessness, Los Angeles, CA
- March 19-20, 2018 National Summit on Youth Homelessness: The Intersection of Policy & Practice, Washington, DC
- March 26-29, 2018 ASA Aging in America Conference, San Francisco, CA
- June 20-24, 2018 National Association of Social Workers, Washington, DC
- July 4-7, 2018 Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development, Dublin, Ireland

Some states have been able to ensure school stability for youth in foster care - a federally mandated requirement under the Every Student Succeeds Act -- but "others have failed or struggle to do so," according to a survey by the Chronicle of Social Change. States should provide detailed plans, follow the best practices of other states, and ensure that the state departments of Education and Child Welfare collaborate on solutions. To read the complete article go to: <https://socialjusticesolutions.org/2017/09/01/coming-focus-states-can-must-ensure-school-stability-youth-foster-care/>

Law enforcement officials in Ventura County, California, are working with advocacy groups and other organizations to develop a comprehensive family justice center that would serve victims and witnesses as well as prosecute accused offenders. The proposed center is based on a national model for streamlining health, legal and other assistance. To read the complete article go to: <https://vcstar.com/story/news/2017/08/31/one-stop-family-justice-center-works-ventura-county/614118001/>

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) have created this video training for members of law enforcement. The training is intended to education law enforcement about human trafficking and provide information on how law enforcement can investigate and prosecute this crime. To view the video please go to <https://vimeo.com/210270400>

Child sexual abuse is a 100% preventable public health problem. There is no reason for us to wait for sexual abuse to happen before we intervene. We need to educate caregivers, youth serving organizations and at-risk youth about how to keep our children safe! This TEDMED talk on preventing child sexual abuse is presented by Dr. Elizabeth Letourneau, Professor, department of Mental Health, Director, Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Please go to <http://tedmed.com/talks/show?id=620399> to learn more.

As state and federal governments receive plaudits for expanding services to Hurricane Harvey victims in Texas, experts worry about the long term strain of such disasters on health and welfare agencies. The storm is also likely to worsen a shortage of foster homes, as prospective foster parents may have lost their houses. To read more go to <http://www.govtech.com/em/disaster/The-Aftermath-of-the-Aftermath-Hurricanes-Stretch-Safety-Net-and-Providers-EM.html>

Census data: child, adult poverty down, but risks ahead. The data, which reflect 2016, show a decline in poverty. Additionally, the number of uninsured Americans dropped to a historic low. However, these gains could be reversed in 2017 and beyond because of significant policy and budget upheavals, such as DACA repeal and cuts to the Child Tax Credit (CTC), Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). To read the full report go to <http://www.clasp.org/news-room/news-releases/child-adult-poverty-down-in-2016-but-policy-budget-upheavals-risk-increase-in-2017-and-beyond> or to view in the infographic [http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/publication-1/2016PovertyData\\_infographicfactsheet.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/publication-1/2016PovertyData_infographicfactsheet.pdf)